

October 10 - Nominations for Virtual Awards Gala Due Tuesday, October 12, Welcoming Danielle Di Meglio to Staff, Build Back Better Progress and Much More

VIRTUAL AWARDS GALA – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 at 7 PM

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Our sixth annual awards event will once again be a virtual format given that our traditional in person dinner is ill advised during the Pandemic. We also think there are some benefits to doing the awards event virtually since we can better showcase our sponsors and our awardees. We suggest that what people might have spent on dinner, plus travel and lodging could be contributed to the Council.

The Gala will highlight the powerful and life changing ministries of the New York State Council of Churches. The event will highlight our purpose to embrace a spirit of ecumenism and hospitality, to live into God's call to do justice and to love our neighbor. Together we bridge the sacred and the secular to point to the Kingdom of God on earth, as we envision a world where the marginalized are freed from poverty, where prisoners can be restored to live happier and healthier lives, and where we help people of all ages grow in their Christian discipleship. The gala will be held virtually on **Tuesday, December 7** and we will be presenting awards in the following categories:

Excellence in Social Justice Award

Excellence in Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Award

Excellence in Chaplaincy Award

Excellence in Affordable Housing and Sustainable Community Development Award

Excellence in Union, Community Organizing, and/or Worker Advocacy Award

Please consider submitting a nomination for one of these awards below. [Please complete the form at this link](#) with your nomination for one of the award categories for our 2021 Virtual Awards Gala. **The deadline for submitting nominations has been extended until Tuesday, October 12, 2021.**

We ask that you [please consider purchasing a sponsorship between \\$125 and \\$5,000](#) to support the New York State Council of Churches.

Please let us know if you can be a sponsor by November 22 so that we can include you in the production. More information and a description of the sponsorship levels are available at the above link.



New York State Association of Protestant Chaplains

Education Conference on Zoom

October 12, 2021

Healing Historical Trauma and Cultural Wounds

We are looking forward to spending the day together on Zoom beginning at 9 AM on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. [Please pre-register at this link](#)

We will have two different workshop speakers in the morning; The Rev. Dr. Marcos Miranda "Culturally Sensitive Trauma: How Can I Help?" and The Rev. Dr. Klion Kitchen "Understanding and Addressing the Challenges of Historical and Cultural Trauma as it Relates to the Men and Women Serving in Institutions and in the Armed Forces".

There will be a break for lunch at 12 PM and a session with representatives of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision will take place at 12:30 PM.

The afternoon speakers for ALL participants will begin at 1:45 PM with Dr. Vikki O'Connor "Trauma Informed Care for Those in Ministry: Recognizing and Responding to the Needs of Marginalized Individuals and their Families"

We will have a closing worship service with Holy Communion at 3:30 PM.

Our NYSAPC (New York State Association of Protestant Chaplains) Annual Meeting will be held at 4:15 PM. This will include the election of officers. **Need Nominations for all 4 NYSAPC Officers**

This event is FREE, and we hope you will participate. Much more information is available at this link. [More details are available here.](#)

STATE WIDE

New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.

There's still time to register for NY StateWide Senior Action Council's Virtual Convention Oct 12-14.

No fee for members, all are welcome to register - become a member today for no-fee registration.

[Featured state & national policy speakers](#) including new regional directors for CMS and Administration for Community Living, featuring our US Senator Chuck Schumer, director of policy for National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare, NYS Attorney General's office, Assemblymember's Gottfried & Kim, Senators May & Rivera, Medicaid Matters' Lara Kassel & more. Register online at nysenior.org

Hurricane Ida Relief

New York State Council of Churches joined New York Disaster Interfaith Services, Governor's Office of Faith and Community Development Services and New York Board of Rabbis to sponsor this seminar to help churches and individuals access disaster assistance. [Click here](#) to view the video.

Christian Unity Gathering with National Council of Churches – October 11 and 12, 2021

In New Wineskins: From Pandemics to Possibilities to Promises

NCC's annual Christian Unity Gathering (CUG) will be held virtually all day on October 11 – 12, 2021 with the theme, "In New Wineskins: From Pandemics to Possibilities to Promises," based on the scripture in Luke 5:37-39. The event is free to attend. Click here to register:

[Click here](#) for a listing of all speakers and the agenda



Join New York State Poor People's Campaign on Indigenous People's Day to bear witness and learn from the *plight, fight and insight* of the Shinnecock Nation.

Like other indigenous communities throughout New York State and North America, the Shinnecock are disproportionately impacted by the intersecting evils of poverty, systemic racism, environmental devastation, militarism/colonialism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. They are also engaged in an ongoing struggle to defend their sovereignty and land rights.

On October 11 we'll come together virtually to hear testimony on the impact of these injustices, how the community is organizing in response, and how we can act in solidarity to build a world that reflects our values. The event will also feature music and remarks from Poor People's Campaign national co-chairs, Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and Rev. Dr. William Barber.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register:

NYSCOC Welcomes Danielle Di Meglio as Social Justice and Research Intern

We are delighted to have Danielle Di Meglio join the New York State Council of Churches' staff as our 2021-2022 Social Justice and Research Intern.



Danielle was born and raised in Lawrence, New Jersey. She is currently a junior at Fordham University, on the pre-law track studying to receive a double major in journalism and political science with a minor in Italian. Also an editor for the Fordham Undergraduate Law Review, Danielle hopes to bring her aspirations of learning the law to the Council. Danielle will help to staff our social justice commission and she will research and write about areas involving criminal justice reform, healthcare, and budget and infrastructure at the Federal and state level and other issues areas as assigned. She will also assist with our annual ecumenical advocacy day. the social justice and research intern. Danielle can be reached at ddimeglio@fordham.edu.

AN UPDATE ON BUILD BACK BETTER

Debates surrounding the budget for Build Back Better continue as US Senator, Joe Manchin, has suggested a number for the Build Back Better bill of \$1.5 trillion, \$2 trillion short of the originally proposed amount of \$3.5 trillion for the bill. However, conversations between Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Manchin were able to settle on a \$2 trillion budget for Build Back Better. President Joe Biden has stated that he is looking to settle negotiations between \$1.9 trillion and \$2.3 trillion.

Nancy Pelosi has also made the call to postpone voting on the roads and bridges package to further put the pressure on reaching agreements to get Build Back Better passed.

The House also just passed a 30-day transportation bill which Pelosi is claiming that October 31st (the day the transportation bill will expire) is the new deadline for the reconciliation and infrastructure bills to be passed. This will also hopefully mean that Build Back Better will reach negotiations at that time as many have agreed they will not vote on infrastructure and reconciliation until Build Back Better is ready.

In the meantime, committees are redrafting their Build Back Better Proposals.

What can you do during this pivotal time? Tell Congress to [#HoldTheLine](#) retain as much of the 3.5 Trillion proposed amount and not trim one program at the expense of another.

There are various letters from our advocacy partners to retain as robust funding as possible for several areas:

Environmental Justice and Build Back Better

New York Renews: *Last week was a huge victory for us in Washington. Progressives stood together and demanded that climate, jobs, care, and justice wouldn't be set aside to let the infrastructure bill pass alone.*

Now, the New York Chapter of Indivisible, another member of the Green New Deal Network, is creating a sign on letter to Sen. Schumer, calling on him to keep impactful climate provisions in the final version of the reconciliation bill. [Please review it here.](#)

After you do, please sign your organization up using this [sign-on form](#). Additionally, please share this opportunity with other organizations and committees you work with.

Housing Justice and Build Back Better

A study commissioned by the New York Housing Conference underscores the outsized impact that a large increase in Federal Housing vouchers will have on the economy which will reduce dramatically the amount of money many families must pay for housing to ease their budgets to pay for other necessities: [Click here](#) to see the report and hear the video presentation.

New York Housing Conference: The planned \$330 billion investment in housing represents [our best chance in decades to meaningfully address a growing emergency in New York](#). The current package would:

- Provide 69,000 NY households with new rental assistance, benefiting 151,000 residents – the vast majority of whom are Black or Latino. Those households are also mostly female-headed and care for children.
- Fund repairs for 170,000 NY public housing units and almost single-handedly close NYCHA's \$40 billion funding gap.
- Catalyze \$9 billion in new HUD funding for New York through significant investment in vital housing production programs like LIHTC, the National Housing Trust Fund, and others.
- Finance 82,200 new units of affordable housing in New York by reducing PAB's 50% test and other provisions expanding LIHTC.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to turn the tide on housing and homelessness.

Please participate in the [National Low Income Housing Coalition's call to action](#) with tools for sending a message to your member of Congress to protect housing in budget reconciliation. *It only takes a few minutes to send an email and it can really make a difference!*

If we miss this opportunity, we may never get another chance to solve this crisis. We greatly appreciate the incredible support for housing issues over this past year from Congress and **strongly encourage Senator Schumer and the entire NY Congressional Delegation to fight to preserve these dollars in negotiations.**

We also urge you sign a letter to be sent to Senator Schumer:

We are at a critical moment in negotiations on infrastructure and social investment in Washington. The \$330 Billion in affordable housing funding in the Build Back Better reconciliation bill is at risk. Sens. Manchin and Sinema are calling for a smaller package than the current \$3.5 trillion. If they succeed in shrinking it, there will need to be major cuts and [according to some news coverage](#), some or all of the housing funding could be on the chopping block. We need you to weigh in now with leaders in Washington – directly and on social media – to tell them to keep the \$330 billion in housing funding.

Below is a draft email to Sen. Schumer for you to send today. You can send the email to his housing staff: Zack Rosenblum, zack_rosenblum@schumer.senate.gov and Ryan Eagan, ryan_eagan@schumer.senate.gov

After you send your email, please let Shakti Robbins-Cubas know that you have reached out so we can get a sense of how much activity there is.

Draft E-mail to Senator Schumer- please send this today!

Dear Senator Schumer,

My name is (insert name, position, organization and mission)

As an affordable housing (insert role, ie. advocate, developer), I am stressing the urgent need to maintain the full \$330B investment in affordable housing as you continue negotiations for the Build Back Better Plan. New Yorkers across the state have been struggling to meet rising housing costs as wages remained stagnant, an issue that was only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In New York, 70% of extremely low-income renters pay more than half of their income on housing and half of all renters are cost burdened.

With this historic investment we can significantly close the 609,000 unit gap of affordable housing for the neediest renters. We can finally address NYCHA's capital needs and fulfill our promise to the more than 400,000 residents who live in inhumane and deplorable conditions. The proposed \$90B for rental assistance, including \$75B for housing choice vouchers would fund almost 70,000 vouchers for New York, assisting 151,000 people. This would be a major down payment on President Biden's campaign promise to create a real housing safety net and provide rental assistance to all eligible households.

Investment in affordable housing is investment in communities. It reduces poverty and homelessness, stimulates local economies, creates jobs and positively impacts the health and educational outcomes. We cannot afford to miss this once in a generation opportunity to completely transform the housing landscape for hundreds of thousands of families across the country.

Draft Tweet- We encourage you to make them your own and stay active on this topic on social media this week.

- **As @SenSchumer & @SpeakerPelosi lead final negotiations on this year's budget, we must ensure affordable housing remains a key area of investment. The proposed \$330B for housing can bring unprecedented resources to low-income and marginalized communities nationwide. #HoUSed #BuildBackBetter**

Child Tax Credit and Build Back Better

Automatic Benefit for Children Coalition: This summer, 750 state and local community-serving organizations, including yours, [joined voices](#) with the [Automatic Benefit for Children \(ABC\) Coalition](#) to call on Congress to make the Child Tax Credit expansions permanent and fully inclusive.

As Congress and the White House negotiate the Build Back Better legislation, now is the time to make your voices heard powerfully once again! It is crucial that the Child Tax Credit provisions be as strong as possible. The House of Representative's Ways and Means committee released a draft proposal extending the expanded CTC to 2025. While we will continue to fight for permanency, we must currently work to ensure that Congress expands the CTC to 2025 at a minimum.

Your direct communication with Majority Leader Schumer is the best way to make sure our call for permanency is heard loud and clear: "Now that you have lifted families up, do not let them down." Here are three easy things you can do:

1. Call Senator Schumer at any of the following numbers (and if one doesn't go through, try the next!). There is a script included below that you can use.
 1. Albany office: 518-431-4070
 2. Melville office: 631-753-0978
 3. Rochester office: 585-263-5866
 4. Binghamton office: 607-772-6792
 5. New York City office: 212-486-4430
 6. Syracuse office: 315-423-5471
 7. Buffalo office: 716-846-4111
 8. Peekskill office: 914-734-1532
 9. Washington, DC office: 202-224-6542
2. Post on social media using [this Toolkit](#) to raise awareness about the need to keep the CTC strong.
3. Share these resources with your networks and colleagues and encourage them to contact their members of Congress. *Even if it is preaching to the choir, the choir needs to know how big it is!*

Sample Script:

Introduce yourself and why you're calling: "Hi, my name is [NAME], and I'm calling as your constituent and [A PARENT/CAREGIVER/ETC.]. I'm calling to ask Senator Schumer to support making the Child Tax Credit from the American Rescue Plan permanent. As a step toward that goal, the Child Tax Credit must at the very least be extended through 2025 and made fully inclusive as part of the Build Back Better legislation.

Add personal details, for example: "I know how hard and expensive it is to raise a family in New York. The expanded CTC monthly payments will help parents like me meet the needs of raising children and ensure our families have everything they need to thrive. It will give parents in New York the power to make decisions about what is best for our families."

Ask your Senator or Representative to act: "I urge Senator Schumer to speak out on the Senate Floor and social media about keeping the CTC strong by making it fully inclusive and extending permanently, but at least to 2025 in the next reconciliation package.

The [Automatic Benefit for Children \(ABC\) Coalition](#) is an intersectional group of national, state, and grassroots organizations committed to the passage and full implementation of a guaranteed income that benefits all children. We believe all children should have what they need to pursue their goals and achieve their full potential and that this requires a society in which all families can afford the essentials their children need to grow and thrive. The ABC Coalition is co-chaired by [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#) and [Children's Defense Fund](#).

One Possible Pathway to a Deal

There are a variety of paths to reach a deal. For illustration purposes, here is one possible scenario which might mean focussing on just a few of the Build Back Better proposals. Please note the steps that could be taken once a framework is established.

Commentary from Mary Clark, Federal Issues Coordinator, Citizen Action: *Negotiations continue as leadership from the White House, Senate, and House try to find a bridge between*

progressives' topline number (\$3.5 trillion) and [Manchin's topline](#) (\$1.5 trillion, though he seems open to negotiating that number somewhat). Politico reported that Pelosi offered Manchin and Sinema [a top line of \\$2.1 trillion](#) "broken into three buckets: (1) family issues (e.g. child care and paid leave), (2) health care (locking in subsidies for Obamacare) and (3) climate change" though there has been no indication if they (or progressives) would accept the principles of the deal. CPC Chair Jayapal has insisted that progressives be consulted before any framework is announced.

What if there's a framework?

Once there is a framework, the House and Senate will still need a couple weeks to draft the details of a revised Build Back Better Act, get budgetary scores and parliamentary rulings, and then actually consider the bill in both chambers. Here's the rough sequence that would kick off:

House and Senate Democrats achieve general consensus around a framework

Committees redraft their titles of the Build Back Better Act to fit the new framework.

These new titles are scored by CBO and vetted with the Senate Parliamentarian to get ahead of procedural challenges in the Senate and then revised further.

The revised titles are offered as a manager's amendment in the House Rules Committee.

The House approves the rule with the manager's amendment, debates the bill, and then sends it over to the Senate.

The Senate makes last-minute changes through a manager's amendment, goes through its whole amendment vote-a-rama, and then sends the bill back to the House.

The House approves the Senate version, and the bill heads to the President.

Realistically, this will take the better part of a month and the end of October or Veteran's Day timeline is probably the more optimistic version of reality.