Connecticut Voices for Children Releases State Budget Analysis

Today, Connecticut Voices for Children released its yearly analysis of the state budget. The conclusion of the analysis states that Connecticut’s children were disproportionately impacted by the final budget that passed the General Assembly on June 30, 2015.

Indeed over three-quarters of cuts in the final budget for Fiscal Year 2016 are to funding that supports Connecticut’s children and their families. These cuts, totaling $201.7 million, are part of a larger proposal to close the State’s deficit of over $1 billion in the state fiscal year that began July 1, 2015 (FY 2016).

“One message came through loud and clear: children need more of a voice in the political process. At Connecticut Voices for Children we are committed to keep fighting for our children to ensure that they have equal opportunity and equal access to the community supports that are vital to their future success,” said Executive Director, Ellen Shemitz.

While a good third of Connecticut’s General Fund spending supports social, educational, and family assistance programs that benefit children, it is these very same programs that suffer disproportionately when budget deficits mandate cuts.

In order to identify trends in state support for children and families, Connecticut Voices for Children created a “Children’s Budget”: a compilation of all major state investments in children, including programs that provide for the well-being of children and their families. The Children’s Budget allows Voices to assess appropriations over time, determine if the state has met its responsibility for investments in children and families, and compare cuts made to the “Children’s Budget” to those made in other line items.

Fiscal Policy Fellow, Nick DeFiesta, commented that “This budget analysis highlights the need for more investment in our youth and opens the discussion surrounding the need for a more progressive approach to our state’s revenue system. I am hopeful that our report will help to facilitate that discussion during next session.”

Full report is attached or can be accessed at www.ctvoices.org

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