



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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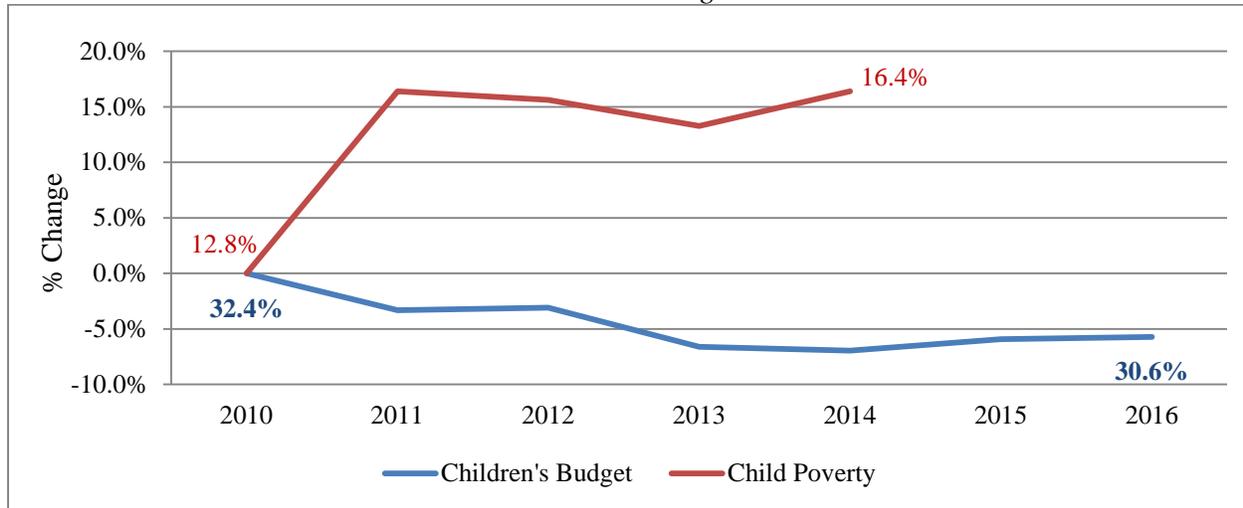
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Connecticut Voices for Children Praises Restoration of Harmful Budget Cuts

Looks ahead to reverse long-term disinvestments

The budget deal announced today restores difficult cuts to many programs that support children and families. Yet, alleviating the [wide disparities left in the wake of the economic recovery](#), including record-high child poverty, requires a state budget that reflects the needs of our children and families.

Investments to Children’s Programs Decline Even as Child Poverty Grows
Indexed to Measure Changes Since 2010



Source: American Community Survey, Children’s Budget

A recent update to our Children’s Budget finds continued long-term disinvestment in programs that serve children and families, such as K-12 education, developmental services, and health coverage - down nearly 10 percentage points from the early 1990s when the state spent nearly 40% of the General Fund on such programs. Moreover, while child poverty has increased by more than 16.4% since the economic recovery began in 2010 (from a rate of 12.8% to 14.9%), the share of the state budget that is appropriated to the Children’s Budget has declined by 5.7% (from 32.4% of General Funds to 30.6%).

“We recognize and applaud the efforts that have been made to restore harmful cuts to essential programs and services that support child and family health and wellbeing,” said Ellen Shemitz,



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executive director of Connecticut Voices for Children. “At the same time, we believe that more can and must be done in the upcoming session and in the years to come to reverse the long term decline in state investment in children and youth and to prioritize the establishment of equitable opportunity across race, ethnicity and zip code.”

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