

February 4, 2010

Dear Governor Paterson:

We write to seek your action to restore \$202.4 million in vital programs for needy New Yorkers in your 21-day budget amendments. We specifically seek the restoration of all TANF programs currently slated for complete elimination and ask that you reconsider the approach taken to the application of these critical federal dollars.

We have applauded your efforts during this great economic recession to support services and programs that help the most vulnerable New Yorkers. We were, therefore, most surprised that you abandoned one of your most important core principles by eliminating funding for a range of TANF programs that in aggregate provide New York's poorest residents with the hope of a better tomorrow.

By removing, or in some cases replacing TANF funds with Emergency Contingency Funds (ECF) for these programs, the proposed budget jeopardizes our ability to help families maintain and achieve self sufficiency. Without these critical supportive services we can expect to see an increase in the public assistance (PA) rolls and are likely creating higher long term costs for New York given the time limitations associated with the use of federal funds to support families receiving PA. Restoration of these services is not only in the best interest of New York's needy families but is also the right approach for the long term financial interests of the State.

We urge you to support these programs through the restoration of \$202 million in TANF funding. While we appreciate the need to maximize the draw down of federal dollars and support efforts to obtain as many Emergency Contingency Funds for New York as possible, we disagree with the removal of over \$200 million in TANF funds from critical community based programs to close the current budget gap.

The growing number of recipients of EITC and food stamps has allowed the State to draw down additional federal dollars that would otherwise not be available. In the scope of the entire State budget \$202 million is not profoundly significant and we urge you to find that savings elsewhere. This is not the time to divest funds intended to assist our growing poor population.

We ask that you restore TANF funding in your 21 day amendments for the programs (in the specified amounts) outlined in the attached restoration request. We genuinely believe that eliminating TANF funds for these programs would be an enormous disservice to the clients, employees, and volunteers who benefit from them, and the communities in which they are located. We are not asking that our programs receive special treatment, but we are asking for fairness and a greater sensitivity in your budget priorities to the needs of poor New Yorkers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Agenda For Children Tomorrow, Linda Selvin, Executive Director
Asian American Federation of New York, Cao K. O, Executive Director
Barrier Free Living Family of Companies, Paul B. Feuerstein, President/CEO
Campus and Community Children's Center, SUNY Fredonia, Judy Metzger, Executive Director
CASES, Joel Cooperman, President/CEO
Catholic Charities Caregivers Support Services, Renée Goldsmith Benson, Executive Director
Catholic Charities of Western New York, Dennis Walczyk, CEO
Center for Urban Community Services, Tony Hannigan, Executive Director
Child Care Council, Inc., Barbara Ann Mattle, CEO
Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc., Jane Brown, Executive Director
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc., Jennifer March-Joly, Ph.D., Executive Director
Coalition for the Homeless, Shelly Nortz, Deputy Executive Director for Policy
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Wayne Ho, Executive Director
CONNECT, Inc., Kala Ganesh, Executive Director
Day Care Council of New York, Inc., Andrea Anthony, Executive Director
Empire Justice Center, Kristin Brown Lilly, Director of Legislative Advocacy
Episcopal Social Services, Robert H. Gutheil, Executive Director
Families Together in New York State, Paige Pierce, Executive Director
Family Nurturing Center of Central New York, Inc., Dona LaTour-Elefante, Executive Director
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA), Fatima Goldman, CEO/Executive Director
Glove House, Inc., John P. Treahy, President
Good Shepherd Services, Paulette LoMonaco, Executive Director
HANAC, Inc., John P. Kaiteris, Executive Director
Homeless Services United, Christy Parque, Executive Director
Hudson Guild, Ken Jockers, Executive Director
Human Services Council of New York City, Michael Stoller, Executive Director
Institute for Community Living, Peter C. Campanelli, PsyD, President/CEO
Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Suleika Cabrera Drinane, President/CEO
Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc., Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Executive Director
Kids First, Naomi R. Marsh, Executive Director
LaSalle School, Albany, Bill Wolff, Executive Director
Leake and Watts Services, Inc., Alan Mucatel, Executive Director
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Warren Scharf, Executive Director
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, William E. Rapfogel, CEO/Executive Director
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, Gigi Li, Co-Director
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, Sierra Stoneman-Bell, Co-Director
New York CAN, Karen Schimke, President/CEO
New York City Employment Training Coalition, Rebecca Brown, Interim Executive Director
New York City Mission Society, Stephanie Palmer, Executive Director
New York State Community Action Association, Denise Harlow, CEO
NYS Catholic Conference, Earl Eichelberger, Director for Catholic Charities
NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Sarah Gerstenzang, Executive Director
NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors, Dennis Walczyk, Chair

One Stop Senior Services, Ruth-Ellen Simmonds, Executive Director
Palladia, Inc., Jane Velez, President/CEO
Parsons Child and Family Center, Raymond Schimmer, Executive Director
Prevent Child Abuse New York, Inc., Christine Deys , Executive Director
Public Health Solutions, Ellen Rautenberg, President/CEO
Samaritan Village, Tino Hernandez, Executive Director
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, Karen Schimke, President/CEO
Shorefront Jewish Community Council, Rachel Krich, Site Director
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc., Sue Fox, Executive Director
Supportive Housing Network of New York, Ted Houghton, Executive Director
The Children's Aid Society, Richard R. Buery, Jr., President/CEO
The Children's Village, Jeremy Kohomban, Ph.D., President/CEO
UJA-Federation, Ronald Soloway, Managing Director of Government and External Relations
VCS Inc., Deborah Cary Murnion, Executive Director

c: Robert Megna
Kristin Proud
Elizabeth R. Berlin
Gladys Carrión

**2010-2011 TANF Funding Restoration Request
(Dollars in Thousands)**

PROGRAM	Executive Budget 21 Day Amendments Needed
ACCESS - Welfare-to-Careers	\$500
Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN)	\$7,000
Advantage Schools	\$11,391
Alternatives to Detention / Alternatives to Residential Placement	\$10,752
Bridge	\$8,503
Career Pathways	\$10,000
Caretaker Relative	\$1,998
Centro of Oneida	\$125
Child Care CUNY	\$1,440
Child Care Demonstration Projects	\$10,900
Child Care Migrant Workers	\$1,754
Child Care SUNY	\$1,960
Community Reinvestment / Alternatives to Detention	\$5,000
Community Solutions to Transportation	\$2,200
Disability Advocacy Program (DAP)	\$1,000
Displaced Homemakers	\$5,600
Educational Resources	\$3,000
Emergency Homeless	\$2,000
Green Jobs Corps Program	\$5,000
Home Visiting	\$5,822
Local Interagency VESID Employment Services (LIVES)	\$1,500
Non-residential Domestic Violence	\$3,000
Nurse Family Partnership	\$5,000
Preventive Services	\$18,792
Refugee Resettlement	\$1,425
Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority	\$2,000
Settlement House	\$6,000
Strengthening Families through Stronger Fathers	\$2,764
Summer Youth Employment	\$35,000
Supplemental Homeless Intervention Program	\$5,000
Supportive Housing for Families	\$5,000
Wage Subsidy	\$14,000
Wheels for Work	\$7,000
Total	\$202,426