

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

On January 19, 2010, Governor Paterson released his executive budget for FY 2010-2011. In this document, the Governor outlines his proposals to close the estimated \$7.4 billion budget gap in the upcoming fiscal year, including \$1 billion in cuts to health care programs and \$1 billion in cuts to the state agency operating budget.

The executive budget restores funding for AIDS's Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). It also allocates \$3.2 billion for statewide AIDS spending and \$120 million to the AIDS Institute. However, the AIDS Institute budget has been consolidated from sixty budget lines to five, making it extremely difficult to determine whether individual programs are funded at the same level as the previous year.

Persons living with HIV/AIDS, who are on public assistance, will have to wait until July 2013 to realize the full 30% increase of the grant. The Governor is proposing to delay the full implementation of the scheduled public assistance grant increase from 10 percent to 5 percent in order to generate \$14 million savings for New York State.

Keep in mind that some cuts were made in December 2009 when the legislature passed a revised version of the Governor's

Deficit Reduction Proposal ("DRP"). For example, the DRP eliminates the usual annual trend factor for general hospital, nursing home and home care rates, for the remaining portion of this fiscal year which is otherwise subject to an inflationary increase, effective January 1st.

Also, as far as member item funding is concerned, the DRP appropriation bill enacted the Senate member items in a lump sum. Subject to a 12.5% reduction from the previously established \$85 million, the total amount of Senate member items in FY 2010 will be \$74,375,000.

While most of the Assembly Majority member items were detailed in the April 2009 enacted budget (approximately \$65 million), similar language was included in the DRP that reduced the balance of remaining Assembly Majority member item funding from \$20 million to \$9,375,000—which reduces State Assembly member items by the same amount as Senate member item funding was cut. However, FPWA has learned from our lobbying firm that the Legislature believes it has sufficient carry-over funds in order to fully fund member items as originally proposed.

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FEDERAL HOUSING POLICY AMENDMENT

In 2008, the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a federal agency which administers Ryan White HIV/AIDS program funds, issued a Policy Notice 08-01 - The Use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Funds for Housing Referral Services and Short-term or Emergency Housing Needs. This policy change imposes a cumulative period of 24-months per household in receiving short term or emergency housing assistance through programs that receive Ryan White funds.

Advocacy groups such as the National AIDS Housing Coalition and National Association for People With AIDS believe that Policy Notice 08-01 should be withdrawn because permanent housing options are simply not available in most of the country and the problem is more dramatic for more vulnerable households such as low-income people with HIV/AIDS. At this juncture, it remains uncertain whether Ryan White grantees are equipped to track clients from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and sub grantee to sub grantee as implementa-

tion of the policy would require. Many also think this policy change fails to provide flexibility for medical professionals and grantees in making decisions about individual patient needs.

Effective March 27, 2008, grantees became responsible for tracking the 24 month cumulative period of eligibility. By April 1, 2010, some persons living with HIV/AIDS who receive short term or emergency housing assistance from Ryan White funded programs will be required to transition out those programs.

Action you can take to help rescind this regulation: If your organization is using Ryan White funds to provide short term or emergency housing assistance, write to esther@fpwa.org and let us know 1) the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the program that will be impacted by this policy change starting April 1, 2010 and 2) potential impact on their lives if the 24-month time limit is imposed.

STATE BUDGET UPDATE (CONTINUED)

The Governor had also advanced a proposal in the DRP to cut local assistance expenditures across the entire state government by reducing the undisbursed balance of these funds, as of November 1, 2009, by 10%. A selective sets of local assistance expenditures, however, is subject to a 12.5% reduction. This list includes state funding and grants for the following HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs :

- Existing community service programs serving minority and high risk populations: \$204,000
- The New York/New York III Supportive Housing Program: \$174,000

The following HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs are also subject to the 12.5% reduction, although DOB has *not* provided the estimated reduction amounts:

- Education, prevention and nutritional services including services for individuals homebound with AIDS in adult day care or home care settings
- The cost of living adjustment for certain HIV/AIDS service providers

SAVE THE DATE:

The AIDS Leadership Coalition
General Meeting

Thursday, Jan 28, 2010, 3:00pm to 4:30pm
Rsvp to esther@fpwa.org

Reception to Welcome
Newly Elected City Council Members and
Council Leaders

Thursday, Jan 28, 2010, 4:30pm to 6:00pm
Rsvp to lrocha@fpwa.org

Both events are open to the public

PANEL DISCUSSION ON HIV AND WORKFORCE

In recognition of the challenges PLWHA face as they prepare themselves to enter or re-enter the workforce. FPWA hosted a panel discussion on HIV and Workforce on December 17th to explore and discuss ways to strengthen existing policies and program efforts that will support employment and vocational services for PLWHA as an important component of HIV/AIDS care coordination.

At this event, Dr. Liza Conyers from Pennsylvania State University presented findings of a recently completed national survey on employment and vocational training needs of PLWHA. Her presentation was then followed by a panel discussion on topics including existing laws that will help protect PLWHA to stay at, enter or re-enter the workforce; role of relevant government agency(ies) in supporting vocational and employment services for PLWHA; challenges that individual as well as organizations face in making programs successful; and systems level change that may need to be enacted to provide more support for PLWHA who participate in training, and to allow the program be implemented more effectively. For a summary of this discussion, please contact Esther W. Y. Lok via esther@fpwa.org.



Panelist (L to R) Charles Lobosco, AIDS Institute; April Watkins, GMHC; Jennifer Lester, Housing Works; Cynthia Knox, HIV Law Project

This newsletter is written and edited by Esther W. Y. Lok and Bich Ha Pham at FPWA.

For further information about the HIV and AIDS portfolio at FPWA, please contact 212.801.1312 or esther@fpwa.org. For more about FPWA's policy and advocacy activities visit the [FPWA Action Center](#) on our website.

Major funding for FPWA's HIV and AIDS community-level intervention activities is provided by the AIDS Institute.



The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies 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.
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