



The Voice of the Human Services Community

January 21, 2009

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Dear [Senator/Representative]:

Not-for-profit human service providers are a critical part of the infrastructure of communities and I write to urge you to include funding for them in the federal stimulus package. The Human Services Council of New York City (HSC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for a network of over 160 federations, coalitions, advocacy groups, and direct service providers throughout New York City. HSC is deeply concerned about the current economic crisis and the effect it will have on New Yorkers as well as on human service providers.

During this economic crisis, local and state governments are making cuts in an effort to balance budgets, often at the expense of important services. At the same time, many more people are in need of services and turn to not-for-profits for help. The federal stimulus package should include funding for human service providers to continue programs that benefit the community and provide a lifeline to those in need.

Over the years, not-for-profit human service providers have had a difficult time obtaining funding for capital projects that are essential to daily operations. The federal stimulus package should include funding not only for programs, but for capital projects that will benefit the community, create jobs, and put money back into the local economy.

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**Human Services Council of New York City, Inc.**

130 East 59th Street, New York, New York 10022 • Tel: 212-836-1230 • Fax: 212-836-1837 • [www.humanservicescouncil.org](http://www.humanservicescouncil.org)

Over 100 economists from throughout New York State joined in a letter maintaining that the only way to stimulate the economy is to put money into local communities. They stated that “almost every dollar of state and local government spending on transfer payments to the needy and for the salaries of public servants providing vital services to our communities enters the local economy right away, generating a greater economic impact.” Not-for-profit human service providers are an economic engine that supports local economies. They not only provide vital services to those in need, but are also consumers of goods and services, and employers who provide jobs to many low-income workers.

Community-based services continue to be a productive use of scarce public dollars as not-for-profits serve the community on behalf of government and leverage private resources and volunteers to augment the government’s investment. Furthermore, many of the services provided by the not-for-profit sector, such as child welfare, afterschool programs, homelessness prevention, and homecare for the elderly are essential and interdependent with the health, safety, and educational services needed to maintain the well-being of New Yorkers. Preventive and supportive community-based social services yield a significant return on investment by reducing more lengthy and expensive care today and in the future.

It is important that the federal stimulus package produce spending at the local level to stimulate the economy. Investing in not-for-profit programs and capital projects will bring vital aid to individuals, fuel spending, and better the community. We urge you to use this opportunity to invest in the community and especially those with the greatest need by funding not-for-profit human service providers and their programs. Please feel free to contact me at (212) 836-1230 / [stollerm@humanservicescouncil.org](mailto:stollerm@humanservicescouncil.org) if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stoller".

Michael Stoller  
Executive Director