

# *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

May 20, 2011

Honorable Michael Bloomberg  
Mayor, The City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

On behalf of the NYC Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in baselining funding for 2,900 preventive service slots in the Mayoral Executive Budget.

These slots are essential to ensuring that struggling parents have access to the supports they need to keep their children safely at home and their families together. The preventive services affected are the very community-based services that strengthen and support families while reducing child deaths and more costly placements into residential care. The city's most vulnerable populations especially need this support in tough economic times; they suffer the most from budget cuts in economic downturns.

Agencies face uncertainty during each budget crisis, making it difficult to provide effective services without knowing the number of slots funded, staffing required, and number of families they can serve. With permanent funding, agencies can move forward with planning and staffing to better serve families at a time when federal funding is also in question.

We look forward to working with you to address the needs of all New Yorkers. We thank you for your past support for our most vulnerable children and families and for your leadership on their behalf during this trying budget season.

Sincerely,



David Lansner  
Panel Co-Chair

cc: Linda Gibbs, *Deputy Mayor* of Health and Human Services  
John Mattingly, *Commissioner* of Administration for Children's Services  
Honorable Christine C. Quinn, *Speaker*, New York City Council  
Honorable Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., New York City Council Member, *Chair*, Finance Committee  
Honorable Annabel Palma, New York City Council Member, *Chair*, General Welfare Committee

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.