



NEW YORK STATE COALITION FOR THE AGING, INC. 2011 Position Statement

1. Title XX cut back – \$25.65 million cut

The budget proposes to move all of the funding spent on non-mandated Title XX services to fund child welfare services, which are mandated programs. Title XX funding comes through the budget of the Office of Family and Children's Services. Of the \$37 million that will be moved, \$25.65 million is currently being spent to support senior services in NYS. \$25 million is used in NYC to support senior centers and the loss of those funds will close up to 110 senior centers and eliminate 5,500 meals served to the elderly in those sites. The remaining \$650,000 cut will reduce aging services such as home delivered meals, case management and senior center support in other areas of the state.

Title XX has funded NYC senior centers for about 30 years. While senior services is technically an "optional" service under Title XX, after decades of providing core support (25% of all senior center funding), it is no longer an optional funding source for the survival of 110 senior centers and the thousands of elderly New Yorkers who use their local senior center.

This Funding cannot be moved from funding these senior programs. The impact is overwhelming. The NYSOFA budget is proposed to be \$109.5 million. Taking this much out of the aging system represents a 20% reduction of total funding.

2. Competitive grant consolidation of 11 funded services

funded by NY State Office for the Aging results in \$1.5 million reduction of funding in 2011-12 and threatens the continuation of important programs & services:

- a. Budget bill eliminates funding for 11 programs (listed below) and allows for the development of a competitive grant program with \$1.55 million allocated to priority programs and services to be funded without a viable

process to sustain those priority programs during the restructuring & RFP process. It is estimated that a process to select programs to be funded in this process, develop specifications and go through approval of a RFP, put programs out for bid and go through a review & award process could take 6-9 months. Existing funded programs will have no ability to sustain the staff and work they are doing. Infrastructure and services will be lost even if months later there is funding available.

- Community Empowerment Initiative (\$0.25 million)
- Congregate Services Initiative (\$0.64 million)
- EAC/Nassau Respite Program (\$0.24 million)
- Elderly Abuse Education and Outreach Program (\$0.49 million)
- Enriched Social Adult Day Centers Program (\$0.25 million)
- Foster Grandparent Program (\$0.20 million)
- Long Term Care Senior Respite (\$0.14 million)
- NY Foundation Home Sharing (\$0.17 million)
- Patients' Rights Hotline and Advocacy (\$0.06 million)
- Regional Caregivers Centers for Excellence (\$0.23 million)
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (\$0.43 million)
- 2011-12 Value: \$1.4 million; 2012-13 Value: \$1.6 million"

- NYSCA is concerned that existing programs will be eliminated and that, overall, \$3.1 million will be lost in available dollars for services in the 2011-12 budget.
- Transitional funding for up to one year should be allowed while a process is established. The block grant idea is not viable and potentially all programs funded by this will be lost due to the gap in funding.

3. EISEP, SNAP and CSE funding:

- **\$5 million budget gap in EISEP, SNAP and CSE** - Governor Cuomo's budget left EISEP, SNAP and CSE funding at the same amount that was in the Governor's budget in 2010 -11. The state legislature needs to restore this \$5 million that was cut from the 2009-10 budget.

4. **Elimination of NY Connects: \$5.1 million**

- NY Connects, New York State's Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), provides unbiased, conflict free information to families and their caregivers who find themselves in need of long-term care for a loved one. Since 2007, NY Connects has served over 300,000 New Yorkers providing them with essential information on long term care services. Often, they are able to suggest the use of cost effective, community based, long-term care services rather than more expensive, institutional care.
- The federal government recognizes that ADRC's are cost effective and help to keep persons off Medicaid by providing non-medical community supports such as home delivered meals, transportation and in home services. The federal government has made ADRC's a key part of its strategy on long-term care. Federal funding through the Affordable Care Act and the Lifespan Respite Care Act are tied to having an ADRC.
- The Lewen Group has done a cost offset calculation of the work done by ADRC's. If only 1% of the people who consult and work with case managers in the NY Connects system remain in the community, the cost offset for NYS will be \$9.8 million in 2011 and \$12 million by 2015. If the number is actually 2%, the cost offset increases to \$19.6 million in 2011 and \$24 million in 2015.

NY Connects funding must be restored. It provides a tremendous return on the investment and provides access to federal money. It should also be required to be operational in all counties.

5. **EPIC phased out** - Governor Cuomo's budget proposal ends premium subsidies for Medicare Part D for lower income seniors and only will pay when an elderly person's expenses reach the "donut hole". Since the donut hole is going to be closed by the federal health bill, eventually EPIC will be eliminated entirely. Under this proposal, EPIC is being phased out as a state responsibility over the next two years. Savings are \$58 million this year and \$93 million next year.

6. **Medicaid cuts** - NYSCA is advocating for the important role Home and Community Based services play in reducing and preventing hospital admissions, re-admissions, nursing home placement and other costly Medicaid services.

- The budget situation provides an opportunity to do more to rebalance the system from institutional to Home and Community Based Services. The Long Term Home Health Care Program has had

a long history of using community based services such as home delivered meals, transportation and social adult day care in the non-institutional care plan developed for Medicaid and nursing home eligible individuals. This program should be used as a model of how community based services can be effective alternatives. Investing in Home and Community Based Services is more cost effective. Research clearly supports that over time, states that have invested more in Home and Community Based Services are better able to control costs and growth.

It is important that community-based service providers be part of the Medicaid redesign process as we have cost-effective programs to offer the state for both Medicaid and non-Medicaid eligible seniors.

NYSCA is still gathering information on the budget and will update you regularly. We will be reaching out to the aging services network to do advocacy. It is important to contact your state Assembly members and Senators.

For further information, please contact Joanne Macklin (518) 765-2790 or Joanne@coalitionforaging.org

2011 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE:

**WITH BUDGET CUTS AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT LONG TERM CARE
IT IS IMPORTANT TO ATTEND
ALBANY, NY - MARCH 2 & 3, 2011**

**FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION GO TO:
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