

City Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Priorities for Aging

DFTA needs stable funding to support the current service infrastructure for the City's growing older adult population. The FY 2010 budget cuts to DFTA severely undermine providers' ability to deliver quality services to our City's growing aging population. We ask that the Administration and the City Council work together to restore funding for FY 2010.

FUNDING FOR CORE SUPPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE OF SENIOR CENTERS

Provide \$8 million to prevent cuts to Senior Centers

Approximately 80 senior centers lost significant portions of their budgets (1 – 48%), after funding for home delivered meals were removed from their contracts (under the HDML restructuring efforts). Previously, the blended budget model paid for critical overhead and staff expenditures for both congregate and home delivered meals. As a result, many senior centers will face significant, destabilizing budget cuts.

Borough President Discretionary: Restore \$7.63 million

Borough Presidents' discretionary funding will be eliminated for local aging services. The loss of this funding will force the closure of senior centers, adult day centers and transportation programs throughout the City.

Senior Centers: Restore \$5.27 million

This cut will eliminate the weekend meal program providing over 328,000 meals per year and reduce all senior center budgets by 5%. In addition, the re-budgeting efforts made after the implementation of new home delivered meal contracts has destabilized the funding of many senior centers. This is the wrong time to eliminate programs that provide food to older adults.

Raw Food Costs: Restore \$4.5 million

This allocation allows for an increase in raw food and infrastructure costs for DFTA's congregate and home delivered meals programs.

Transportation Operating Costs: Restore \$3 million

Funding covers the operating costs (insurance, fuel and maintenance) of existing vans and other vehicles used by senior centers and other senior programs.

Space/ Equipment Costs: Restore \$1.95 million

This allocation funds space and facility needs at senior centers throughout the city.

AGING SERVICES

Geriatric Mental Health: Restore \$2.4 million

This initiative strengthens the infrastructure and enhances capacity of 23 "non-traditional" existing mental health services for older adults, including those delivered in the home, senior centers and homeless shelters, among other locations.

Note: This funding is through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

NORC Supportive Service Program: Restore \$1,000,000

This allocation supports 10 Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) that did not receive funding through DFTA's RFP process. These programs allow older adults to stay in their own home and in their community, while promoting healthy aging, independence, and community-building through social services, medical services, educational and recreational activities, and volunteer opportunities.

AGING SERVICES - continued

City Council Discretionary: Restore \$5,546,250

This allocation provides \$108,750 for each Councilmember to support critical services for older adults in their communities.

Information & Referral (Extended Services) : Restore \$1.5 million

This \$1.5 million allocation funds 8 community-based programs to provide information in the client's respective languages about programs, services, benefits, entitlements and other resources for older adults, such as preventing seniors with dementia from being evicted from their homes, or finding new homes for homeless elderly. These programs have annually provide nearly 400,000 hours of case management services, helping older adults and their families in crisis.

Social Adult Day Services: Restore \$2.36 million

These funds supported congregate programs for cognitively and/or physically impaired older adults by maintaining the client's functioning and supporting the family's caregiving role.

Note: This funding stream was eliminated in the FY 2009 budget modification.

Elder Abuse Prevention: Restore \$850,000

This allocation provides counseling, legal representation, and training of other professionals who support older adults experiencing or at risk for elder abuse. This funding was restored for the remainder of FY'09 in the budget modification, and is eliminated in the FY 2010 Executive budget.

Home Delivered Meals: Restore \$561,000

This program allows frail and homebound older persons to remain living in their own homes, by providing and delivering nutritious meals. As DFTA is in the process of consolidating 97 Home Delivered Meals contracts to 20 contracts citywide, we must ensure a stable system for these vulnerable clients.

Healthy Aging Initiative: Restore \$1.35 million

These funds support 51 programs in senior centers that address the health and wellness needs of older adults by providing exercise classes, health screenings, nutrition education and chronic disease management.

CONTACTS

Cara Berkowitz, UJA Federation of New York: (212) 836-1156 or berkowitzc@ujafedny.org

Kathleen Fitzgibbons, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies: (212) 801-1341 or kfitzgibbons@fpwa.org

Crissy Liu, United Neighborhood Houses: (212) 967-0322 x325 or cliu@unhny.org

Bobbie Sackman, Council of Senior Centers and Services: (212) 398-6565 x226 or bsackman@cscs-ny.org

Chris Winward, Human Services Council: (212) 836-1644 or winwardc@humanservicescouncil.org