

New York State 2010-2011 *Executive Budget*: A Summary of Health and Human Services Funding for Children's Programs and Services

Due to the prolonged recession, New York State will have a \$7.4 billion budget deficit if no steps are taken to cut back on expenses or raise revenues or both. In the past, the state weathered recessions fairly well. New York State will not recover from this unless structural deficits are dealt with. Because recovery is expected to be much slower, the budget deficit is expected to grow to over \$61 billion within five years. The Governor's \$134 billion budget represents .9% growth in expenses through a combination of new revenues and scaling back of expenses, well below the projected inflation rate of 2.9%. Unfortunately, cuts to important programs that make a difference in children's lives were made. Over \$100 million was cut in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding alone; \$1.1 billion in state aid for education.

Some programs received increases; most were cut; others were eliminated. What follows is information regarding key human services programs that affect children and their families. We cannot possibly list every such program; instead, we highlight the programs and services that stand out.

- In general, any program or service funded with general state funds in the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) budget was cut 10%. Many programs funded by TANF funds were eliminated.
- The budget assumes no extension of the federal match for Medicaid spending (FMAP) which increased the federal dollar match from 50% to a 56.2% in the 2009-2010 budget using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. The 56.2% match is due to expire at the end of December. There is some speculation that this increase in federal match will be extended.
- The Governor offers over 100 mandate reform initiatives to provide either financial or workload relief to counties. Some represent major changes in how business will be done in New York State. Some require statutory and/or regulatory change and have been included in the Governor's Article VII bill. Information can be found at: http://publications.budget.state.ny.us/eBudget1011/1011_budgetLegislation2.html
- The Public Assistance grant planned increase of 10% for the 2010-2011 budget year has been decreased to 5% and the time extended to July, 2014 to reach the full 30% increase in benefits promised.
- TANF funding was eliminated for many programs supporting vulnerable families with children, including Alternatives to Detention, Alternatives to Residential Placement, SUNY/CUNY Child Care, Child Care Demonstration Projects, Displaced Homemakers, Advantage Schools, Home Visiting, Summer Youth Employment, Supportive Housing, Preventive Service Contracts and others.

- Preventive dollars (98% of 65/35) were increased by \$77 million, an indication of the high priority given to preventive services.
- Healthy Families Home Visiting was cut more than \$7.5 million with the 10% cut in general funds (decrease of \$1.7 M) and the elimination of TANF support (\$5.8 M). No new funding was allocated for the Nurse-Family Partnership program (\$5 M).
- Funding for pre-kindergarten was unchanged at \$400 million. Full phase-in of the program has been delayed from SFY 2013-14 to SFY 2016-17.
- The Child Care Block Grant requires an additional \$40 to \$50 million to maintain subsidies at their current level. Child Care lost TANF funding support for child care demonstration projects, migrant child care and SUNY/CUNY child care.
- In juvenile justice, 180 beds will be eliminated and \$18.194 million will be invested in improvements, including adding 169 positions to increase mental health services and improve staff ratios. However, alternatives to detention programs will only receive \$2,215,000.
- Medicaid benefits were maintained at current levels though Medicaid spending is reduced by \$900 million through cuts to providers. Public health programs were cut by \$100 million. In addition, the budget included \$923 million in new taxes and provider assessment to be applied to health care, including a sugar sweetened beverage tax (\$450 million) and an increase in cigarette taxes (\$200 million). Without these new revenues, an additional \$1 billion in health care program services would have been on the chopping block.
- The Bridges to Health program received a \$41 million increase to fund 3,305 slots.
- The Advantage After-School program received almost an \$11 million cut. The Governor's budget proposes \$17,255,300 for these programs.
- The Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention Program (YDDP) and the Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP) were allocated \$28,243,000, a decrease of \$3.1M from last year.
- The *Executive Budget* creates a new Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) "independent schedule", increasing the award for youth in foster care from \$3,025 to \$5,000. However, TAP for part-time students is reduced from \$5,000 to \$4,000 and all TAP awards are decreased by \$75.