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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.<sup>1</sup> New data suggest that the number of New York's working families living in economic distress has only continued to rise, undercutting the very American notion that with alone should suffice to attain economic security.**

The number of working families in New York who earn less than twice the federal poverty standard grew by 31,515 (4.3 percent) between 2002 and 2003, the most recent year for which data is available.<sup>2</sup> As a result, there are now roughly 380,000 low-income working families in the state, representing 27.3 percent of all working families in New York.<sup>3</sup>

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 like employment, the rising cost of housing for almost all New York State residents, and level or falling state support for vital programs like Head Start and WIC—have continued. Working families with jobs to support their families—have only grown more precarious. For example:

- While nearly 28 percent of all working families in the state earn less than twice the federal poverty line, 7.3 percent of working families make no less money than they are actually below the poverty level.<sup>4</sup> Overall, more than 163,000 working families in New York lived below the poverty line in 2003, an increase of about 6,300 (4.3 percent) since 2002.<sup>5</sup>
- The number of jobs in occupations that pay below poverty level increased by nearly 84,000 (4.4 percent) since our last report was published, climbing from 1,314,090 jobs with sub-poverty wages in 2002 to 1,397,879 in 2003.<sup>6</sup>
- The number of working poor families in New York who spend more than a third of their income on housing increased by roughly 5,300 between 2002 and 2003, an increase of 4.4 percent.<sup>7</sup>

## 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

[Click here to read the full report \(PDF\).](#)

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