



**Council of Senior Centers & Services of NYC, Inc.**

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**Title XX Funding for NYC Senior Centers  
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- **Since October, 2011, 16,642 older New Yorkers have sent individually signed letters** to Governor Cuomo urging him not to propose a Title XX cut again to NYC senior centers.
- \$25 million of Title XX money has **funded NYC senior centers since 1975, 36 years.**
- **Title XX funds are 25% of all funding for NYC senior centers.** Funds are administered by the State Office of Family and Children Services. The NYC Department for the Aging administers the senior center funds.
- Last year, Governor Andrew Cuomo amended Title XX language allowing the funds to be spent only on “mandated” services. Technically, senior centers are a “discretionary” service under Title XX, not a “mandated” service. **However, after 36 years of providing the foundation of senior center funding, it is hardly an optional funding source.**
- A \$25 million loss will **close 105 senior centers** as of April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Upwards of 10,000 seniors** will go to their senior center on April 1<sup>st</sup> only to find it closed. There will be a **loss of 2.5 million nutritional meals** for older New Yorkers annually.
- Gone will be a neighborhood senior center for future seniors also. In addition to meals, **lost will be transportation, exercise classes, socialization to prevent isolation, social services and other programs.**
- **Closing 105 senior centers is the wrong direction for the state to move in as it attempts to save Medicaid and health care dollars.** Since well over half of all senior center participants live in poverty, they are Medicaid eligible. The average age is 77. Attending a senior center prevents them from using expensive Medicaid services including home care, hospital care and nursing home care. Nursing home care in NYC costs over \$130,000 a year. The average senior center budget is only \$350,000 – less than the cost of 3 elders to live in a nursing home.
- **While that is technically true that it is a local choice for NYC to use Title XX funds for senior centers,** it has been a local choice for 36 years. NYC does not have the funding to meet this cut.
- Seniors and service providers are understandably anxious about senior centers closing. No one wants 105 senior centers to close. **There is also serious concern that only a partial restoration will start a slippery slope of the closing of senior centers each year.** This is too high a price for seniors to pay to close the state’s budget gap.

**To see the full list of 105 senior center closures,** go to [www.cscs-ny.org](http://www.cscs-ny.org) For further information, please contact Bobbie Sackman, Director of Public Policy, (212) 398-6565 x226 or [bsackman@cscs-ny.org](mailto:bsackman@cscs-ny.org)