May 4, 2017

Contact: Roger Senserrich
Communications Director
203-498-4240 x117
rsenserrich@ctvoices.org

Report: State Budget Proposals Hurt Children, Families, and the State Economy

Proposals Fail to Address Structural Imbalances

NEW HAVEN – Connecticut’s budget is the clearest statement of its policy priorities. As such, it should prioritize revenue and expense options that advance long-term inclusive economic prosperity, improve equity, and prepare our children for success. In a new policy brief, Connecticut Voices for Children compares the state budget proposals from the Governor, Legislature, and Republican leadership and concludes that all three proposals adopt an unbalanced approach that fails to address Connecticut’s long-term structural challenges.

“The three budget proposals rely on a crisis-driven, short-term approach that relies too heavily on cuts and harmful austerity,” says Derek Thomas, Connecticut Voices for Children’s Fiscal Policy Fellow. “This on the heels of last year’s budget cuts of nearly $1 billion, which resulted in a record-low share of the budget dedicated to children’s programs.”

All three proposals include deep cuts to crucial programs and services for children and low-income families. Health insurance, workforce development, social services, and early care and education undergo the worst of the cuts. None of the proposals address an outdated tax code that does not align with today’s economy, and all three include both tax increases for low-income families and tax cuts for high-wealth taxpayers.

“Connecticut faces a structural deficit that requires a structural response,” says Ellen Shemitz, Executive Director at Connecticut Voices for Children. “Connecticut needs a balanced budget that builds opportunity over the long term, including both tax reforms that raise new revenue by fixing our outdated tax system and strategic spending in priority programs that will keep Connecticut an attractive place to find a job, start a business, and raise a family.”

About Connecticut Voices for Children: Connecticut Voices for Children is a research-based child advocacy organization working to ensure that all Connecticut children have an equitable opportunity to achieve their full potential. In furtherance of its mission, Connecticut Voices for Children produces high-quality research and analysis, promotes citizen education, advocates for policy change at the state and local level, and works to develop the next generation of leaders.