



**NEW YORK STATE COALITION FOR THE AGING, INC.  
and Council of Senior Centers & Services of NY  
2012-13 Budget Priorities**

- **EISEP and CSE funding:**
  - **The 2012-13 budget includes a hidden cut due to in the 2012 U.S. Census count for the 60+ population. The census is impacting the EISEP and CSE programs because the funds are distributed on a per capita basis. Since the state "funding pie" has remained the same, the slices have been redistributed based on the Census. There are 39 counties that see a reduction in funding for EISEP and CSE despite having an increase in their senior population over the last ten years. Since some counties have a larger percentage increase in their senior population, the funding formula for this program will result in many counties and NYC losing funds. Small, rural upstate counties lose the most closely followed by urban areas. Funding will increase in many suburban areas since their 60+ population has risen faster, even though all counties and NYC except one have seen an increase in their senior population.**
  - **For example, the New York City Department for the Aging will lose \$386,509 despite a 12.4% increase in its 60 + population from 2000 to 2010. The Erie County Department of Senior Services will lose \$338,455 despite a 4% increase in the same time period. The Schoharie County OFA which was devastated by Hurricane Irene has had a 24.6% increase in its senior population yet it will lose nearly \$28,000 in local funding. The Essex County AAA, also hard hit by Irene, loses almost \$20,000 for senior services despite a 22.6% population increase.**
  - **We propose allocating \$1.6 million targeted for a "hold harmless" budget provision so that no county or NYC loses funding as a result of the Census 2010. There is a precedent as this happened ten years ago and the state**

added additional money to address the negative impact of the funding adjustments due to the Census

- **NY CONNECTS**

- We recommend that funding for the NY Connects program be restored to \$3.8 million (\$450,000 more than the Executive Budget). NY Connects is a statewide, locally based point of entry system that provides one stop access to free, objective and comprehensive Information and Assistance on long term care. NY Connects helps consumers identify appropriate levels and types of services to prevent or delay the need for institutional care. In addition it helps to avoid preventable hospitalizations and subsequent costly and unnecessary institutional placements

- **ELDER ABUSE**

- Restore elder abuse prevention funding in the NYS Office for Aging budget to the 2010–2011 funding level of \$490,000. In the 2010–2011 NYS budget, funding for elder abuse prevention was cut 50%. At a time when we know that elder abuse is a serious issue that occurs in every community of our State, it is not the time to drastically reduce funding.

- **EPIC**

- Include a provision in the budget for copayment assistance to individuals enrolled in the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program. EPIC helps more than 290,000 low- to moderate-income older New Yorkers afford their prescription drugs. The average EPIC enrollee is 78 years old and takes four prescription drugs. Beginning January 1, 2012, EPIC enrollees now pay 25% of their prescription drug costs as required by Medicare Part D (until they reach the Part D coverage gap) – but with no copayment assistance from EPIC. Prior to this cut, EPIC enrollees paid a copayment of no more than \$20 per prescription and often less. In addition, the cuts that took effect on January 1 eliminated all copayment assistance for people who become eligible for catastrophic coverage under their Part D plans. Now EPIC

enrollees with total drug costs exceeding \$6,658 will have to pay 5% of the cost of their medicines at the counter. This is very problematic because people who are eligible for catastrophic coverage are often taking prescriptions for cancer-related conditions or multiple sclerosis. Many of these drugs can cost thousands of dollars for each prescription.

- **NORCs/NNORCs**

- Restore \$902,000 for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) and Neighborhood NORCs (NNORCS). The Executive Budget cuts critical funding for NORCs and NNORCs. The budget proposes to reduce funding by \$228,500 in each program, a total cut of \$457,000. NORC and NNORC funding was also cut in FY09-10 by \$173,000 each. NORCs and NNORCs were designed to assist seniors in 'aging in place' and take advantage of geographical proximity to provide support services in a building or neighborhood where many seniors live. As NY moves away from a dependence on institutional care, NORCs and NNORCs fill an essential role in helping seniors remain in the community. UNH urges the restoration of \$401,500 to the NORC program and \$401,500 to the NNORC program; returning funding to the FY08-09 levels of \$2.2 million to each.

- **KINSHIP**

- We request the Legislature support the kinship program by restoring funding to the 2009-10 level of \$3 million. Kinicare programs in New York State support grandparents or family members that are raising another relative's child. An alternative to foster care, Kinicare provides better outcomes for the child and saves the state millions of dollars every year. State funding for these programs was severely cut over the last several years, resulting in many of them closing their doors - even though these programs SAVE the state millions of dollars and result in better outcomes for the children.

[www.coalitionforaging.org](http://www.coalitionforaging.org)

**~Aging in Place is Affordable~  
Support Community Based Services**