



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

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FPWA: The Realistic Situation with the State of the City

New York, NY – One day prior to Mayor Bloomberg's State of the City Address, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA) released its own statement regarding the state of low-income and impoverished New Yorkers.

FPWA is very concerned about the shrinking of safety net programs for low-income individuals and struggling families in New York City. In recent years, multiple rounds of budget cuts have been imposed on vital health and human services programs including subsidized child care, services for youth aging out of foster care, job training programs for welfare recipients, afterschool programs and home care for seniors. Although we understand that these actions are part of Mayor Bloomberg's efforts to address the budget deficit and loss of state and federal funds, these cuts disproportionately impact low-income communities of color during tight fiscal times. There are 1.6 million poor people in New York City who are struggling with joblessness, loss of housing and hunger. The City needs to shift into emergency mode to help people get back on their feet.

"The problem of access to the cash assistance program in New York City has not lessened during the Great Recession and the slow economic recovery. In the meantime, we continue to see increasing demand for health and human services programs," states Bich Ha Pham, Director of Policy Advocacy and Research.

In addition, FPWA is troubled to see that certain policy changes made by the Bloomberg Administration have resulted in restricting access to programs such as shelter, food, education and case management services.

- About 10,000 people living with HIV/AIDS who receive benefits from the HIV and AIDS Service Administration (HASA) of the Human Resources Administration (HRA) are forced to pay more than 30% of their fixed income towards rent. With only \$12 per day to live on, the rates of rent arrears and evictions are high in this population.
- New York City is one of the few remaining places that requires finger-imaging of almost all applicants for Food Stamps. In addition to that, unemployed adults who are unable to find work may be denied Food Stamp benefits.
- Beginning September 2012, approximately 30,000 children may lose their slots in the Out-of-School Time (OST) program – a reduction of services as a result of a new Request for Proposal from the Department for Youth and Community Development.
- Despite the projected growth of older adults age 65 or above, funding for senior case management services was cut by \$3 million. As a result, hundreds of seniors experience delays in receiving services and referrals.

FPWA is a membership organization with a network of human service organizations and churches that operate over 1,200 programs throughout the New York City metro area. Together we serve over 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers of all ages, ethnicities and faiths each year.

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