



**Statement from Jennifer March-Joly, CCC's Executive Director
on the State's Executive Budget SFY 2010**

“While the Governor’s announced Executive Budget was encouragingly wrapped in language about ‘spending effectively’ and ‘shared sacrifice’, it unfortunately falls short of a fair solution to protect New York’s neediest and distribute the impact of the economic crisis equitably.

Despite some desperately needed protections for New York’s neediest - such as an increase in the welfare grant next year, expansion of health insurance coverage to older youth, and preservation of uncapped funds for child abuse and neglect prevention – the budget relies heavily on shifting costs to local governments, including cuts in aid to preschool special education and elimination of over \$300 million in municipal aid to NYC.

Most importantly, the Governor’s plan does not redirect funding saved or revenue raised into programs that can reduce the actual long term need for costly services. The budget will raise taxes on sugar sweetened beverages and alcohol but fails to invest a portion of funds raised in programs to combat obesity or substance abuse and save on long term health care costs. Similarly, the budget would close underutilized juvenile detention facilities across the state; but fails to invest a single dollar saved in alternatives to detention to prevent teens from entering the system in the first place. Instead, the Executive Budget plan focuses exclusively on closing budget gaps as short-term gains, rather than as long-term investments that could reduce future costs. The impact of cuts to home visiting, homelessness prevention, youth programs, and child care among others, will be costly in short and long-term. These cuts will not only impede the ability of localities to address increased human needs in times of economic crisis today but may well require more costly outlays on crisis intervention services.

The ultimate fine print is that while the Governor has put badly needed revenue sources on the table, there is one glaring hole – taxes on the one group that has not been asked to sacrifice at all. Progressive tax increases— such as a personal income tax increase on New York’s highest earners— are the most equitable and least painful means to ameliorating the most severe impacts of this budget crisis.”