

# RESILIENCE IN THE NEWS

## Media Coverage of Resilience Issues

*June 2009*

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The Resilience Advocacy Project compiles monthly overviews of news articles pertaining to low-income children and families. These overviews focus on four core resilience themes - *Emotional Support, Education, Basic Needs, and Youth Enrichment* - and provide condensed access to important news and policy trends, interesting stories, and current data.

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### **Mayor Bloomberg: Layoff, Cuts Won't Hurt ACS Kids**, Adam Lisberg, *Daily News*, June 4, 2009

In response to the criticism of Bloomberg's cuts in Administration for Children's Services (ACS), Bloomberg responded by explaining the cuts will not affect the children. In order to support this claim, he explained that the cuts will not cause an increase in caseloads for ACS workers. Further, he asserted that the funding cuts would only affect "ACS services that are less important." ACS will lose 15 workers by the end of the month, with an addition 535 workers by the end of September. Yet, Comptroller William Thompson "blasted" Bloomberg for saving \$18 million by cutting child-care vouchers for 3,000 city families. Vulnerable New Yorkers shouldn't be used to balance the budget." How valuable is it to "balance the budget" at the expense of leaving individuals in dire need of benefits with continuously less public aide?

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2009/06/04/2009-06-04\\_mike\\_layoff\\_cuts\\_wont\\_hurt\\_acs\\_kids.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2009/06/04/2009-06-04_mike_layoff_cuts_wont_hurt_acs_kids.html)

### **"Stand By Our Kids!" Deliver 5,000 Petitions to City Hall**, *New York Nonprofit Press*, June 12, 2009

On Wednesday, June 10, 2009, the "Stand By Our Kids" Coalition stood before City Hall with nearly 5,000 signatures rallying against the \$6 million budget cut in Out-of-School Time after-school programs. The programs have supported thousands of children by providing them with job skills, as well as productive ways to spend their time. Various city council members, including John C. Liu and Alan Gerson, joined the students in the protest of the budget cuts for OST 2. Gerson commented, "Cutting the funding for these programs would create a void that the gangs will be only too happy to fill."

<http://www.nynp.biz/index.php/nonprofit-events/1014-stand-by-our-kids-deliver-5000-petitions-to-city-hall->

### **Early Childhood Letdown: Bronx Day Care Centers Losing Classrooms in Fall**, *Damon Beres*, *Daily News*, June 16, 2009

Bloomberg's budget cuts will result in dramatic effects and changes for low-income families with toddlers. Four Bronx day care centers will close, and all 5-year olds will have to enroll in kindergarten. Further, many families rely on day care centers rather than kindergarten because they do not work traditional hours; these families must find a way to pay for child care themselves. Raglan George, the executive director of District Council 1707 said, "At a time when more New York families need all the support they can get, the mayor is creating greater stress on children and parents by cutting early childhood services."

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/bronx/2009/06/16/2009-06-16\\_bronx\\_day\\_care\\_centers\\_losing\\_classrooms\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/bronx/2009/06/16/2009-06-16_bronx_day_care_centers_losing_classrooms_.html)

### **Court Affirms Reimbursement for Special Education**, *Tamar Lewin*, *New York Times*, June 22, 2009

On Monday, June 22, the Supreme Court ruled that parents of special-education students may seek government reimbursement for private school tuition, even if they have not previously received special-education services through the public education system. The case brought to the Supreme Court involved a student who attended a public school in Oregon. Despite the school's acknowledgement that he had learning

disabilities, he did not receive special-education services. Consequently, the student, along with 90,000 others, began attending private schools in order to receive proper emotional and academic support. The decision ruled 6-3 in favor of requiring reimbursements to special-education students who would attend private schools. The majority opinion argued that if a public school did not make a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) available to special-education students by providing appropriate support services, and a private school placement is appropriate, those students should be reimbursed for attending private school.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/23/education/23special.html?\\_r=1&ref=us](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/23/education/23special.html?_r=1&ref=us)

### **Easing a College Financial Aid Headache, Tamar Lewin, New York Times, June 23, 2009**

The Obama Administration is working to simplify the application process for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Due to unnecessarily complicated forms, approximately 1.5 million students in need of financial aid have been discouraged to apply. Some of the changes that are being proposed include: (1) The elimination of approximately 20% of existing questions, focusing on redundancies within the application; (2) Increased access to tax returns from the Internal Revenue Service in order to permit automatic completion of the online for the FAFSA; (3) Elimination of numerous extraneous financial questions; and (4) Elimination of questions that create loopholes for sophisticated applicants.

In addition to the proposed changes, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, passed in the last Congress, made some progress by creating a “two-page EX form” for some low-income families, and by facilitating a simplified reapplication process. Some individuals and parents remain critical, finding that not only should the form be simplified, but also the formula used for determining aid. Relevant to New Yorkers: The current formula does not adequately factor in the high cost of living in areas like New York, which would therefore misinterpret a family’s income and need for aid.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/24/education/24fafsa.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/24/education/24fafsa.html?_r=1)