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Center for an Urban Future

SCAA
Schuyler Center
for Analysis and Advocacy

Number of low-income working families in NYS	585,084
Number of working families in NYS below the poverty line	163,292
Percentage of working poor families in NYS that spend more than 1/3 of income on housing	79.8%

FOR GROWING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WITH JOBS IN NEW YORK, THE AMERICAN DREAM IS SLIPPING FURTHER OUT OF REACH.

MORE HARD TIMES FOR NEW YORK'S WORKING FAMILIES

IN NOVEMBER 2004, THE CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE AND THE Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy released a report titled "Between Hope and Hard Times," revealing that more than a quarter of all working families in New York State were low-income. New data suggests that the number of New York's working families living in economic distress has only continued to rise, undermining the core American notion that work alone should suffice to ensure economic security.

The number of working families in New York who earn less than twice the federal poverty standard grew by 33,510 (6.3 percent) between 2002 and 2003, the most recent year for which data is available. As a result, there are now roughly 385,000 low-income working families in the state, representing 27.7 percent of all working families in New York.

This isn't the only indication that for large numbers of people with jobs in New York, the American Dream is slipping further out of reach. Indeed, many of the trends we discussed in our 2004 report—including job growth in low-wage positions while better-paying fields lose employment, the rising cost of housing for almost all Empire State residents, and level or falling state support for vital programs that can help economically marginalized New Yorkers land better jobs to support their families—have only grown more pronounced. For example:

- While nearly 20 percent of all working families in the state earn less than twice the federal poverty line, 7.7 percent of working families make so little money that they are actually below the poverty level. Overall, more than 163,000 working families in New York lived below the poverty line in 2003, an increase of about 6,300 (4.0 percent) since 2002.
- The number of jobs in occupations that pay below poverty level increased by nearly 84,000 (6.4 percent) since our last report was published, climbing from 1,314,950 jobs with sub-poverty wages in 2002 to 1,397,970 in 2004.
- The number of working poor families in New York who spend more than a third of their income on housing increased by roughly 5,500 between 2002 and 2003, an increase of 4.8 percent.

Report - March 2006

More Hard Times for New York's Working Families

This new report by the Center for an Urban Future and the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy reveals that the number of working poor families in the state has continued to rise in recent years.

by David Fischer with Tara Colton, Tom Hilliard and Karen Schimke

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Oneonta Daily Star, by Amy L. Ashbridge, November 22, 2004

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The New York Times, by Bob Herbert, November 22, 2004

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New York Times City Room Blog, by Sewell Chan, October 14, 2008

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The Journal News (Westchester), by Jerry Gleeson, November 12, 2004



CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

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