



2018 SCAP Advocacy Agenda

Community Services

According to the Talk Poverty Project by the Center for American Progress, NY ranks as having the highest income inequality in all fifty states. Jobs with low wages, pay based on variable hours, the pressures of increased cost of housing (44th in the nation for affordability), child care (NY ranks 45th for cost) and health care costs, and the reduction in the social safety net are combining to make it harder for Americans to manage their finances.

Wages have been stagnant and in areas where minimum wage has increased such as New York, Federal Poverty Guidelines have not kept pace creating an eligibility issue for people accessing important supports. The United Way's ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) Project, brings focus to people who work but whose salaries do not provide sufficient resources to meet basic needs. In this report, the Household Survival Budget estimates the minimum required for each of the five basic household necessities needed to live and work: housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care.

- The average annual Household Survival Budget for a four-person family living in New York is \$62,472 – more than double the U.S. poverty level of \$23,850 per year for the same size family.
- 44% of working households struggled to afford basic household necessities.

SCAP supports the Talk Poverty Project, ALICE and the Fiscal Policy Institutes and Strong Nonprofits for a Better NY recommendations.

Raise the Minimum Wage – SCAP applauds efforts to date to raise the minimum wage. However,

- NYS must ensure contracts increase commensurate with the minimum wage AND ensures a reasonable parity to support skilled workers (ensuring less wage compression) and reflect the skill and education levels that they require.

Increase state investment in the sector's workforce and infrastructure.

- \$23 million to fund the minimum wage increase for state contracts not yet adjusted to reflect the increased cost of service provision.
- \$65 million in salary increases for workers who have not seen an increase in over 8 years, and were not covered by the FY2018 increases for direct care workers. This is an equivalent 3.25% increase.
- \$100 million in Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP). Fewer than 1/3 of the 637 nonprofits that applied for funding received it.

Questions can be addressed to: Debra L. Schimpf, Executive Director @ dschimpf@scapny.org

There are over 2.8 million NY residents living in poverty or 15.7%. In Schenectady County the rate is 12.6% and in the City of Schenectady it is 22%. The Child Poverty Rate in Schenectady County is 20.9% and in the City of Schenectady it is 40.1%.



Schenectady Community
Action Program

Creating Opportunity in Partnership

Expansion of the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI)

SCAP supports the 16 ESPRI communities selected for this important poverty reduction initiative and supports further expansion of this initiative to Schenectady, the only Upstate City not included that is one of the top 10 Cities with the highest child poverty in NYS. At nearly 40%, the City of Schenectady is # 8 in the State with the highest child poverty rate. While many local initiatives are working to combat this trend, Schenectady should be included in the \$25 million allocation of additional resources to support a community-driven, poverty reduction measure to increase economic opportunity.

<https://talkpoverty.org/>

<http://www.uwnys.org/index.php?id=6>

<http://fiscalpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Human-Services.pdf>

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