

Human Services Council Newsletter

Issue #22 April 2013

Letter from the Executive DirectorMichael Stoller

Spring is always a busy time for nonprofits as it's the budget season. This year, the sector - and HSC - is even busier, as we recover from Superstorm Sandy and its aftermath. Our sector continues to support people and communities affected by Sandy in profound ways. And, though the focus on the storm's effects may fade from public consciousness, we know that recovery efforts will continue for years and human services organizations will remain deeply involved.

As such, we are glad to have received grants from the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and The Altman Foundation in January, enabling us to convene the human services sector around post-Sandy matters with special views to ascertaining unmet needs and interfacing with government to shape programs and policies that best address them; ensuring that human services organizations are reimbursed for services provided; fostering optimal coordination among human services organizations; and partnering with the philanthropic sector to ensure high-impact grantmaking in support of recovery

HSC Welcomes

- ... our newest member, **NADAP**, **Inc**. Check out their <u>website</u> to learn more about the important work they do.
- ... our new Board members, **Jose Caldero**n, president of the <u>Hispanic Federation, Inc.</u>, and **Jennifer Jones Austin**, executive director of the <u>Federation of Protestant Welfare</u> Agencies.
- ... **Danny Rosenthal**, HSC consultant, focused on supporting the human services sector's efforts to cope with post-Sandy matters. Danny currently provides his expertise in areas spanning planning and government affairs to fundraising and project management following many years working at nonprofits.
- ... Karen Kithan Yau, who has been appointed the new executive Director of <u>Coalition for Asian American</u>
 <u>Children (CACF)</u>, effective June 3, 2013, succeeding Wayne Ho. We look forward to working with Karen and thank Wayne for being a great supportor and active Board Member of HSC, as well as for all the work he accomplished in his nearly nine years at CACF.

Budget News

On March 29, the NY State legislature passed the final pieces of the budget for the year that began 4/1/13. The budget totaled \$135.1B, in keeping with the Governor's promise to keep state spending growth below 2% for the third year in a row. The plan also closes a \$1.31B budget gap and honors two-year appropriations for school aid and Medicaid. The FY14 State budget had mixed results for human services. While we saw some important restorations, there were devastating cuts to the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities and a continued deferment of COLAs. Comparatively, human services did not fare as well as other areas with new investments in infrastructure and economic development and restorations in education of about \$1B. Members can view a full budget analysis here.

HSC and City Council Member Annabel Palma, Chair of the City Council's General Welfare Committee, brought out City Council Members, advocates, and clients to rally on the steps

efforts. Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to share information and offer opportunities for involvement to members and other partners.

This month, we're also delighted to have received a grant from The New York Community Trust to promote cost-savings in government-funded human services. Use of this grant will help HSC develop recommendations to strengthen delivery of human services and implement action steps to enhance the sector's ability to provide efficient, effective, and compassionate services.

In fact, we're in the process of formulating recommendations and implementation steps to address issues identified in January's Nonprofit Summit. We look forward to working with members and partners to share this information in the coming months and implementing a strategy to move forward on the changes we seek.

Many thanks, Michael Stoller



Technology News

HHS Accelerator, an initiative from the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, has launched its web-based system. HSC worked closely with the City on this

of City Hall to demand restoration of millions of dollars for social services programs slashed in Mayor Bloomberg's \$70B budget for FY 2014. The Mayor failed to baseline \$58M for discretionary seats and vouchers, again jeopardizing the stability of the child care system. These cuts, combined with those to Out-of-School-Time, will impact many working families. The Mayor also proposed decreasing the budget for food assistance programs, which hurts people seeking affordable housing. You can view the press release from Council Member Palma and members can also see our full budget analysis.



Joel Copperman, President of CASES and HSC Board Chair, speaks at the rally in front of the City Hall.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

HSC would like to remind all members to enroll with Essensa, the City's group purchasing contractor, by June 30, 2013. Organizations with new City Contracts are not required to make purchases with Essensa; however, they are required to enroll.

The Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy and the **Drug Policy Alliance** are hosting **Leading the Way: Toward a Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy in New York**, May 2-3 in Buffalo, NY. Conference attendees will take part in assessing the current status of drug policy in NY, consider the effectiveness of approaches in other states, and examine national drug policies and emerging developments.Register now, space is limited.

The monthly **Undoing Racism** meeting is on May 6 (the first Monday of each month), from 12-2 pm at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services (JBFCS) at 135 W 50th St. The

system and is pleased with how HHS Accelerator will improve the contracting system for nonprofit human services providers.

HHS Accelerator simplifies the contract process by enabling the collection of commonly requested documents in one place. A simple Business Application is now required prior to receiving Agency-issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs). You must also select and submit information about services you can deliver. This background information is required only every three vears, unless related to annual corporate filings. Approved applicants can submit proposals electronically in response to RFPs, which the City will begin to issue through the system later this year.

You can create accounts to store and share documents with funders, including City Agencies. To get started, have a senior member of your team register for training. Senior staff familiar with government contracting or grant writing are best positioned to be the first users of the system, additional users can be added later.

City representatives have been reaching out to organizations, asking them to create an account and start the online application. Starting the process now ensures you receive sufficient support meetings provide executive leaders with an opportunity to gain knowledge and perspective to help them move towards antiracist leadership.

The Education and Research Foundation of the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York is hosting **Budgeting for Nonprofit Success** on May 7. This session will provide essential information to nonprofit executives on how to construct and use budgets effectively. For more information, click here.

HSC's **Board Meeting and Annual Membership meeting** will be held on May 9 at HSC, 130 East 59th Street, from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. This meeting is open to all HSC members, but you must RSVP so you are added to the list for security.

HSC is a co-sponsor of the **Post Sandy Job Fair** to be held on May 14, which will match motivated employers with job-seekers whose search has become more of a challenge, as a result of Sandy. The job fair offers a significant and long lasting way to support New Yorkers by offering employment opportunities that provide the lifeline they really need. The <u>Post Sandy Job Fair</u> is looking for <u>sponsors</u>, <u>employers</u>, and <u>job-seekers</u>.



Capacity Building and Oversight (CBO) offers **NYC Nonprofit Assistance: Internal Controls for Small Nonprofits** training on May 22, which will focus on the implementation of internal controls to allow your organization to reap the benefits of accountability, efficiency, and fraud prevention. RSVP!

Supportive Housing Network of NY will have its 13th Annual New York State Supportive Housing Conference on June 6 at 1535 Broadway. The conference will include 20-plus workshops, a networking breakfast and lunch, a keynote speaker and a post-conference cocktail reception. More detailed information to come.

The Independent Sector, a coalition of more than 500 organizations, will present its 2013 National Conference in NYC, from Sept. 29-Oct. 1, to gather leaders from foundations, nonprofits, and corporate giving programs. HSC has negotiated a special discount for its members - early bird registrants get further discounts.

from the HHS Accelerator Team and enough time to complete your application before RFPs are released. For more information, you can see our testimony and a video of the City Council hearing, as well as our blog on HHS Accelerator.



HSC General Counsel Michelle Jackson testifies on HHS Accelerator

HSC encourages everyone to sign up now at the Accelerator <u>website</u> and register for a training soon.

We are also hosting a **Business Solutions**Workgroup on May 1 from 9:30-11 a.m. Meeting topics include the State's new Master Grant Contract, the launch of HHS Accelerator, and a presentation from SAVE Executive Director **Angeles Pai** about City initiatives. To RSVP, email Michelle Jackson.

Our Sponsors

HSC is grateful to our members and funders who support our work on behalf of the human services sector.

Valued supporters of HSC include:

Altman Foundation

Blue Ridge Foundation New York

The Clark Foundation

IBM Corporation

Mayor's Fund To Advance New York City

Advocacy News

After Hurricane Sandy, the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City established a program through which nonprofits that suffered damages to facilities/equipment could access loans from the Fund for the City of New York. We are gratified to report that following our advocacy, the Mayor's Fund announced that nonprofit grants will be available through the NYC Nonprofit Loan Program. For more information, click here.

Also following Sandy, the Federal government authorized \$60B through Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) to support recovery efforts. Recently, the City published a draft plan illustrating ways to expend its first installment of funds (about \$1.7B), focused on housing recovery, support to businesses, and shoring up infrastructure. While HSC applauds the City's massive efforts to-date and its ambitious plans for the future, we want to ensure our clients and sector are properly supported. Accordingly, we provided comments in response to the City's plan, with recommended actions such as enabling human services organizations access to City programs available to for-profit businesses.

The Office of the Governor released revised proposed regulations to implement Executive Order 38- Executive Compensation and Administrative Overhead. The deadline for public comment varies by agency; some were due as early as April 12, but others as late as May 10. You can submit comments to any agency to have them considered for the regulations overall. You can also view HSC's comments on the revised proposed regulations.

HSC issued a press release on April 3, praising the NYC Council discretionary process, which provides nonprofits with funding for vital services to New Yorkers in need. While other government entities, including New York State, have ended member items, the City Council developed a thoughtful solution to the corruption issues that clouded a small portion of member item dollars. The Council's reforms have enhanced transparency and accountability and protected taxpayer funds and HSC applauds the Council for its leadership in this area.

After years of advocating for **Paid Sick Days**, and with the support of hundreds of people, including the 39 City Council sponsors of Intro 97-A, the City Council, led by Council Member Gale Brewer, passed legislation on March 29. This legislation will allow thousands of New Yorkers to stay home if they or their loved ones are sick without a threat of being fired. HSC proudly offered our <u>support</u> for the legislation.

Mutual of America

New York City Council and Speaker Christine Quinn

New York Community Trust

UJA-Federation of NY

United Way of New York City

Thank you again for your generous support!

If you'd like to contribute to HSC, you can make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to:

Human Services Council 130 East 59th Street New York, NY 10022

Or you can donate online!

We would also like to thank our members for their continued support. The nonprofit sector is facing the toughest budgetary constraints in years and our 200 members make difficult trade-off decisions daily about how to spend limited funds. We are pleased and grateful to have you with us!

You can help the sector by asking other nonprofit human services agencies to join HSC. Our collective voice gets louder as we add more members. Please see our website or contact Cynthia

Tao at 212-836-1623 for more information

HSC's mission is to strengthen the not-for-profit human services sector's ability to improve the lives of New Yorkers in need.

The Voice of the Human Services Community

Please follow us on Twitter or find us on Facebook. We'd love you to become our fans!

Like us on Facebook

Follow us on twitter

Member and Partner News

CACF is accepting <u>applications</u> for its Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP) through May 24. ASAP is a youth leadership program for Asian Pacific American youth who attend City public high schools. For more information, contact <u>Elizabeth Lee</u>.

The New York City Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals is offering a limited number of Maurice Gurin Scholarships to attend Fundraising Day in New York on June 7. The Scholarship Program enables motivated, talented men and women to attend a wide variety of informative workshops and seminars offered at the Fundraising Day, who would otherwise be unable to participate in the conference. For more information, click here.

In response to numerous requests for an insurance program, Essensa is pleased to announce that they now have contracts with Omni Managed Health and Q6 Advisors Insurance Plans. Through these contracts, organizations have access to a series of coverage options for both commercial and personal needs.

HSC, Homeless Services United, and other member organizations are endorsing a campaign to end homelessness. In 2012, more than 48,000 people slept in the municipal shelter system, the largest homeless shelter population ever recorded. Confronting New York's City's record homelessness will require strong leadership and smart, cost effective policies. To learn more about the action platform and how to become one of the endorsers, click here

It's been three months since Governor Cuomo announced his groundbreaking **Women's Equality Agenda**, and support has consistently poured in across the state. Over 500 groups, individuals and organizations know that the reforms will benefit millions of women, families and communities across the state, and will address economic issues plaguing women that human services agencies struggle to tackle. The reforms range from protecting women from sexual harassment in the workplace, ensuring women are paid as much as their male counterparts, making sure women can keep their jobs if they get pregnant, and more. (You can learn about all ten points of the Agenda at the NY Women's Equality Coalition's website.)

Job Opportunities

The Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS) is looking to hire a <u>Fitness Instructor</u>, <u>Care Navigator</u>, and <u>Reentry Coordination Liaison</u>.

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC) is

seeking to to hire a Program Manager.