



Council of Senior Centers & Services of NYC, Inc.

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**ACTION ALERT
FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

***SENIOR SERVICES CUT TO THE BONE!
\$23.5 MILLION IN CUTS IN MAYOR'S FY10 PRELIMINARY BUDGET***

THESE CUTS FOLLOW \$15 MILLION IN FY09 DFTA CUTS TO SERVICES

***CSCS LONG TERM CARE POLICY PAPER, "NO TIME TO WAIT", ON
WEBSITE – www.cscs-ny.org***

What is happening:

- The city is facing a \$4 billion deficit for FY10 (July 1, 2009-June, 30, 2010). DFTA's budget has much city tax levy dollars in it. All this money is vulnerable to cuts because it is discretionary meaning there is no law protecting this money as with entitlements.
- "Non-core" services, as defined by DFTA, were cut or eliminated in the FY09 budget – 3% across-the-board cuts, reductions in City Council add-ons such as meals and rent, caregiver funds cut, and elimination of social adult day services, intergenerational programs, Congregate Services Initiative, and a non-core services funding stream.
- **The FY10 plan \$10 million in DFTA cuts includes:**
 - Senior centers** - \$ 5.3 million, 5%, cut
 - Case management** - \$ 1.1 million, 4.5%, cut
 - Meals-on-wheels** - \$ 1.4 million cut to a planned expansion of MOW. The city was planning to expand the MOW program and now that won't happen.
 - Elder abuse** - \$ 425,000 – eliminate elder abuse funds
 - DFTA administrative reductions** - \$ 1.75 million
- **FY10 plan excludes \$13.5 million in City Council add-ons:**
 - Meals** - \$4 million – 35 cents more a meal
 - Transportation** - \$3.1 million (\$7800 per vehicle)
 - Rent** - \$2.5 million
 - Extended I&R Services** - \$1.5 million
 - Healthy Aging Initiative** - \$1.3 million
 - NORCs** - \$1 million

What you can do:

- **It is the beginning of the city budget process.** The final budget is adopted in mid-June. However, it is important to start advocating against these cuts now.
- **There will be City Council and Borough President public hearings** in February and March. Seniors and/or staff testifying is important – especially seniors speaking for themselves when they can.
- **Invite your Councilmember** to your program to discuss the cuts with the seniors. If you serve homebound people, meet with your Councilmembers.
- **Please see the attached talking points** as guidance for testimony and meeting with your Councilmembers.

**TALKING POINTS ON PROPOSED CUTS TO DFTA
FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

It is currently unclear exactly how DFTA would apply the proposed cuts as they may or may not be the same percentage across-the board for all agencies. For now, it is important to treat these cuts as though they are across-the-board and state the impact on your agency's capacity to serve seniors.

1. The total cut to all my agency's senior centers, case management or MOW would be \$_____ (state specific amount for each service that applies)
2. I already cut \$_____ from my budget in this year (FY09). This is what was cut – food costs, van costs, exercise and other classes, social services, staff laid off or time reduced, etc. How many seniors do you serve annually?
3. Demographics of seniors you serve – ethnic groups, economic status, immigrants, homebound or independent, age range, has family or not, etc.
4. My senior center is seeing more seniors come in for meals and services as the economy worsens. State how many more seniors a day like 3-5, 5-10, etc.
5. We have waiting lists for meals-on-wheels, case management assessments, home care, or transportation. State whatever applies and how many seniors are waiting.
6. Overall demographics of NYC seniors:
 - Twice the elderly poverty rate in NYC than nationally – 20% vs. 10%. Mayor's reconfiguration of the poverty rate with different criteria than the federal poverty rate brought NYC senior poverty level to 32%.
 - Diversity - 50% of older New Yorkers are minority elderly.
 - 85+ age sector is fastest growing segment of the city's population for the first time in our history.
 - Mayor Bloomberg's 2030 Plan reports there will be a 44% increase in the elderly population by 2030 and recommends an increase in senior centers and supportive housing.

Borough Hearings:

Bronx – Wednesday, Feb. 11th, 11:00-1:00 – call 718-537-3405 or vriviera@bronxbp.nyc.gov to register. Bronx BP Hearing Room – 198 E. 161st Street, Suite 201

Brooklyn - No scheduled hearing to date.

Manhattan – Tuesday, Feb. 24th, 3:00-7:00 PM, first come basis, Municipal Building
Wednesday, Feb. 25th, 3:00-7:00 PM, first come basis, Harlem State Office Building. RSVP to (212) 669-4462 or hearings@manhattanbp.org

Queens - Wednesday, Feb. 18th, 9:30 am-5:00 pm, registration begins Feb. 9th, (718) 286-2900, Queens BP office, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Room 250

Staten Island – Not scheduled to date. Usually is during the 2nd week of March.

**STATE CUT OF \$30 MILLION OVERALL TO MEMBER ITEMS FOR FY09.
AGENCIES SHOULD CHECK WITH THEIR ASSEMBLYMEMBERS AND
SENATORS REGARDING MEMBER ITEM FUNDS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR.**

For further information, please contact Bobbie Sackman, (212) 398-6565 x226 or bsackman@cscs-ny.org

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