



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

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FPWA 2009-2010 New York City Legislative and Budget Agenda

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) promotes the social and economic well-being of greater New York's most vulnerable by strengthening human service organizations and advocating for just public policies. FPWA's Policy, Advocacy & Research Department combines analyses by our experienced advocacy professionals along with input from member agency executives and staff, our Board of Directors, and coalition members to create an advocacy agenda that reflects the needs of our member agencies and the New Yorkers they serve.

This document outlines specific legislative and budget agenda items across our primary portfolio areas: Child Welfare, Early Childhood Education, Elderly Welfare, HIV and AIDS, Income Security, Workforce Development and Youth Services. With our diverse membership, FPWA sends an important message to policy makers: no single issue can be addressed without cross-department cooperation and coordination in the development of policies and programs. We look forward to working closely with you as the City budget season unfolds in the next few months. For additional information or questions, please contact us:

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Child Welfare

Restore proposed 5% cut to foster care administrative rates

FPWA urges the Mayor to restore the 5% cut to the administrative rate for non-profit agencies operating foster boarding homes as proposed in the January 2009 Financial Plan. As it is, foster care agencies are not adequately resourced and this funding reduction will force agencies to make significant cuts in staff and/or services. In these difficult economic times, agencies responsible for serving our City's most vulnerable children and families deserve our support.

Restore proposed 10% cut to foster parent support

FPWA urges the Mayor to restore the 10% cut in foster parent support funding as proposed in the January 2009 Financial Plan. Although this funding reduction only applies to agencies that have not met projected outcomes, we are concerned that any loss in funding will further jeopardize the ability of these agencies to support foster parents, who generously provide caring homes to "hard-to-place" youth. FPWA calls on the City to instead help affected agencies identify strategies for improvement.

Fully restore and baseline \$4.2 million to reduce preventive caseloads from 15:1 to 12:1

FPWA urges the Mayor and City Council to fully restore and baseline the \$4.2 million included in the FY 2008 budget for the Child Safety Initiative, which was cut to \$3.7 million in last year's FY 2009 budget. This funding allows preventive services agencies to reduce caseloads from a ratio of 15:1 to 12:1. The 2006 Child Welfare Workload Study published by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services examined the effects of high caseloads on child welfare caseworkers and found that excessive caseloads undermine their ability to provide families with high-quality services. Establishing reasonable caseloads reduces the amount of time caseworkers must devote to demanding administrative duties and increases time spent with children and families, allowing workers to build strong client relationships and to resolve crucial safety issues in an efficient and timely manner.

Restore and baseline \$3.2 million in City funds for preventive service enhancements

FPWA urges the City to restore and baseline the \$3.2 million last included in the FY 2008 budget to support preventive service enhancements. Targeted at high-need communities, this funding allowed preventive services providers to flexibly and creatively design enhancements to existing high-quality programs. Agencies have used this money to develop new parenting, teen or anger management groups, provide one-time cash assistance to families in need, and purchase educational supplies such as books and games.

Restore and baseline \$2.4 million in City funds for additional preventive services slots

FPWA urges the City to restore and baseline the \$2.4 million last included in the FY 2008 budget to support 1,000 new slots for preventive services. Reports of child abuse and neglect in New York City have been increasing and these additional slots are necessary to meet the demand for



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preventive services. These services are an essential part of the City's efforts to strengthen and support families in caring for their children and help keep children safely at home when possible.

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Early Childhood Education

Support community-based child care programs with the funding and resources they need to provide high-quality early care programming for New York City's youngest

Faced with an extraordinary budget gap, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) is being forced to make a series of decisions regarding the subsidized child care system that could negatively affect providers and reduce the availability of subsidized care for low-income working families in need. These changes include the transfer of kindergarten slots from child care centers to public schools and the move to enforce cost allocation principles for child care centers operating Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs. Although we understand that ACS faces many difficult choices as a result of the worsening economy, we remain deeply concerned that the measures proposed will seriously compromise the availability and quality of subsidized care.

FPWA encourages the City to develop a comprehensive vision of early care and education that brings together child care, UPK, and Head Start. In order to create a seamless system that truly meets the needs of children and families, the City must work with providers and advocates to address a number of key issues, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring that community-based programs have the funding and technical assistance needed to sustain quality programs,
- Identifying the essential components of a quality early learning experience – such as family and social work supports, highly qualified (and properly compensated) teachers, and facilities and instructional materials that promote child development, and
- Increasing access for parents by identifying and reducing barriers to enrollment and improving outreach.

Restore proposed \$7.1 million cut to low priority child care

FPWA urges the Mayor to restore the \$7.1 million cut to low priority child care slots as proposed in the January 2009 Financial Plan. According to ACS' *Community Needs Assessment*, the availability of subsidized child care in the City falls far short of the need, with ACS child care programs currently serving only 27% of potentially eligible children. As the economic crisis deepens and more families find themselves in need of child care assistance, we simply cannot afford to lose these slots.

Fully restore and baseline \$5 million for full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) in ACS child care programs

In recognition of New York's successful mixed delivery system for pre-kindergarten, FPWA urges the City to fully restore the \$5 million included in the FY 2008 budget, which was cut in last year's FY 2009 budget to \$2.6 million, to support full-day UPK programming in ACS contract programs. The provision of full-day pre-k services in settings other than public schools, including ACS community-based programs which can offer extended day and/or year-round services, allows working parents to choose the program that best fits their needs.



Fully restore and baseline \$1.7 million for family child care supplies

FPWA urges the City to fully restore and baseline the \$1.7 million included in the FY 2008 budget for the Provider's Choice initiative, which was cut in last year's FY 2009 budget to \$1.2 million. This funding enables family child care providers to purchase necessary supplies, including educational toys and games, which allow them to better serve the children in their care.

Create a funding source to support child care centers in making the facility modifications and equipment purchases necessary to serve infants and toddlers

Given the need for subsidized care for infants and toddlers and the availability of open classroom space in some child care centers due to the implementation of Out-of-School Time and other factors, there is an opportunity for centers to serve more children under the age of three. Child care providers who want to take on the care of infants and toddlers need a reliable funding stream that will allow them to purchase supplies and make needed structural improvements, including reconfiguring classroom space and installing age-appropriate equipment.

Invest in quality early care and education for infants and toddlers

New York City is currently experiencing a shortage of subsidized care for infants and toddlers. This serves as a major roadblock to work for parents with children under age three and has serious implications for the financial stability of low-income families. FPWA urges the Mayor and the City Council to invest in the creation of additional slots that would allow publicly-funded child care centers to serve more infants and toddlers.

Invest in family child care networks and the important services they offer

Family child care networks are under contract with the City to recruit providers, offer support services such as training and technical assistance, and make referrals for families in need of care. To provide these services, networks receive a per-child/per-week fee of \$17.06, which is currently paid by family child care providers. This places great financial strain on providers and may discourage them from participating in networks. We urge the City to support networks and providers by funding the full network fee.

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Elderly Welfare

Restore \$5.275 million for Senior Centers

The Mayor's Preliminary budget includes a reduction in funding for senior centers services. This allocation needs to be restored to ensure seniors have the opportunity to access an array of services provided by the center including meals, health and wellness activities, socialization, as well as a variety of leisure and educational programming. Seniors need to have these services provided throughout their own neighborhoods, reflecting their own particular preferences for meals and programming. Funding needs to be restored to ensure senior centers have sufficient resources in place to continue to operate effectively.

Restore \$1.11 million for Senior Case Management Services

The Mayor's Preliminary budget includes a reduction in funding to case management contracts totaling \$1.11 million. This allocation needs to be restored as case management under the newly restructured system needs to ensure sufficient funding is in place for staffing to serve the growing number of seniors who are trying to avail themselves of services. Case management is critical to seniors as it assesses and links older adults to a wide range of community based services that provide a continuum of care, helping them to remain in their homes and communities.

Restore \$1.43 million for the Home Delivered Meals Program

The Mayor's Preliminary Budget includes plans to scale back the expansion of the home delivered meals program. Although DFTA will continue to provide 4.1 million home delivered meals annually, this funding restoration is needed as the elderly population continues to grow. Some senior centers report increased demand for food throughout this economic downturn.

Restore \$4.5 million for Raw Food Costs for Senior Meals

This allocation allows for raw food and infrastructure costs for the Department for the Aging's (DFTA's) congregate and home delivered meals programs. In FY09, \$4 million was allocated for this program, down from the FY08 amount of \$4.55 million. Funds are greatly needed as wait lists and a growing older adult population results in an approximately 2% client increase annually.

Restore \$3 million for transportation operating costs

This allocation provides critical funding for rising operating costs for approximately 425 vans and other vehicles that are used by senior centers and other senior programs.

Restore \$1.95 million for Space/Equipment costs at senior centers

This funding helps offset rising rental fees at senior centers and provides funding for necessary equipment at senior centers throughout the City. Funding needs to be restored to help centers with any necessary repairs, rent and updates.



Restore \$2.36 million in funding for Social Adult Day Services

Funding for these vital programs was eliminated in the amount of \$1.18 million for FY'09 and \$2.36 million for the outyears. FPWA is very concerned that these important programs, designed to assist approximately 450 frail individuals with varying levels of mobility impairments, physical limitations and dementia, were defunded. Most of these fragile older people and their families are facing a crisis of care as a result of the elimination of the city's financial support for these services. Social adult day services are a far more cost-effective way to care for frail elders than nursing homes. We strongly recommend the restoration of this allocation for some of New York City's most vulnerable adults.

Restore \$2.4 million for the Geriatric Mental Health Initiative

Funds will be used to enhance the capacity and strengthen the infrastructure of existing mental health services delivered in nontraditional settings. Funding will help to serve the growing number of seniors in New York City as the number of those aged 65 and older suffering from a mental illness are projected to rise from 180,000 to 300,000 by 2030.

Restore \$533,000 to the Borough President Department for the Aging Discretionary Funding

Borough President funds support a broad range of vital services for low-income seniors including meals, transportation, case management, rent at senior centers and other core services. The funding is designed to ensure the elderly receive the services they require to remain in their homes and communities.

Restore \$5.5 million in City Council Discretionary Funding

City Council Discretionary funding is primarily used to support operations and vital programs at senior centers.

Restore \$1 million in funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Supportive Service Programs (SSPs)

NORC Supportive Service programs provide seniors living in NORCs with a broad and varied range of health and human services, including medical care, counseling, psychiatric care, home management, financial management, meal delivery and transportation services. In addition, the programs provide support in emergency situations, and in many instances, have saved lives. A total of 46,000 seniors are currently served through New York City's NORC programs.

Restore \$1.35 million for the New York City Healthy Aging Initiative

This program allows senior centers to address the health and wellness needs of the older adult population by providing exercise, health screenings, nutrition education and chronic disease management. In FY09 the healthy aging initiative received \$1,350,000.



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Support the Senior Citizen Right to Counsel Bill (Intro 648)

No Additional Cost: The Senior Citizen Right to Counsel Bill would establish a right to counsel for all low income seniors, 62 years of age and older, who are facing evictions from their homes. The New York City Housing Court is very difficult to navigate without the help of a lawyer. Studies have shown tenants who have legal representation are much more likely to retain their homes after an eviction petition has been filed if they are represented by an attorney.

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HIV and AIDS

HIV infection rate in New York City is spreading at three times the national rate. FPWA believes that prevention, treatment and care, housing and supportive services (such as legal and nutrition programs) are vital components of a quality and comprehensive health care system to address complex health needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. Considering over 75% of all living HIV and AIDS cases in New York State are found in New York City and that the epidemic continues to disproportionately impact people of color in poor communities, FPWA calls on the Mayor and the City Council to continue its promise in reducing HIV infection rate by preserving and allocating sufficient funds to all existing HIV and AIDS services.

Restore \$1.8 million for HIV/AIDS Contracted Case Management Staff

The Mayor's preliminary budget includes a reduction of \$1.8 million for HIV/AIDS contracted case management staff. Case management services provided by contracted community-based organizations are of different nature than those provided by HASA. They are designed to help prevent eviction and to provide support to clients that are necessary for their medical treatment adherence. About 80% of people with AIDS surveyed for the NYC HIV/AIDS Housing Needs Assessment reported a history of co-occurring mental health and substance use issues. Supportive housing helps people remain linked to care. The elimination of this funding will impact clients in 2,180 Scatter Site 1 units and 1,819 permanent congregate units, along with 1,000 total HASA NY/NY III units in the future. FPWA calls upon the Mayor and the City Council to restore 1.8 million for case management for HASA-contracted supportive housing.

Restore \$491,000 for HIV/AIDS Nutrition Contract

The Mayor's proposal to reduce 50% of the City's contract with the Momentum Project will force this organization that serve more than 3000 individuals annually with congregate hot meals to significantly reduce its level of operation. The budget cuts does not only mean 4,333 fewer meals and 2,130 fewer pantry bags will be served, it also means closing down one to two sites, leaving vulnerable low income individuals with HIV/AIDS to fend for themselves. FPWA strongly urges the Mayor and the City Council to restore funding for this safety net program which provide needed nutrition to stabilize the health of those who are living with HIV/AIDS and most importantly, the connection to critical medical and support services.

Restore \$597,000 for Community-based HIV Prevention/Control Contracts

It is counter-productive to reduce funding for HIV prevention when New York City continues to be one of the epicenters of HIV and AIDS in the nation. Stigma associate with HIV and AIDS still exists and continues to prevent people from getting HIV test and receiving treatment and care. The Mayor's proposal will impact 24 community-based organizations. FPWA asks the Mayor and the City Council to allocate sufficient funds to support anti-stigma and behavior modification initiatives.



Restore and enhance funding for the Communities of Color HIV and AIDS Initiative.

FPWA fully supports the New York City Communities of Color HIV/AIDS Coalition's (NYCCOCHAC) request of \$1.664 million from the City Council. FPWA urges the City Council to continue funding HIV prevention, education, outreach, advocacy and support services to raise awareness and help lower the rate of HIV infection in communities of color in FY 2010. This funding bolsters the capacity of existing services, supporting creative programs that target communities with high HIV incidence or emerging needs. FPWA strongly recommends this funding continue to be distributed citywide through a competitive process, while providing some continuity of funding to agencies already funded through that established competitive process.

Continue to invest in HIV prevention and health literacy education initiative that focuses on the older adult population.

The 2006 epidemiology report from the NYC DOHMH shows that about 30% of persons living with HIV and AIDS in NYC in 2006 were age 50 or above, compared to 21% in 2001. A recent historic study – Research on Older Adults with HIV (ROAH) – conducted by the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), demonstrates the disheartening fact that this population has been and continues to be largely ignored and marginalized.

Social stigma and assumptions regarding the elderly, sex, and substance abuse, as well as confusion about HIV symptoms and age-related illness, are factors contributing to a steady increase in new HIV diagnoses among people age 50 or above in the past five years. Moreover, as advanced medical treatments and medication allow people to live longer and healthier lives, their numbers will continue to grow. Mainstreaming the needs of the older adult population, regardless of their HIV status, is the first step toward focused primary and secondary HIV prevention.

In the past three fiscal years, the City Council appropriated \$640,000 each year to address issues related to HIV and AIDS in the context of aging. FPWA urges the City Council to continue supporting the collaborative effort between aging and HIV and AIDS service providers in developing a replicable model that may also benefit older adults in other cities in the country.

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Income Security

Restore 2.1 Million in funding for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) – HRA

This New York City Council funding is used for the direct purchase of food and for capacity expansion efforts for over 500 EFAP food pantries and soup kitchens throughout NYC. In addition, funds are used to assist in the automation of Food Stamp enrollment at food pantries, soup kitchens and other appropriate locations. According to a study released in 2008 by the Food Bank of NYC, in recent years, there has been a 55% increase in the number of New York City residents having difficulty affording food. The numbers have increased from 2 million in 2003 to 3.1 million in 2007, representing 38% of the total City population. This has resulted in a 24% increase in the number of City residents accessing emergency food programs.

Combined with the increased need is a growing shortage of food supplies. The Food Bank of NYC has witnessed the sharpest decline in donations in a quarter of a century. At the same time, there is a growing number of working families, including middle and higher-income households, who cannot make ends meet due to the rising costs of housing, energy and food. For example, for the first time ever in Staten Island, food pantries are now seeing clients from wealthier neighborhoods seeking help.

Expand the Job Training Participant (JTP) program to create 1,500 new positions for Welfare Recipients – HRA

As a transitional jobs model, JTP positions provide welfare recipients with a paid job combined with regular education, training and skills development. Transitional jobs are much better in promoting career advancement than the Work Experience Program (WEP), which places welfare recipients in unpaid workfare assignments. Rather than receiving a welfare check, participants receive a real paycheck. JTP participants spend four days a week at an assigned worksite and one day a week at vocational training, education, employment skills counseling, or job search.

FPWA recommends that the City increase investments in JTP to expand the program into other City agencies. The Paid Transitional Jobs Expansion Initiative would link recipients to career pathways available within the following City agencies: Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), Nursing/Allied Health; Department of Education (DOE), Education Assistant/Teacher; and Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), Clerical/Administrative Assistant. These three targeted agencies have the greatest projected demand for workers in these areas.

Create a Wage Supplement Program – HRA

This program would provide cash payments on top of earnings from wages to raise the overall income of participants closer to standards needed for self-sufficiency. Wage supplement programs that have been implemented in other areas have seen success, particularly in increasing incomes, employment, and earnings of participants by as much as 10-15% above that of traditional TANF participants. In addition, research has shown that participants who received wage supplements in



combination with employment, education, and training services aimed at career advancement experienced larger economic gains in the long-run. Therefore, participants in New York City should be directly linked to ITA vouchers and services offered at Workforce 1 Career Centers. To maximize the program's impact, individuals must also be linked to work supports, including child care, Food Stamps, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Wage supplements could be offered specifically to families diverted from or recently leaving public assistance to strengthen their ability to achieve long-term economic security. In providing an additional financial benefit, wage supplements provide a strong reward and incentive to work. FPWA urges the City to consider establishing a wage supplement program for working families living near the Federal Poverty Level (\$17,600 annual income for a family of three in 2008).

Enact the Ready Access to Assistance Act (REACT) – HRA

No Additional Cost: FPWA strongly supports the Ready Access to Assistance Act (REACT), which would allow non-profit advocates to set up help desks within the City's public benefits offices, including the Human Resources Administration (HRA) Job Centers. This would provide clients direct and immediate access to services they need to be able to successfully navigate the complex social services system of supports and benefits available to low-income families and individuals. In particular, clients would be able to receive translation services, assistance in securing necessary documentation and filling out applications, guidance in the overall application and re-certification process, along with information about their legal rights and eligibility standards for various benefit programs.

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Workforce Development – Adult

Invest in Contextualized Adult Literacy Programs – SBS/DYCD/CUNY

Contextualized adult literacy, ESL and GED-preparation programs blend basic literacy with vocation-specific training, often through the use of technology and collaborative teaching methods. These programs offer a more innovative approach than traditional adult literacy programs and accelerate participants' progress on their career path. Employer-developed curricula are ideal, as they teach students specific job skills demanded by industries that offer the greatest opportunity for career advancement. Graduates possess improved literacy skills and hard skills valued by employers in these high-demand industries. FPWA urges the City to create a new funding stream specifically for Contextualized Adult Literacy programs.

Increase total investment for Adult Literacy Services – DYCD

This program provides funding to community-based organizations for basic literacy, English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), and GED classes, along with support services. The demand for adult literacy services, particularly ESOL, far exceeds enrollment capacity. According to the Center for an Urban Future, there are more than 1.5 million City residents with limited literacy skills, and a quarter of all adults in the City have inadequate English skills. Yet, the Mayor's Office of Adult Education reports that only 70,000 were enrolled in adult literacy programs during the year ending June 30, 2006. FPWA recommends increasing the investment for Adult Literacy Services operated by community-based organizations.

Expand Apprenticeship and Job Training Programs for Populations facing Greater Barriers to Sustainable Wage and Unionized Employment – SBS/HRA

The Mayor's Commission on Construction Opportunity (MCCO) pre-apprenticeship and training programs for the economically disadvantaged provide general skills and workforce readiness training to prepare workers for jobs in the construction industry. In addition, the Jobs to Build On (JTBO) and Consortium for Worker Education (CWE) job training programs provide an opportunity for low-skill individuals to make progress on a career pathway toward sustainable wage or unionized employment.

The City should strengthen its partnership with community-based organizations to ensure that MCCO builds upon its goal to fill construction apprenticeship slots with a greater proportion of women, minorities, and low-income individuals. FPWA urges the City to increase funding to expand access to GED preparedness, pre-apprenticeships, work readiness training, and training for unionized jobs, particularly for people in poverty and those facing greater barriers to employment.

Create “Green Pathways” Out of Poverty – SBS/HRA/CUNY

As part of PlaNYC 2030 and efforts to retrofit City buildings to be “greener” and more efficient, the City should make efforts to train low-income individuals and welfare recipients for jobs in emerging green collar industries. It is essential that HRA partner with SBS, CUNY, other City agencies and



non-profit workforce development service providers to ensure that these green jobs are offered as a means for individuals in poverty to receive valuable training leading to a career path in newly emerging high-growth industries. The ideal Green Pathways offers job training and basic education that prepare job seekers for employment in clean energy industries. Building retrofits, energy efficiency building maintenance, brownfield remediation, clean energy, transportation, recycling, and urban forestry are key green collar sectors with promising labor demand growth in the coming years. In addition, with deliberate planning and collaboration between government agencies, community-based partners, education and training providers, employers, and unions, entry into these positions can be made available to populations in poverty.

The NYC “Green Job Corps” Initiative developed by FPWA in collaboration with STRIVE, an FPWA member agency, and a variety of non-profit organizations throughout NYC is a consortium-based model that achieves this goal. Community-based agencies would conduct outreach, recruitment, and screening, and would provide basic job readiness skills and ongoing intensive case management to individuals facing significant barriers to employment. If implemented, this “Green Job Corps” Initiative could be targeted to communities most adversely impacted by environmental pollution and waste, particularly low-income communities of color. Upon completion of job readiness training, along with basic literacy and GED testing preparation, participants would be linked to hard skills training in basic green construction, followed by further specialized training in a specific green sub-sector. This “Green Job Corps” Initiative would directly link individuals to employment opportunities once they have completed all stages of the training program. It would also encourage the proliferation of green industry in urban areas, which in turn can reduce the environmental burdens faced by low-income communities.

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Workforce Development – Youth

CEO: Invest in Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) – DYCD

YAIP provides paid internships for 1,400 disconnected youth between ages 16-24. Youth receive intensive short-term training in preparation for their internship. Then, youth participate in a career-focused internship with a goal of enrollment in school or full-time employment upon completion. Youth also receive education advisement, job development, and aftercare services. This program is essential to link disconnected youth who are not currently working or in school to opportunities that will improve their learning and employment outcomes. However, in its first year of operation, YAIP providers have had to turn away many eligible youth because of limited capacity. FPWA urges the City and CEO to increase funding, which will allow the program to increase enrollment and expand into areas where there are still unmet needs.

CEO: Invest in CUNY Prep – CUNY

This program is a joint initiative of the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the Department of Education (DOE), and CUNY designed to help out-of-school youth ages 16 to 18 to obtain a high school degree or GED and enter post-secondary education. Students participate in a college-focused curriculum that provides a holistic, hands-on approach to learning. After completing their GED, students receive advisement through the College Access Unit within CUNY Prep and are directly linked to courses as part of the CUNY College Now program. FPWA urges the City to increase funding for CUNY Prep, which would allow the program to: 1) expand capacity and increase enrollment (currently waiting lists exceed 150 youth for each cycle), 2) build curricula for students at lower reading levels, and 3) accelerate learning through the use of technology. In addition, increased funding will build upon the College Now 2 and the College Access Retention and Success (“CARS”) programs that help improve retention rates for students so that they can complete their college degree.

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Youth Services

Restore \$6 million to the OST Option II Program

The Mayor's Preliminary Budget eliminates this program's funding. OST Option II serves 10,750 youth with a minimum of 160 hours a year and is the most flexible of OST funding options. Many of these programs are targeted to assisting high school students who are difficult to engage in traditional programs and who benefit from the flexibility the program offers. Providers are concerned about the 30% match requirements associated with the program but the total elimination of the funding stream is detrimental to these essential youth programs. A reduction in the match requirement may allow providers to keep those necessary programs open at a time when parents are depending on them to keep their children safe and provide enrichment opportunities to students.

Restore \$2.86 million for OST Summer Programs

The Mayor is proposing to reduce weeks of participation in the OST Program which would mean that young people would lose critical enrichment, health and recreation opportunities. If this proposal was implemented parents would be in a difficult position finding child care or would have to consider placing their children in unsupervised activities.

Restore \$2.16 million for OST slots

The Mayor has proposed eliminating 2,395 slots for the OST Program. The OST Program provides a mix of academic, recreational and cultural activities for young people after school, during holidays and in the summer. OST provides safe programs in a supportive environment which is very helpful to both the students and provides peace of mind to working parents.

Rescind the proposal to increase the OST Performance Penalty and Restore \$570,000

By increasing the penalty for low performing OST contracts from 10% to a maximum 20%, the City places an undue burden on contractors. Raising the penalty acts as a disincentive to those providers who may want to experiment with programming, provide programming in an underserved community, or serve a special needs population. We recommend DYCD consider providing technical assistance to providers in helping them boost their performance as an alternative to penalizing them.

Restore \$11.9 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

The Mayor's Preliminary Budget reduced SYEP by \$10.5 million which will result in over 6,000 fewer jobs and the reduction of every summer job by one work day. The adopted FY2009 budget already reduced summer jobs funding by \$1.4 million, which resulted in a loss of nearly 1,000 jobs. SYEP provides meaningful employment for over 43,000 youth in New York City. Approximately 103,000 applications were submitted for the Summer of 2008. FPWA supports the City's goal to utilize American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) youth workforce funds to restore and expand SYEP to provide at least 50,000 teens with a paid summer job for seven full weeks. We urge that the total amount of City, State and Federal funding required to meet this goal for the 2009 summer



jobs program is included in the Mayor's FY2010 Executive Budget, so that programs have adequate time for expansion.

Restore Council Beacon funding to \$6.3 million

In fiscal year 2009, the Council funded Beacon programs at \$3 million to reach 80 programs found among every council district. In fiscal year 2008, there was an additional \$3.3 million in funding from the Council for Beacon programs. These funds are critical in paying for a portion of the required Department of Education (DOE) opening fees.

Restore \$4.7 million for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Funding

The City Council's funding is critical to the organizations that provide shelter and support to the youth who have no other place to go. The FY2009 budget restored only \$1.7 million in City funds; the remaining \$3 million was to be drawn down from non-City matching funds, but did not occur. This funding is critical to support crisis shelter beds to those youth in transitional facilities.

Restore \$11.25 million for the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI)

These programs serve immigrant youth, their families and their larger communities, by helping them achieve education and employment goals. The FY2009 adopted City budget reduced IOI funding to \$5 million, which represents a reduction of \$6.25 million from FY2008. As a result of the reduction, only 72 organizations are funded to provide ESOL classes, immigration, immigrant worker legal services, and citizenship services compared to 162 organizations that provided the service in FY 2008. Due to the increased demand for ESOL programs in this economic downturn and the continued need for immigrant legal services, funding needs to be restored to the FY 2008 level of \$11.25 million.

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