

New York State Citizen Review Panels

*Administered by Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
150 State St., 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12207
Ph: 518-463-1896 ext. 24 Fax: 518-463-3364 dmastin@scaany.org*

January 20, 2011

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As Chairs of the three New York State Citizen Review Panels, we are writing to reiterate the importance of state funding for home visiting programs and ask that you maintain funding at its present level of \$23,288,200 in the OCFS budget. Funding for Healthy Families New York must, at the very least, be maintained at its current level if New York is to meet the Maintenance of Effort obligation required to qualify for federal home visiting funding under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform Act). New York could receive millions in new federal funding.

Home visiting programs are primary prevention programs with proven results that are known to prevent child abuse and neglect.

As citizens charged with reviewing the policies, procedures and practices in child protective services, we strongly believe that child welfare reforms can lead to cost savings and improve families' lives in New York State, especially those that support families before a call to the SCR is needed. These home visiting programs are primary prevention programs with measureable outcomes. They protect children from harm and help build strong, stable, nurturing families.

We urge you to make Healthy Families New York Home Visiting funding a priority in your Executive Budget.

We thank you for your consideration.

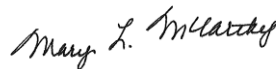
Sincerely,



David Lansner
Co-Chair
NYC panel



Elba Montalvo
Co-Chair
NYC Panel



Mary McCarthy
Chair
Eastern Panel



Ellen Kennedy
Chair
Western Panel

Citizen Review Panels are mandated by federal law. In 1999 the New York Legislature passed S371-b of the Social Services Law establishing panels in New York State to evaluate the extent to which agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with the State's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Plan, child protection standards set forth in the federal law, and any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children.