

Please Endorse Our Citywide Budget Coalition Today!

ONE NEW YORK: FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS

Statement of Principles

- **One New York: Fighting for Fairness** We come together as One New York: Fighting for Fairness, a broad-based coalition of New Yorkers demanding that our communities are prioritized and protected in this time of economic difficulty. Our elected leaders have embraced the needs of Wall Street, together we must ensure that the talk about taking care of Main Street is more than lip service. If we can prioritize a bail out for New York's financial industry, surely we can prioritize protecting the greatest needs of New York's communities. Now, more than ever, government must protect New Yorkers by not cutting AIDS services, child care, child welfare, education, health care, homeless housing, housing, immigrant services, income support, legal services, senior services, youth services and other vital areas.
- **City and State Government Must Not Balance Their Budgets on the Backs of the Neediest** At this time of economic difficulty, it is essential that government recognizes that the neediest among us will feel the pain of economic downturn the most sharply. No matter what we must protect our community safety net and make no budget cuts to services for those with the greatest needs. Budget reductions must not produce across the board cuts to all programs and services. Such a blunt approach does not reflect our values as New Yorkers and will produce serious harm by cutting programs that are essential to our safety net.
- **We Cannot Cut Our Way Out of this Economic Downturn: City and State Must Fairly Address Our Revenue Needs.** While many of our elected officials are talking about shared sacrifice, we are calling on them to also call for shared commitment. New York City and New York State must address the serious and immediate need for additional revenues. We must ask those New Yorkers who have the greatest incomes to contribute more. It is a matter of fairness to our taxpayers, urgency for our communities and necessity for effective functioning of government services.
- **Budget Cuts Will Hurt the Economy; Investing in Our Communities will Help.** As Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz pointed out in a letter to New York State leaders earlier this year, "It is economically preferable to raise taxes on those with high income than to cut state expenditures." Stiglitz points out that, "Budget cuts reduce the level of total spending." Budget cuts will be a drag on an already hurting economy. Investing in our community needs will provide economic stimulus to our economy.
- **We Need Critical Investments to Protect Against the Worst Outcomes of a Bad Economy** Not only is it necessary to reject budget cuts to the safety net, it may be necessary to increase investment in certain critical components of our community safety net. Investing money upfront in services that protect people from the worst consequences of the economic downturn can be prudent and cost effective as it can prevent much costlier emergency expenditures that government would be obligated to meet. For instance, as but one example, a small increase in eviction prevention or home heating assistance at a time of job losses could prevent terrible consequences and more costly emergency services.

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In these difficult fiscal times, we must stand together as One New York and fight for fairness in the City and State budgets. Government must invest in our communities as a way to protect the neediest New Yorkers and to stimulate our economy and government must make the fiscally prudent and fair choices necessary to raise the revenues our City and State need by asking those New Yorkers who have the most to contribute their fair share. **Please join this coalition today! Your voice is urgently needed. Sign on below to add your organization's name to this coalition and to sign on to the attached letter. Email to smarksodinga@aqeny.org or FAX it to Shana Marks Odinga at 718-246-7939. For information call Shana Marks Odinga at 718-222-1089 x276.**

One New York: Fighting for Fairness Steering Committee

- Steve Banks, Attorney-in-Chief, The Legal Aid Society
- Pam Bennett, Director, Citizen Action of NYC
- Mary Brosnahan, Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless
- Dan Cantor, Executive Director, Working Families Party
- Chung Wha Hong, Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition
- Bertha Lewis, Executive Director, NY ACORN
- Jennifer March-Joly, Executive Director, Citizens Committee for Children of New York
- Geri Palast, Glynda Carr and Billy Easton on behalf of Keep the Promises Coalition
- Andrew Scherer, Executive Director, Legal Services NYC
- Michael Stoller, Executive Director of the Human Services Council
- Nancy Wackstein, Executive Director, United Neighborhood Houses
- Randi Weingarten, President, United Federation of Teachers and American Federation of Teachers

Please Add My Organization to the List of Coalition Endorsers (Print Clearly)

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Name of Authorized Officer or Rep _____

Please Notify us of Any Additional Contacts Names, Numbers & Emails for Communications with Your Organization.

All Endorsers will be listed in coalition materials, will receive advance notification of all materials and activities and will be included in planning and implementation of coalition activities.