

ONE NEW YORK: FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS

October 28, 2008

Honorable David Paterson
Governor - New York State
Executive Chamber
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

While all New Yorkers are reeling from the current economic crisis, few are likely to be harder hit than the poorest New Yorkers.

While New York State must show restraint in its expenditures and should invest public dollars prudently, the implementation of across the board budget reductions will lead to unimaginable human strain and decimate an already fragile social infrastructure, killing jobs and reducing spending in every community at precisely the moment when economic stimulus is needed.

At this stage in the economic cycle, budget reductions of the sort envisioned will only compound the effects of private sector job losses, further slowing the state's economy. Rather, the state must protect funding for core and safety net services to help counteract what is likely to be a severe economic downturn with increased human needs.

It is simply not possible, nor prudent for the State of New York to cut its way out of a budget deficit of the magnitude projected. The prospect of additional reductions to core and social safety net services is untenable and belies the reality that poor New Yorkers require more help, not less, in these difficult economic times.

In light of this dire economic situation, state elected officials must take necessary steps to address both sides of the budget ledger – Revenue and Expense – and fairness must be the guiding principle in this effort.

We are calling on state leaders to explicitly identify the concrete revenue raising options that they will enact – in order to protect poor New Yorkers from shouldering an undue and unjust burden of the faltering economy.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Children
Alliance for Quality Education
ARISE Coalition/ Advocates for Children
Asian American Federation
Black Equity Alliance
Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled
Campaign for Fiscal Equity
Canaan Senior Service Center
Center for Independence of the Disabled,
NY (CIDNY)
CEC 1
CEC/ WestSide CB 7/ AQE
CEJ
CEJ/ Highbridge
Child Care Council @ CUNY
Children's Aid Society

Citizen Action of NY (CASF)
Citizens Advice Bureau
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC)
Citywide Council on High Schools
Class Size Matters
Coalition for a District Alternative (CODA)
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Coalition For The Homeless
Coalition of Behavioral Health Agencies
College of Mount Saint Vincent- Institute for
Immigrant Concerns
Commission on the Public's Health System
Community Access
Community Health Care Association of New York
State (CHCANYS)
Community Service Society of New York (CSS)

Community Voices Heard
Connecting to Advantages
Council of Family and Child Care Agencies (COFCCA)
Council of Senior Centers and Services of
New York City, Inc.
Cypress Hills Child Care Corp.
District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO
Education Voters of New York
Episcopal Social Services
Family Justice
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Fiscal Policy Institute
Freedom Community Center
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Good Jobs New York
Grand Street Settlement House
Greater Chinatown Community Association (GCCA)
Haitian Americans United for Progress (HAUP)
Hamilton-Madison House
HANAC, Inc.
Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc.
Henry Street Settlement
Highbridge Community Life Center
Hispanic AIDS Forum, Inc.
Hispanic Federation of New York State
HIV Law Project, Inc.
Human Services Council
Hunger Action Network of NYS (HANNYS)
Institute for Community Living
The Internationals Network for Public Schools
Isabella Geriatric Center
Jamaica Service Program For Older Adults
Korean American Family Service Center
Legal Aid Society
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)
Legal Services NYC
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Make the Road New York
Medicare Rights Center
Melrose Senior Center
MFY Legal Services
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
National Association of Social Workers, NYC Chapter
National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA)
National Center for Schools and Communities
at Fordham
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
South Asian Youth Action
South Brooklyn Youth Consortium Inc.
Staten Island Federation of Parent Teacher
Associations
Staten Island Federation of Parent Teacher

Associations
New York ACORN
New York AIDS Coalition
The After School Corporation/ TASC
New York Citizen's Committee on Aging, Inc.
New York City Central Labor Council
New York City Employment and Training Coalition
New York Civic Participation Project/32BJ
New York Immigrant Coalition
New York State Coalition for School Based
Health Center
NY Jobs with Justice
NYC AIDS Housing Network/ NYCAHN
NYC Coalition for Educational Justice
NYS Public Employees Federation, Region 10
One Stop Senior Services
Phipps Community Development Corporation
Pratt Center for Community Development
Professional Staff Congress-CUNY
Project Renewal
Riverstone Senior Life Services
SCAN-New York
SEIU Local 32BJ
Staten Island Inter-Agency Council for the Aging
Staten Island Legal Services
Supportive Housing Network of New York
The Center for Law and Social Justice, at
Medgar Evers College, City University of NY
The Children's Village
The Committee for Hispanic Children & Families, Inc.
Time Out From Testing
UAW LOCAL 2325 Association of Legal Aid Attorneys
(AFL-CIO)
UAW Region 9A
United Community Center, Inc.
United Federation of Teachers
United Neighborhood Houses
Village Care of New York
Working Families Party
YKASEC-Empowering the Korean American
Community