



Council of Senior Centers & Services of NYC, Inc.

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CONNECT THE DOTS: FIVE FUNDING STRIKES WOULD DEVASTATE THE NYC DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING (DFTA) COMMUNITY-BASED SENIOR SERVICES

TOTAL OF \$85.4 MILLION IN PROPOSED CUTS TO DFTA OUT OF A \$290 MILLION BUDGET – 25% OVERALL CUT BY JULY, 2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.CSCS-NY.ORG TO SEE ACTION ALERTS

APRIL 14, 2010

The cumulative impact of cuts to the NYC DFTA threaten to:

- ✓ close dozens of senior centers throughout New York City
 - ✓ cut EISEP home care hours while 700 homebound elderly New Yorkers languish on waiting lists
 - ✓ cut meals-on-wheels, case management, and transportation
 - ✓ eliminate a gamut of community-based senior services
- ✓ **Strike 1 - - \$25.2 million cuts to senior centers from Title XX funds could close as many as 110 senior centers citywide:**

Governor's budget proposes to: "Utilize Title XX Funding to Support the Adult Protective/Domestic Violence Program: Currently, districts are allocated \$103 million annually in Federal Title XX funding, of which the State requires that \$66 million must be used to offset State and local AP/DV cost shares (49 percent State and 51 percent local). The 2010-11 Executive Budget would shift the remaining \$37 million in Title XX funds to the AP/DV program to reduce the State and local shares. In doing this, the State generates \$18 million in savings and reduces by \$19 million the direct cost to districts for providing mandated AP/DV services. Districts would lose \$37 million of discretionary Title XX funds, which currently reimburse local discretionary Title XX services."

- The state is proposing a cut of Title XX funding for mandatory Adult Protective/Domestic Violence services in HRA. If this happens, the amount of Title XX funds that DFTA gets will be decreased, as the City will direct the more

remaining Title XX funds to mandated services, instead of using them for senior center services, which are discretionary, not mandated.

- ***The \$37 million of “discretionary funds” includes \$25.2 million for senior centers throughout NYC. This funding has been in place since at least the 1980’s.***
 - ***UPDATE:*** The Senate one house budget bill fully restored the state portion of title XX funds, \$18 million. The Assembly bill restored only $\frac{3}{4}$, \$13.75 million which, according to the Department for the Aging, would still close 40-81 senior centers. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Aging Chair, circulated a sign-on letter to NYC Assembly Democrats. To date, all but two of the 63 Assemblymembers have signed the letter to Speaker Sheldon Silver and Ways and Means Chair, Assemblyman Denny Farrell. This is a strong show of support for full funding restoration from Assemblymembers.
- ✓ **Strike 2 - \$7.9 million - Cuts to the State Office for the Aging:**
- \$890,000 – elimination of the Congregate Services Initiative program which funds senior centers, transportation, information regarding benefits and services nutrition education, and other important services to older New Yorkers.
 - \$2 million of state funds in SOFA’s budget would be cut and replaced with ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) federal stimulus money which will exist for only one year making this an additional \$2 million cut to SOFA.
 - \$5 million – ARRA federal stimulus money was used to fund SNAP home-delivered meals, EISEP home care and case management and Community Services for the Elderly Act which funds transportation, case management and other services. These funds were legislative add-ons as they were cut from SOFA’s base last year and the Governor did not include them in his Executive Budget.
- ✓ **Strike 3 – Increased mobility tax to NYC will shift thousands of additional dollars away from critical funds for senior services and other nonprofit human services agencies.**
- Governor’s budget: The amended proposal increases the tax rate for New York City businesses to 0.54 percent of payroll, up from 0.34 percent. It also cuts the tax rate in half for businesses outside of New York City to 0.17 percent. New York City businesses would now contribute 88 percent of all mobility tax revenues, up from 70 percent. This will ensure a more equitable distribution of tax liability in line with the fact that New York City is the destination for over 90 percent of weekday ridership.
 - ***The current tax has already resulted in the loss of thousands of dollars for senior services and other nonprofits already experiencing deep budget cuts.***

Any additional burden comes out of the pockets of seniors depending upon these services. Nonprofits should be exempt from the mobility tax. NYC nonprofits certainly cannot afford an additional tax increase.

- ✓ **Strike 4 – City’s proposed FY11 cuts to DFTA: “Budget dance: senior services is dancing in quicksand” – \$44.2 million in cuts.** One out of four city tax levy dollars, 20%, in DFTA’s budget now has to be restored annually by City Council. This is one of the highest of any city agency. Services at risk to your constituents include senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, home care, elder abuse, adult day services, NORCs and other community-based services.

- ✓ **Strike 5 - \$9.2 million additional cuts in Mayor Bloomberg’s contingency plan:**

AIM DOLLARS PROVIDE MUNICIPAL AID FOR CITIES AROUND THE STATE. GOVERNOR PATERSON HAS PROPOSED ELIMINATING NYC’S TOTAL AMOUNT WHILE OTHER LOCALITIES AROUND THE STATE TAKE A PARTIAL CUT. IF THE AIM DOLLARS ARE NOT RESTORED, MAYOR BLOOMBERG HAS PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CUTS TO CITY AGENCIES.

DFTA WOULD BE CUT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$9.2 MILLION:

- \$3.4 million reduction in EISEP case management and homecare – would eliminate services for 2000 homebound elderly clients (out of 19,000).
- \$3.5 million – closing of 15 senior centers (specific centers not listed)
- \$2.3 million – reduces home-delivered meals contracts by 10%, eliminating meals for 1750 homebound clients (out of 17,500)
- **UPDATE:** In early April, Mayor Bloomberg instructed city agencies to prepare for an additional cut. The Department for the Aging (DFTA) was asked for a 7.2% cut (the \$9.2 million listed above). DFTA’s whole budget is only \$290 million. This was 3 times the cut asked of city agencies with budgets in the hundreds of millions or over \$1 billion – a disproportionate cut to aging services.

Senior citizens in your district are counting on you to prevent disastrous cuts to senior centers, meals-on-wheels, case management and a gamut of other services they depend upon to age in place in their home and community with dignity.

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

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