

Counties Call for Restoration of Frozen Federal Funds

On January 6, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services notified New York State that it has frozen federal funding for three critical social service programs that support New York's most vulnerable children and working families: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).



The freeze is part of a broader action affecting five states, putting billions of dollars in federal aid at risk. In New York, these programs are administered by counties and partially funded by local taxpayers, meaning the freeze threatens both service continuity and county finances.

NYSAC has strongly opposed the funding freeze, warning that a blanket withholding will punish innocent families, destabilize essential child care and safety-net services, and shift new costs to local property taxpayers. While counties fully support program integrity and aggressive fraud prevention, NYSAC has emphasized that allegations of fraud should be addressed through existing oversight and enforcement mechanisms — not by cutting off funding to eligible families who rely on these programs. A prolonged freeze could also exacerbate fiscal strain on counties already facing new SNAP and Medicaid cost shifts under recently enacted federal legislation.

NYSAC is calling on the federal government to immediately restore funding and work collaboratively with New York to address any legitimate concerns.

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The Association is also seeking to join the New York State Attorney General's lawsuit to restore child care funding and ensure continuity of services.

NYSAC will continue advocating on behalf of counties, families, and taxpayers to protect these vital programs and uphold counties' role as New York's front-line safety-net providers.