



Council of Senior Centers & Services of NYC, Inc.

49 West 45th Street, Seventh Floor, New York, NY 10036 (212) 398-6565 <http://www.cscs-ny.org>

**ACTION ALERT
MARCH 12, 2010**

**STATE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE SIGN-ON LETTERS TO WITHDRAW
\$25 MILLION TITLE XX FUNDING CUT THAT COULD
CLOSE UP TO 110 SENIOR CENTERS**

**PLEASE URGE YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES TO SIGN THE
LETTER IMMEDIATELY OR THANK THEM IF THEY ALREADY HAVE**

THE LETTERS ARE ATTACHED AND ALSO ON OUR WEBSITE – www.cscs-ny.org

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

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- see next page for letters -

March 12, 2010

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker of the Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

It has been brought to our attention that a proposal in the Office of Children and Family Services portion of the 2010-2011 Executive Budget would have a significant negative impact on services for older adults in New York City. Specifically, the proposal would restructure and reallocate funds from the Title XX grant that would result in a reduction of \$25.2 Million for Senior Centers in New York City. Should this proposal take effect, senior centers throughout New York City will close depriving its patrons of meal programs and needed socialization that provides an daily destination for seniors and prevents isolation and unnecessary institutionalization.

Currently, \$103 Million in Title XX funds are allocated through the Office of Children and Family Services. The 2009-2010 budget allocated \$66 Million for Adult Protective/Domestic Violence services and \$37 Million to counties to fund programs at their discretion. Of the total \$103 Million, \$65 Million in Title XX Funds were received by New York City, \$25.2 Million of which are used to fund programs for elderly adults. The proposal being advanced by the Executive would use the \$37 million previously distributed to counties to offset Adult Protective/Domestic Violence expenditures. In doing so, it would eliminate a critical funding source for senior centers in New York City, putting between 50-100 centers in serious jeopardy of closing.

This proposal is very problematic and potentially dangerous. While we are all aware of the particularly difficult financial situation that New York State is facing, we will face significantly higher costs of senior centers throughout New York City are shuttered and thousands of seniors are deprived of meals and interaction that will hasten entry into more expensive institutional settings. We strongly urge you to work with the Senate and the Executive to reject this particular budget proposal.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Chair, Assembly Aging Committee

Signatories:

Hon. Peter Abbate
Hon. William Boyland, Jr.
Hon. Grace Meng
Hon. Alec Brook-Krasny
Hon. Janele Hyer-Spencer
Hon. Audrey Pheffer
Hon. Annette Robinson
Hon. Carmen Arroyo
Hon. Inez Barron
Hon. Michael DenDekker
Hon. Rory Lancman
Hon. Rhoda Jacobs
Hon. Marcos Crespo
Hon. Joan Millman
Hon. Linda Rosenthal
Hon. Micah Kellner
Hon. William Scarborough
Hon. David Weprin
Hon. Michael Benedetto
Hon. Vanessa Gibson
Hon. Richard Gottfried
Hon. Nelson Castro

Cc: Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr. Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Dean Fuleihan, Secretary, Ways and Means Committee
Matt Howard, Director of Budget Studies, Ways and Means Committee
Mary Ann Donnaruma, Director of Budget Studies, Ways and Means Committee

March 12, 2010

Honorable John L. Sampson
Democratic Conference Leader
409 LOB
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Conference Leader Sampson:

Re: Title XX

We, the members of the Senate Democratic Conference, would like to voice our strong opposition to a proposal in the SFY 2010-2011 Executive Budget that, if enacted, will have devastating consequences. The Governor's proposal will result in the total elimination of Title XX funding for discretionary programs and every county in New York State will suffer the loss of much-needed funding as a result of this change.

Currently, \$103 million in Title XX funds is allocated through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. There are "mandated" services under Title XX which are required to be funded - Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence programs. There are also "discretionary" services, which are up to the state whether or not to fund - senior centers and day care, for example, are discretionary services, not mandatory. Of the \$103 million, \$66 million is slated for Adult Protective Services /Domestic Violence Services (Chapter 53 of the Laws of 2009) and \$37 million is to be distributed to counties to fund programs at their discretion.

The Governor's budget eliminates all discretionary funds and moves the money over to the mandated services. That way the state saves other dollars it was using for Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence programs. While these are worthy programs, it cannot be at the price of closing or crippling other important programs throughout New York State.

Every county in New York State uses Title XX funding for discretionary services. The counties listed below are just a few examples of the most devastating impacts that will result from this proposed change.

- New York City: \$25.2 million will be eliminated from the Department for the Aging (DFTA) which will result in the possible closure of up to 110 senior centers and the elimination of 5500 meals a day.
- Westchester County: \$1.7 million in Title XX funding will be eliminated, funding that the county uses for day care for low-income families.
- Nassau County: \$3 million in Title XX funding will be eliminated, including a \$600,000 cut to the Department of Senior Citizen Affairs.
- Erie County: \$707,926 in Title XX funding will be eliminated, including a \$171,427 cut for Senior Services Housing and Supportive Services (case management for seniors 60 years of

age and older who are eligible for Title XX services), as well as a \$66,650 loss for meals on wheels.

Again, we are strongly opposed to this provision in the Governor's Executive Budget and request your immediate intervention to ensure that it is not included in the final enacted SFY 2010-2011 budget. A funding cut of this magnitude will have devastating consequences to the lives of hundreds of thousands of seniors, families and children throughout New York State.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Rubén Díaz, Chairman
New York State Senate Committee on Aging

cc: Senate Democratic Conference

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Diaz", with a stylized flourish at the end.