

Newsletter Issue #9 April 2010

Letter from Executive Director Michael Stoller



With this unseasonably warm weather, many people's thoughts may turn to Spring and leisurely pursuits - but here at HSC, we're busier than ever. We are furiously negotiating on

behalf of the human services sector to fight cuts in State and City budgets. Our goal is to shed light on the impact of proposed budget cuts so we can successfully advocate for the protection of the critical funding streams that our sector - and the clients we serve - depend upon.

In fact, thanks to a grant from the New York Community Trust, we're pleased to have engaged Pro-Media Communications, a progressive media consultant, to help focus attention on the budget issues that directly affect human services in New York. We'd also like to thank many of our members, who have been contributing further to our Budget Media Campaign. Our work with Pro-Media Communications is already bearing fruit. On April 8, the New York Daily News printed our op-ed regarding the MTA payroll tax hike and its impact on not-for-profits and the *Queens Tribune* published a story showing the facts and effects of budget cuts on former crack addicts. Also, Albany Times Union printed a letter

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News on New York Budgets

New York State Budget

Although the April 1 budget deadline passed without an on-time budget, it is possible the budget will be negotiated quickly now that the legislature has returned from its holiday recess. Budget extender bills were passed to allow the State to pay its legally-required expenditures through mid-April. (These expenditures include payments to schools, Medicaid providers, and State employees.)

In the meantime, the budget forecast continues to be bleak. HSC developed a list of State budget priorities, which we are using in our State budget advocacy. (See both the **Government Relations** and **ACT NOW!** sections below for more information.) The members only section of our website has the State budget priorities and two HSC documents concerning the budget: an Executive Budget analysis and a comparison of State Senate and Assembly budget proposals.

New York City Budget

Following the Mayor's FY11 Preliminary
Budget released in January, the City
Council held budget hearings in March and
released its response to the Preliminary
Budget on April 8. The Council's Response
highlights key priorities from the hearings
and offers recommendations for the
Mayor's Executive Budget.
Recommendations include not taking
across-the-board cuts and possibly sparing
some agencies from additional cuts or
program elimination, and using the
Adopted FY10 Budget as the base for
proposing cuts (which includes Council
funding and allows for a more equitable

from HSC about the impact of the MTA tax and property taxes - please see the **Advocacy Results** section below for further information and links to these stories.

As stated in the op-ed piece, "Nonprofits are tax-exempt for a reason. Our dollars provide services, not dividends." And of course, the increased taxes on top of decreased government funding, decreased private donations, and increased need for services hurt human services providers, hurt the people who need our help, and hurt the economy at large. After all, the nonprofit sector employs over 15% of the City's workers - so cuts to our sector result not only in cuts to services for those in need, but also results in fewer workers overall and another increase in need for services. It's a vicious cycle.

Please work with HSC to help stop the cycle. Take some time to **ACT NOW!**-the section below provides ways you can advocate on the sector's behalf. You can also help by finding philanthropic support or new members who will make our voice even stronger. Please forward this newsletter to someone who is interested in supporting New York's human services sector.

⊠> Forward to a Friend

Many thanks,

Michael Stoller

Act Now!

During this particularly tight budget season, we strongly encourage you to advocate on behalf of your clients for key restorations. The budget season is about to close but there is still time to impact the State budget - please speak with your legislators before it is too late! Call or meet with your State

and transparent approach to make agency Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) targets). You can see the <u>full Council</u> response here.

With the fiscal outlook continuing to decline and the impact of severe State cuts imminent, it is likely the Mayor will seek significant further reductions. After the Mayor releases the Executive Budget (due late April), the Council will hold additional budget hearings in May before a budget is negotiated and adopted in June. Based on the FY11 Preliminary Budget, HSC developed a list of City Priorities. Please see the **ACT NOW!** section below for information on ways to advocate. HSC members can view the priorities, along with our analysis of the Mayor's Executive Budget, by going to the members-only section of our website.

ARRA Update

On March 17, HSC hosted an information session on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which was attended by over 60 HSC members. We were pleased to be joined by **Karina** Cabrera, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Sam Cooper, Director of **Economic Development and Transportation**, to discuss Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's efforts to secure funding for New York City's human services organizations on the federal level. On the City level, Kristin Misner, Chief of Staff to Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs, and Michelle Light, Senior Policy Advisor in the Mayor's Office of Operations, provided a one-year progress report on ARRA for the City of New York. In addition, David L. Lara, Senior Legislative Associate at the Center on Budget and **Policy Priorities**, discussed the fiscal and economic conditions of states, the federal political climate including a legislative update, and advocacy and messaging around current and future legislation. Links to copies of available presentations and contact information can be found on our **innepage** - the second to last item under 'What's Hot."

representatives to let them know how proposed budget cuts will impact the services you provide, the clients you serve, and jobs within your organization; if you can, bring clients and staff who can speak to the importance of your programs. See our homepage, under "What's Hot," for more budget advocacy information, including a sample letter to send to your legislators, a list of State Legislators by district, explanations of TANF funding and the MTA mobility tax, and a list of revenue options that HSC supports. If you have questions or need help, please contact Michelle Jackson, 212.836-1588, as quickly as possible.

HSC is co-sponsoring a petition with the NonProfit Coordinating Committee to the State legislature for nonprofit relief from the MTA Payroll Tax. Please sign our MTA petition by clicking here and ask your clients and staff to sign the petition as well. It only takes a minute. To date, we collectively have over 2500 signatures. You can read more about the petition in the New York NonProfit Press.

From now through June, members should meet with their local City representatives to discuss the impact of proposed City budget cuts. Members can use HSC's list of City Priorities, based on the FY11 Preliminary Budget, in their advocacy efforts; we will update and share this list after the Mayor releases his Executive Budget. HSC will continue to monitor the City budget and inform members of proposed cuts and opportunities to participate in letter-writing campaigns and rallies.

Please continue to encourage your clients and everyone you know to fill out their 2010 census by April 15. All New Yorkers should be aware it is their right and obligation to participate in the census so individuals and communities get their fair share of representation. April 15 is the last day to mail back the forms; starting in May, census takers

If you have questions about HSC's ARRA work, please contact <u>Michele Jackson</u> at 212.836-1588. HSC's ARRA work was made possible by a grant from the **New York Community Trust**, which ended in December.

Government Relations

HSC took providers to Albany three times in February and March to meet with key legislative committee chairs and finance staff in the State Senate and Assembly. With our members, HSC advocated on HSC's budget priorities, including TANF restorations, an exemption for human services providers from the MTA Mobility Tax, and revenue and savings options. Please see the ACT NOW! section for links to more information about HSC's budget priorities and ways you can advocate for these important budget issues.



HSC's March 16 Lobby Day participants with Assemblyman Keith Wright, Chair of the Assembly Social Services Committee. Joining HSC were staff from CAMBA, Homeless Services United, Project Renewal, and Supportive Housing Network.

As a result of HSC's recommendations on ways to alleviate financial and administrative burdens on not-for-profits (mentioned in the January newsletter and on our website), New York State

Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli and his staff worked with us to incorporate many of the recommendations in their renort about its profit sector. Please join HSC, NonProfit Coordinating Committee, and United Way of NYC for an opportunity to speak with the Comptroller on April 15. He will be discussing the report and ways he can be an effective partner to our

will visit households that didn't return a census by mail.

Advocacy Results

HSC's voice is growing stronger.

- On April 8, the New York Daily News published an op-ed article by Michael Stoller, "Spare charities from the new MTA mobility tax," which makes the case for why not-for-profits should be exempted from an additional payroll tax hike.
- Also on April 8, the Queens
 Tribune published "Budget slice
 cuts programs to core," which
 combines facts about the State
 budget cuts (quoted from HSC)
 with personal stories
 demonstrating the effects the
 cuts have on people's lives.
- On March 24, The Capitol (the publication for and about New York State government) published "As in DRPs, member items may end up on chopping block again to close gap," which quotes HSC Deputy Executive Director Allison Sesso regarding State cuts in funding.
- In response to an article in the Albany Times Union, HSC wrote a letter to the editor that was published on March 22. The letter argues against the proposed property tax on nonprofits, as well as the enacted MTA payroll tax.

Please see our new <u>HSC in the News</u> webpage for additional stories where HSC voiced its concerns for the human services sector.

HSC continued its work on a **Standard Human Services Contract**. There are several parts to the standard contract:
Appendix A, the contract template, and the scope of services. These parts, along with the Program Budget, other

sector.

Thursday, April 15, 9:30 - 11:30 am
Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive
To register for the event, cick here.

Preston Niblack, Director of City Council Finance Division, addressed HSC's Budget Advocacy Committee on March 3. He discussed the City budget as it relates to social services and the processes for citywide and discretionary funding.

The Mayor has appointed a **Commission to recommend changes to the City Charter**. HSC is forming a subcommittee to work on this issue, to ensure the perspective of the human services providers and the clients we serve are represented to the Commission.

HSC provided testimony to the State
Senate and Assembly Budget Hearing
on Human Services in February and to
the New York City Council General
Welfare Preliminary Budget Hearing in
March regarding budget cuts. If you are a
member, you can see a copy of both
testimonies on the members only part of
our website.

Upcoming Workshops

As part of its COLA task force work to find cost savings for not-for-profits, HSC is partnering with **NPower NY** to connect not-for-profits with MS Online - a set of bundled applications that can **save your organization about 50% of your technology costs**. HSC Members are invited to attend any of the following information sessions to learn about the process for switching to this technology solution.

- April 15, 4-5 pm (focus is on organizations with staff of 30-100)
- April 21, 9:30-10:30 am (focus is on organizations with staff of over 100)
- April 22, 4-5 pm (focus is on organizations with less than 30 staff)

All trainings will be held at 130 East 59th

Appendices, and the Fiscal Manual, comprise the package that becomes a not-for-profit's agreement to do business with the City.

- On February 16, we submitted to the City a red-lined version of Appendix A, which consolidated the hundreds of pages of comments we received from members. We held preliminary conversations with the Mayor's Office of Contract Services on our proposed changes and look forward to continuing this dialogue.
- On March 22, the Contract
 Reform Committee held a joint
 meeting with the HSC Board; the
 discussion at this meeting and
 comments submitted by
 members form the basis for the
 red-lined version of the contract
 template we are submitting to
 the City this month.

HSC continues to lead the effort of a 60+ member workgroup through the negotiation process, ensuring the Contract contains mutually agreeable terms and conditions. Members who are interested in participating in discussions should contact <u>Sandi Singer</u>, HSC's contracts consultant.

Save the Date!

HSC Board Meeting with City Comptroller John C. Liu

Date: Monday, May 3, 2010

Time: 9 - 10 am

Location: 1 Centre Street (Municipal Building) **HSC Board Members only -** RSVP to <u>Cecelia</u>

Burchett, 212.836-1230.

HSC Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 12 Time: 8:30 - 10:30 am

Location: 130 E. 59th Street, Room 654 **HSC EC Members only** - RSVP to Cecelia

Burchett, 212.836-1230.

HSC Board Meeting

Street. Please contact Michelle Jackson to register.

HSC, United Way of NYC, and WHEDCo (Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation) are co-hosting a board training in the Bronx for not-forprofits who are seeking new board members. This meeting is open to all notfor-profits who have applied to the BoardServeNYC program. The United Way of NYC (UWNYC) launched the BoardServeNYC initiative last Fall, which is a free service that connects individuals looking to volunteer their governance skills with organizations seeking board members. There are monthly trainings at the UWNYC offices or other boroughs, but this is the first Bronx session:

Tuesday, June 8 9 am - 12 pm

1330 Intervale Avenue, Bronx
The training will be held at WHEDCo's
Intervale Green Community Room. You
must apply and be accepted as a nonprofit
seeking board members in order to attend
the training session. To apply, click here.
You can also see the UNIVE website for
more details on the program.

The **NonProfit Help Desk** is offering several certificate course sequences for free in 2010. To learn more about course offerings on a variety of topics, including Organizational, Technology, or Board Development, Fundraising, Human Resources, and Marketing, please **Circ** here.

HSC is partnering with Mutual of America to provide members with **free workshops on retirement options**. In the current economic climate, concerns about retirement plans are high. In order to help determine retirement education needs, please complete **this short survey** if you are a member, which will take about 10-15 minutes.

The Procurement Training Institute (PTI)
Spring schedule contains courses that may
be of interest to your organization;

Date: Thursday, June 17 (NOTE NEW DATE and

LOCATION)

Time: 8:30 - 10:30 am

Location: 130 E. 59th Street, Room 710 **HSC Board Members only -** RSVP to <u>Cecelia Burchett</u>, 212.836-1230.

HSC Board AntiRacism Training and Discussion

Date: Thursday, June 24 Time: 1:30 - 7:00 pm

Location: 130 E. 59th Street, Room 710 **HSC Board Members only -** RSVP to Ammu

Prashantini, prashantini@naswnyc.org

Did You Know?

HSC held its first Advocacy Action **Response Group** (AARG) meeting on 2/11 - and we were pleased to see over 50 people brave the snow to attend the informative session. HSC shared information on the City and State budgets, HSC's budget principles and testimonies, and the key role of the AARG, HSC held a second meeting on April 14 to discuss the status of the State budget, our City budget priorities and advocacy strategy, and our budget media campaign strategy. In between meetings, HSC was in regular communication with this key advocacy group, mobilizing members to advocate for the sector. Some examples of HSC's work in this period:

- HSC distributed a schedule and encouraged members to testify at New York City Council Preliminary Budget Hearings in March on the human services sector.
- HSC provided a sample letter and contact information to support juvenile justice reforms, which advocate for shifting New York's approach to youth crime from a correctional model to a rehabilitative one.
- HSC, along with several of its member organizations, cosponsored a Rally for Preventive Services on April 12

remember that due to HSC's advocacy, PTI classes are open free to any not-for-profit provider with a City contract.
Some upcoming courses that might be of particular interest to HSC members:

- Practical Approaches to NFP Finances and Internal Controls, May 19
- New IRS Tax Form 990, May 20

Members can see more information about PTI courses and how to enroll by visiting the <u>Trainings and Meetings page</u> in the members' only section of our website.

Time is running out to take advantage of the special **50% discount with the Support Center for Nonprofit Management**, available to HSC members only - this offer ends on June 30, 2010.

Members can link to our

Training and Meetings page for links to the course schedule and information on using the 50% discount.

News from HSC Members

Announcements

President Obama appointed **Bea Hanson**, formerly Chief Program Officer at **Safe Horizon**, to be the U.S. Justice Department's Director of the Office for Victims of Crime. The Office helps fund state programs that assist crime victims. We will miss Bea but look forward to hearing from her in her new role in Washington.

Congratulations to **Carmen Collado**,
Director of Public Policy and Legislative
Affairs and Director of Immigrant Services
and Latino/Hispanic Services at **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services**, on her election as President of
the Association of Hispanic Mental Health
Professionals (AHMHP). You can read more
about Carmen and AHMHP in the New York
Markett Press.

As we wistfully say goodbye to **Verona Middleton-Jeter**, we congratulate and welcome **David Garza** as the new

at City Hall.

The NYC Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) launched the NYC SafeStart Account - a safe and affordable account that aims to make mainstream financial services accessible in all communities. The City found that over 825,000 adult New Yorkers do not have a bank account and may pay fees to cash checks or conduct financial transactions. NYC SafeStart Account is the first of its kind nationwide; it eliminates overdraft and monthly fees. Clients can call 311 to find a branch in their area and organizations can request OFE's participation in workshops for clients or staff. Please share this information widely and see http://nyc.gov/ofe for more information.

If you join HSC now, **you can get the rest of the fiscal year free** (ending June 30, 2010) if you pay your FY 2010-2011 dues in full. Please <u>click here</u> for a membership application and information on how to join. If you have any membership questions, contact <u>Cynthia</u> Tao.

HSC added photos of its events to both its website and to its members-only online portal. Please feel free to check them out! Anyone can view the photos on our new Events page on the website, but only members can log into the online portal to see all the beautiful photos from our events. If you haven't already joined the online portal, members can register by clicking here.

Latest Additions to HSC

Executive Director at **Henry Street Settlement**. We look forward to continuing our work with Henry Street.

Congratulations to Michelle Yanche, who is the new Director of Public Policy at Good Shepherd Services. Her role as Staff Director at Neighborhood Family Services Coalition will be taken by the new Co-Directors Gigi Li and Sierra Stoneman-Bell.

The following members recently received or awarded significant grants. Follow the links to read more in the *New York NonProfit Press*.

- Safe Horizon received \$53,000 towards its <u>Streetwork Project</u>, serving youth throughout New York City.
- Asian American Federation awarded over \$500,000 to community-based organizations in the northeast for census outreach and promotion.

Requests and Opportunities
The Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York (NPCC) is updating its salary survey of nonprofits in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester. Please take five minutes to fill out his survey.
Respondents will receive a copy of survey results. (Note the survey indicates responses are due by April 2, but NPCC extended the deadline through April.)

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) is co-sponsoring a survey for educators and staff about bullying in public schools. If you are a teacher or staff member at a K-12 public school in New York City, please take five minutes to fil out this arrea; your responses are confidential and will be used to help community organizations and advocates ensure that NYC schools are safe and welcoming for all students. Please spread the word and this link to the survey, which is open through mid-May. For more information or to get paper copies

Please help us welcome Alexandri a (Zan, right in photo) Margolis and Elizabeth



(Liz) Siegel, our newest interns. We are thrilled to have them join the HSC team. Both Zan and Liz are working to support HSC's public policy and advocacy efforts. You can also read their bios on HSC's staff webpage.

Please also welcome our newest members:

- Graham Windham
- Harlem RBI
- Public Allies

As always, we appreciate the work of our members to help the sector and their clients. Please click on the links above to visit their websites and find out more about the important work they are doing.

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

Booth Ferris Foundation*

Mutual of America

New York City Council

New York Community Trust

Taproot Foundation

of the survey, contact <u>Frica Fraudy</u>, 212.607-3361, or <u>Surmy Stroh</u>, 212.655-3095 x86.

Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP) and VISIONS are running a survey to help develop training programs for staff working with seniors who suffer with vision loss. If appropriate, please fill out this survey and share it with your staff/members. The survey is open until May 15; responses will be used to develop training modules.

Queensboro Council for Social Welfare (QCSW) seeks to share a Queens Village ground floor office suite. Two private offices available with shared conference room and reception area. Support services may be included. Ample parking, close to LIRR and buses. Alternatively, QCSW would consider sharing space or assuming a lease with a similar amount of space. Contact Loan Service Laurer, 718.468-8025, for more information.

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

Editorial Policy: HSC reserves the right to determine suitability for publication and to edit submissions.

UJA-Federation of New York
United Way of New York City

Our Members

Thank you again for your support!

If you'd like to contribute to HSC, you can send a tax-deductible donation to:

Human Services Council 130 East 59th Street

New York, NY 10022

* A special thanks to the Booth Ferris Foundation, whose generous support enables us to publish this Newsletter.

We hope you enjoyed reading this quarter's edition of the Human Services Council Newsletter. Please feel free to share your thoughts about this newsletter with us. We'd love to hear from you.

Our collective voice gets louder as we add more members. Please see our website, www.humanservicescouncil.org, to learn more about HSC's mission and work. You can also visit our website for an HSC application form, HSC video, and information about the benefits of joining HSC. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Tao, Director of Communications, Membership, and Development, at 212.836-1623.

HSC's mission is to build broad recognition and support for the substantial and essential contributions of the not-for-profit human services sector to the citizens and the fabric of New York City.

The Voice of the Human Services Community

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