

Council of Senior Centers and Services of NYC
e-ACTION ALERT

February 25, 2010

BOMBSHELL!

GOVERNOR PATERSON'S BUDGET INCLUDES A CUT OF UP TO \$25.2 MILLION, 25% OF FUNDING, TO NYC SENIOR CENTERS!

THIS COULD RESULT IN ABOUT 75 SENIOR CENTERS CLOSING OR CRIPPLING THE FUNDING OF ALL SENIOR CENTERS!

What is happening:

- CSCS recently found out that the Governor's budget includes the elimination of \$25.2 million of Title XX (20) funds that have gone to senior centers for decades.
- Title XX is federal money that goes to the NY State Office of Children and Family Services, then to HRA which transfers the senior center money to the Department for the Aging.
- There are "mandated" services under Title XX which are required to be funded - Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence programs. There are also "discretionary" services, which is up to the state whether or not to fund - senior center funds are discretionary, not mandatory.
- The Governor's budget eliminates all discretionary funds and moves the money over to the mandated services. That way the state saves other dollars it was using for Adult Protective Services and Domestic Violence programs. While these are worthy programs, it cannot be at the price of closing or crippling senior centers wholesale across the city.

What you can do:

- **Thousands of calls are needed IMMEDIATELY to Governor David Paterson** -518-474-8390 - If the line is busy keep trying!
- **The message is, "Don't cut Title 20 money to senior centers. I don't want my senior center or any other one to close. I vote and this is unfair to senior citizens."**
- **Mail the attached letter to Governor Paterson and put in a letter on your agency's letterhead so they know where the letters are coming from. You can mail them all together. BUT PLEASE GET LETTERS OUT ASAP! You can collect some letters and mail them out and then keep collecting more.** See below for suggested letter text or go to [Title XX Alert](#)
- **It is also important to CALL your local State Assemblymember and State Senator.** You can call their local district office or Albany office although it is better to call Albany. To get contact information go to:
- NY State Senate - <http://www.nysenate.gov/> or NY State Assembly <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>
- **Contact local newspapers and other media to let them know of this threat to senior centers.** Have the reporter contact Bobbie Sackman for further information.

Suggested letter text:

February 25, 2010

Governor David A. Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

Please do not cut \$25.2 million in Title XX funds from NYC senior centers. I go to the _____ Senior Center in _____, NY. This much money will close dozens of senior centers across the city and mine might be one. It could also cripple other senior centers who won't have enough money to provide meals, exercise classes, social services, transportation, educational activities, and many other services to myself and other older adults in NYC.

Senior centers are our second home. Shutting them down is like evicting seniors from their second home. We will then be stuck in our house with nowhere to go.

We hope you will listen to us as seniors vote. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Address _____

For further information, contact Bobbie Sackman, (212) 398-6565 x226 or bsackman@cscs-ny.org

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