



Newsletter
Issue # 2
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Human Services Council Newsletter

Letter from Executive Director Michael Stoller HSC and the State and City Budgets

Greetings!



We do not need to tell you that this economic crisis is real and, according to some experts, the worst since the Great Depression. The budget cuts from the City and State that have been implemented or

announced are not the last we expect to see, while at the same time many more people are going to be looking for help from human service providers. Our usually successful advocacy for restorations will likely not be successful this year, and it is expected that there will be a number of cuts to social services. We are writing to outline HSC's strategy to try to lesson the damage budget cuts will have on social services, to advocate for the preservation of programs, and to work with government to find alternatives to more cuts.

We are faced with the reality that our organizations are going to experience very real budget cuts with no immediate relief in sight. The human services community must mobilize to fight across-the-board cuts and work with the City and State to make wise budget decisions and protect vital programs. Social service spending makes up a significant part of the budget that is controllable, and it is therefore likely that it will take the brunt of cuts and can be seen as an easy solution to balancing the budget.

Earlier this year, funding for many social service programs was reduced when restorations traditionally made by the City Council were not included in the adopted budget. The State also enacted a budget that kept funding levels relatively flat from the previous year, and then Governor Paterson called for budget cuts for the current and next fiscal year, as well as for reduced agency spending. HSC will strongly remind policy makers that social services have already suffered from reduced resources and urge the City and State to consider this as they look to make further cuts.

We must fight against the misunderstanding that social

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HSC News Briefs...

HSC joined hundreds of New Yorkers as part of the "ONE NEW YORK: FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS" - Coalition to stop City budget cuts aimed at New York City's most vulnerable. Take action by endorsing the Coalition. Visit our [homepage](#).

The Department of Youth and Community Development City Council Discretionary Funding PQL. Organizations that obtained funds from City Council this year in excess of \$10,000 (in the aggregate) were required to fill out a "Prequalification List" (PQL) application. The Department of Youth and Community Development is now issuing letters to organizations that have been approved for the City Council Discretionary Funding PQL and have been designated funds by the City Council.

There are a number of prequalification applicants that did not submit complete applications. Please [click here](#) to visit the Members Only section of our website for more information.

HSC launches booklet addressing not-for-profit organizations and lobbying laws.

The Human Services Council has been working to address concerns surrounding the ways in which not-for-profit organizations in New York City can act in accordance with existing lobbying laws. In order to reduce uncertainty, HSC has compiled a booklet filled with facts and frequently asked questions that aims to simplify the complexities of the lobbying

service funding is expendable, and re-enforce how necessary these programs are to the community. As illustrated by the Council Discretionary Funding process this year, there is a widely held misconception that monies that go to social service programs may be mismanaged and not the best use of government funds. We know that, in reality, the vast majority of organizations that receive these funds are extremely thrifty, operate fully while under-funded, save the City and State money by providing services at low cost and, most importantly, are a vital safety net to New Yorkers in need. We are going to need to work hard to get this message out.

HSC will counter further cutting social services by informing legislators that these programs are cost-effective and produce a return on investment. When people do not have access to social services, it often compounds economic and social problems, leading in turn to an increased need for services. Investing in communities can stave off some of the ill effects of an economic downturn, is a way to stimulate the economy, and not-for-profits are employers of low-income workers.

HSC will, of course, advocate strongly for restorations and fight budget cuts to contracted services. We will also be asking the City and State to consider reasonable and fair revenue-raising options instead of cutting their way out of the deficits. This is an area that HSC has not advocated for in the past, but we feel it is critical for government to see that budget cuts cannot be the only solution, and that raising revenue is a viable alternative. Some of the revenue options that HSC may support include the Mayor's proposal to raise the property tax by seven percent, suspending the \$400 rebate on that tax, and asking the State for approval of a time-limited surcharge on the personal income tax (as has been done in the past).

Across-the-board cuts do not take into account what programs are most effective and most necessary in a financial downturn. HSC believes it is preferable to use the limited funds available to support those programs that are the most effective and most necessary. We are asking policy makers to draw upon the expertise of subsector specific associations as they make decisions about which programs to maintain and which to cut. These groups have the best knowledge of which programs are most necessary and have the greatest impact. Decisions of this nature will not be easy, but we recognize that cuts are going to be made and that preserving full funding for certain programs is in the best interest of the needy.

HSC will continue to advocate for providing regular cost-of-living-adjustments (COLAs) for those responsible for delivering services to New York's most vulnerable populations and ask that the City and State maintain their commitments to providing these critical adjustments. It is important to keep remaining programs strong and to support the people committed to running service programs. Further, not-for-profit employees tend to be lower wage earners; providing them with a COLA will offer some economic relief to a substantial portion of New York's working poor.

Specific steps HSC is taking:

laws and to inform not-for-profit providers of the extent to which they can freely participate in the legislative and budgeting processes without fear of incurring penalties. Learn about lobbying laws, including information on:

- How different types of lobbying are defined on the City, State, and federal levels.
- The requirements pertaining to registration and the reporting of lobbying activities.
- How to obtain more information/clarity on the State and City Lobbying Acts through the various resources available.

An electronic version of this booklet can be found in the "Members Only" section of the [HSC website](#).

If you have any additional questions about this important and timely booklet, please contact:

Allison Sesso
Deputy Executive Director, HSC
Phone: (212)-836-1127
Email: ssesoa@humanservicescouncil.org

Save the Date!

[The Asian American Federation of New York, HSC and the United Way of New York City briefing and panel discussion on poverty among Asian Americans in New York City](#)

Date: Thursday, October 30th

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 am
Venue: United Way of New York, 2 Park Avenue, Corner of 32nd Street.

[The Asian American Federation of New York](#) will be releasing a new report later this month to illuminate the often hidden issue of poverty among Asian Americans as well as the diversity of the Asian poor. In conjunction with the release of the report, the Human Services Council of New York City, United Way of New York City and the Federation will be hosting a briefing on October 30th, 2008 at United Way of NYC. Following the presentation of report

Helping to organize "One New York: Fighting for Fairness," a new broad-based coalition of human service, education, and healthcare advocates that have joined together to demand that our communities are prioritized and protected in this time of economic difficulty. This group will help get our message out to the broader public stage. [Click here to view the principles of the coalition.](#)

HSC has also sent letters to City and State policy makers outlining our concerns and the steps we would like them to take to ensure the needs of New Yorkers are met. We strongly encourage you to do the same. [Click here for sample letters and instructions.](#) HSC will also be meeting with policy makers to advocate for the protection of critical services.

During this downturn, more and more New Yorkers will be looking for vital services. Human service providers do not merely add to the quality of life, they are a life line, keeping the economically challenged strong and self-sufficient. We must fight to keep programs that are fundamental to the well-being of our community afloat.

HSC deeply values the work and passion of our members to serve New York's neediest populations, and we will continue to harness that passion as we work to ensure that New Yorkers receive the help that they need.

We welcome your comments and input regarding our strategy and implore each of you to prioritize advocacy at your agencies during this critical period. Be responsive to our requests about how cuts will impact the clients you serve, send letters to policy makers when you are requested to do so, and be vocal about the impact of cuts as often as you can be!

Michael Stoller,
Executive Director

Meet those who make our work possible

HSC is grateful to all our members and donors who continue to support the critical work HSC does on behalf of our members and the human services sector as a whole. This Newsletter was made possible by a grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation.

Other supporters of HSC include:

1. [The Altman Foundation](#)
2. [Booth Ferris Foundation](#)
3. [The New York Community Trust](#)
4. [Taproot Foundation](#)
5. [The United Way of New York City](#)
6. [The New York City Council](#)

findings, there will be a panel discussion.

HSC Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Time: 8:30 a.m.

**Venue: United Way of New York City,
Board Room, 2 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor
(Corner of 32nd Street)**

HSC and the National Association of Social Workers New York City Chapter (NASW-NYC) will be holding a special workshop entitled: The Impact of Social Work Licensing: What Agencies Need to Know

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Venue: HSC, 130 East 59th Street, 7th Floor, Room 706

Topics to be covered include:

- Understanding the social work licensing laws, including the sunset of exemptions
- How licensing affects the different sectors of social work practice
- The differences and similarities between the two social work licenses
- Implications for attracting and maintaining qualified staff Social Work internship issues

RSVP to the Facilitator, Lu Lassin

NASW-NYC's Licensing Specialist at
lassin@naswnyc.org

HSC 13th Annual Leadership Awards Reception

Date: Wednesday, December 17, 2008
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 pm

News from HSC Members and Friends

Fred Scaglione, Editor and Co-Founder, New York Nonprofit Press, to receive the Carroll Kowal Journalism Award 2008, for leadership in the coverage of social services in New York City.

You are cordially invited to the reception.

Date: Monday, October 27, 2008

Time: 5:30PM-7:30PM

(Award Presentation: 6:15PM)

Venue: Hunter College School of Social Work, 129 East 79th Street, 10th floor

RSVP by October 20th to: fass08@gmail.com

Phone: 212-851-2239

The Agenda for Children Tomorrow (ACT) and the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA) will be holding two community informational forums for organizations responding to, or considering responding to, the New York City Children Services RFP.

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Venue: Hotel Pennsylvania, 401 Seventh Ave. & 33rd Street, 18th Floor, Madison Room

(Note: Sessions will have identical content)

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2008

Time: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Venue: 2 Washington Str., 22nd Fl. Conference Room

RSVP by October 24 to: actnyc@earthlink.net

Contact: Joyce Friedmann at 212.487.8583.

United Way of New York City (UWNYC) offering FREE trainings and technical assistance to help agencies and their staff enhance information and referral capacity.

Beginning in October, 2008, UWNYC will present "**Answers that Help**": **Workshops for Information and Referral Skills**- a series of **FREE trainings**. The series will focus on practical skills, both introductory workshops for staff new to I&R services and workshops that will benefit more seasoned staff. The workshops to be offered in the coming months are:

- Building Blocks: The Basics of Information and Referral
- Beyond the Building Blocks: The Next Level of Information and Referral
- Crisis Intervention for Information and Referral Providers
- Dealing with Difficult and Chronic Callers
- Information and Referral Resources 101
- Share & Learn Roundtable Discussion

Venue: **Mutual of America** located at 320 Park Avenue, 35th Floor.

New York City Trainings Available to HSC Members

The City Procurement Training Institute in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services will be offering several new courses. HSC encourages members to attend.

Internal Controls for Small Not-for-Profits

Date: November 5, 2008

Board Development: Oversight and Effective Governance for Not-for Profits

Date: November 13, 2008

Not-for-Profit Accounting 101

Date: November 20, 2008

Charities Bureau Compliance

Date: December 3, 2008

Venue: NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services' Citywide Training Center, 2 Washington Street.

All courses begin promptly at 9:00am and end at 12:30pm.

To register, please fill out the name and contact information of each attendee on a separate CTC application and fax it to (212) 312-0843. [Click here for the CTC application.](#)

Early registration is encouraged to ensure enrollment.

HSC is growing- meet our newest members and Intern, Kristen

For more information, [click here to visit their website.](#)

This space is designated for our members. Please send us your announcements, news, and interesting issues of relevance to the sector.

Editorial Policy: Submissions must be no more than 25 lines, font size 12, Times New Roman. HSC reserves the right to determine suitability for publication and edit submissions.

Computer Giveaway!!!!!!

ACCESS NYC is giving away over 500 computer terminals to City agencies and qualified 501(c)(3) organizations. The awarded terminals will be dedicated computer stations (computer and printer) for clients to screen themselves for benefits using the ACCESS NYC website (www.nyc.gov/accessnyc). Agencies must apply.

To receive an application, please send an email titled "Computer Giveaway" to this email address: accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov

For more information, call Sarah Galena at (718) 826-5108.

D'Elia.

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of HSC's team, our intern Kristen D'Elia. Krissi is a 2008 graduate of Clark University and holds a BA in Sociology and a BA in Women's and Gender Studies. Krissi started with HSC in early September and since then she has been working closely with the advocacy unit as well as generally supporting the work of HSC, lending her voice to the strengthening of the human services community.

HSC is expanding and the voice of the human services sector is growing louder! We welcome our newest members. Please click on the links below to learn more about their critical services.

1. [Care at Home- Diocese of Brooklyn, Inc.](#)
2. [Legal Information for Families Today](#)
3. [The Caring Community](#)
4. [The Non-Profit Think Tank](#)
5. **Help us add more members to this list.**

All HSC members are listed on our website. You can visit their webpages by [clicking here.](#)

For more information on membership, contact:

Dominic Muntanga
Membership Services Coordinator
Email: muntangad@humanservicescouncil.org
Phone: 212 836 1623

News from Access NYC!

School Meals for New York City Students now online at Access NYC.

If you have a child who attends a public or private New York City school, you can now submit your [School Meals Application](#) online at [ACCESS NYC](#). You can submit one application for all the children living in your household, even if they attend different schools. The application process is easy, secure, and convenient. Complete and submit your application at [ACCESS NYC](#).