

SCAA Budget and Revenue Proposal

Prior to the release of the Governor's budget in December, SCAA proposed a diverse package of budget cuts, tax surcharges, and tax break closures to help reduce the state budget deficit. The SCAA proposal would contribute more than \$9 billion to deficit reduction while protecting disadvantaged New Yorkers and investments essential to the state's future prosperity.

The SCAA proposal is noteworthy for two reasons. First, it originates from a leading human services advocacy organization that traditionally does not weigh in on broader budget issues. Second, the proposal identifies a principled path to deficit reduction. SCAA argues that state leaders should begin by agreeing on the state's key spending priorities. The next step is to target programs outside these priorities for disproportionate budgetary cuts and tax surcharges. SCAA proposed three key budget priorities that the leaders of New York State should observe:

- Protect programs that serve vulnerable New Yorkers.
- Protect "seed corn" investments essential to the state's future prosperity.
- Give special consideration to programs that can show evidence of successful outcomes.

While SCAA praised Governor Paterson's budget for making serious efforts to close the enormous state budget deficit with a strategic and balanced approach, the organization urged Governor Paterson to go further by adopting several budget cuts and revenue-raisers that would reduce the need to slash spending on vital priority areas in health care, education, higher education and human services. View the [full proposal here](#).