



***For Immediate Release***

**Contact:**

Rose Anello:  
212-673-1800 x 13  
917-690-2869 cell  
Citizens' Committee for Children

Susan Stampler:  
212-967-0322 x 313  
917-370-5541 cell  
United Neighborhood Houses

Michelle Yanche:  
212-619-1661  
917-576-9267 cell  
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition

**YOUNG PEOPLE TO CITY LEADERS: SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY A BRIGHTENING FISCAL OUTLOOK TO ENSURE THAT PROGRAMS SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH EXPAND TO MEET GROWING NEED**

**(New York, NY) May 25, 2005** – New York City youth joined with other concerned New Yorkers on the steps of City Hall to thank the Mayor and the City Council on behalf of New York City's children, youth and families, for recognizing the important role programs such as child care, child welfare, after school, youth development, summer jobs and schools play in the lives of children. The young New Yorkers at today's event urged the Mayor and the City Council to seize the opportunity offered by a brightening fiscal outlook to build upon these efforts to ensure that programs serving children and youth expand to meet growing need.

The young people recalled the deep cuts proposed for children's services in years past and thanked city leaders for their commitment to children in FY'06 budget proposals, which "overall, put children in a better position at the outset of budget negotiations than they have been in many years," said Caliph Mathis II, a member of YouthAction NYC.

With a mature understanding that there are many competing interests and demands on limited city resources, the young New Yorkers speaking at today's press conference struggled to understand why with an over \$3 million budget surplus this year, some important children's services will end. "Children's services are a good investment," said Melissa Sierra "and we urge the Mayor and the City Council to restore all budget cuts to children's programs."

The young New Yorkers attending schools and growing up in communities throughout New York City asked that in the coming weeks, the City Council and the Mayor work together to negotiate a budget that restores all of the proposed cuts to children's health and mental health services, childcare, after school and youth development programs. They noted that the strong economy and bold plans - to rebuild Lower Manhattan, bid for the Olympics, build stadiums and develop new neighborhoods where industry now dots the city's landscape - offer an opportunity and necessitate preserving, strengthening and expanding children's services. "Provide children with what they need to live, learn and grow," said Caliph Mathis II. A simple message from the city's young people to its decision makers.

This press conference sponsored by:

**Agenda for Children Tomorrow, Child Care, Inc., Children's Defense Fund-NY, Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Coalition for After-School Funding, Commission on the Public's Health System, Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies, Day Care Council of New York, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Human Services Council, Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, UJA-Federation of New York, United Neighborhood Houses of New York, YMCA of Greater New York**

# SUPPORT KIDS!



**NEW YORK CITY  
A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN AND GROW**

**NEW YORK CITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET**

## CHILD CARE

| <i>PROGRAM</i>  | <i>RESTORE</i>      | <i>IMPACT</i>  |
|---|---------------------|--|
| <b>FAMILY CHILD CARE EXPANSION</b>  | <b>\$10 MILLION</b> | Maintains funding for 1,400 children to be served in regulated family child care programs. |
| <b>DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) PROGRAM UNTIL JULY 2006 AND MAINTAIN ALL SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE CONTRACTS.</b><br>Failing this, add \$20 million to preserve the center-based child care system for children 0- 5. |                     |  |

## AFTER SCHOOL AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

|   | <i>RESTORE</i>                               |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>CITY COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS</b>               | <b>\$5.2 MILLION</b>                         | Supports over 1,000 youth development, after school and summer programs.   |
| <b>DRUG PREVENTION AND RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH</b> | <b>\$761,000</b>                             | Maintains 20 programs including crisis shelters, outreach and drop-in services and transitional homes.   |
| <b>YOUTHLINK</b>                                      | <b>\$102,000</b>                             | Maintains drug and truancy prevention services.  |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS YOUTH PROGRAMS</b>                   | <b>\$2.7 MILLION</b><br><b>\$1.3 MILLION</b> | Maintains Virtual Y, Sports and Arts, Student Achievement<br>Maintains Street Outreach and Neighborhood Youth Alliance programs.   |
| <b>ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT AND DROP OUT PREVENTION</b> | <b>\$1.3 MILLION</b>                         | Supports after school activities funded through the Department of Education to improve attendance and reduce drop out rates.   |
|   | <i>ADD</i>                                   |  |
| <b>BEACON SCHOOLS</b>                                 | <b>\$12 MILLION</b>                          | Expands and supports Beacon programming including preventive services and programs to reduce youth gang involvement.<br><br>\$4 million can be obtained by waiving the \$50,000 school opening fee paid by each of the city's 80 Beacon Schools to the Department of Education;<br>\$5 million to reduce gang involvement;<br>\$3 million to expand the number of BEACON Preventive programs and strengthen the existing 15. |
| <b>SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM</b>                | <b>\$8.8 MILLION</b>                         | Enables the city to serve 40,000 youth again this summer (7,000 more than proposed in the Executive Budget), starting July 5 <sup>th</sup>   |
| <b>EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS FOR HOMELESS YOUTH</b>      | <b>\$2.5 MILLION</b>                         | Provides shelter to homeless youth who are lesbian gay bi-sexual, transgender and questioning youth.   |
| <b>CITY COUNCIL'S URBAN ADVENTURE INITIATIVE</b>      | <b>\$25 MILLION</b>                          | Partners after school programs with parks, libraries and other cultural institutions serving youth ages 11-14.   |

**DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) PROGRAM UNTIL JULY 2006** (if awards are not announced by June 10<sup>th</sup>), **MAINTAIN TASC AND YDDP CONTRACTS** and develop an OST transition plan that does not interrupt services for parents and children.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

| <i><b>PROGRAM</b></i>                           | <i><b>RESTORE</b></i> | <i><b>IMPACT</b></i>   |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| INFANT MORTALITY PROGRAMS                       | <b>\$2.8 MILLION</b>  | Supports 31 community based organizations that provide outreach, education, and referral services in communities with high infant mortality rates. |
| ASTHMA CONTROL INITIATIVE                       | <b>\$445,000</b>      | Maintains case management programs that help reduce asthma in high-need neighborhoods.   |
| MOBILE DENTAL VAN SERVICES                      | <b>\$268,000</b>      | Maintains mobile dental van services for underserved children citywide   |
| CHILD HEALTH CLINICS                            | <b>\$5.3 MILLION</b>  | Maintain essential community based primary and public health services for children and families.   |
| ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CLINICS    | <b>\$1.55 MILLION</b> | Maintains city subsidies for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Clinics at Lincoln and Harlem Hospitals.   |
| OUTPATIENT PHARMACIES AND MEDICATION WAIVERS    | <b>\$2.4 MILLION</b>  | Prevents an increase in fees for medication charged by HHC to uninsured patients.  |
| MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE | <b>\$1.2 MILLION</b>  | Preserves funding for 10 community based outpatient mental health clinics to continue service expansion for children 0-5 years begun in July 2004. |
|   | <b><i>ADD</i></b>     |  |
| NEWBORN HOME VISITING                           | <b>\$11 MILLION</b>   | Expands the program to reach all first time parents, promoting child safety, linkages with health care, information on child care and tax credits. |
| HIV RAPID TESTING AND COUNSELING                | <b>\$3.8 MILLION</b>  | Expands HIV rapid testing and counseling in HHC hospital emergency rooms and clinics for adolescents and at-risk adults.                           |
| ASTHMA PREVENTION                               | <b>\$ 3 MILLION</b>   | Expands the community based asthma initiative.   |
| INTERPRETER SERVICES                            | <b>\$5 MILLION</b>    | Expands interpreter services in HHC hospitals and clinics.   |
| INFANT MORTALITY PROGRAMS                       | <b>\$2.8 MILLION</b>  | Expands programs to reduce the city's increased infant mortality rate through outreach, education and referral services.                           |
| <b>ECONOMIC SECURITY</b>                        |                       |  |
|   | <b><i>RESTORE</i></b> |  |
|   | <b><i>ADD</i></b>     |  |
| EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT                        | <b>\$55 MILLION</b>   | Doubles the New York City Earned Income Tax Credit to 10% of the federal EITC, for 800,000 working families.                                       |

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