



The Voice of the Human Services Community

## **FY11 STATE BUDGET PRINCIPLES**

- 1) Make targeted reductions rather than across-the-board cuts.** When cuts in public funding are unavoidable, they should be done in a targeted manner that prioritizes appropriations to programs serving the most vulnerable and does not take away already scarce resources from not-for-profits that provide high quality services, particularly in neighborhoods with the highest need. Across-the-board cuts to service programs weaken entire service systems, making all programs less effective.
- 2) Preserve the quality of remaining service programs.** The workloads, performance requirements, and outcome expectations for programs must be reduced in proportion to reductions in funding. Regulatory relief must also be provided, even if on a temporary basis, as providers and government struggle to make ends meet.
- 3) When proposing reductions, be mindful of the impact of the loss of related funding, especially federal funding that will also be lost if State funds are reduced.**
- 4) Revenue generating proposals must also be pursued.** The budget should not be balanced through cuts alone.
- 5) Smaller providers and those serving high risk/high needs communities must be protected as program cuts always disproportionately impact the poorest, especially communities of color.**
- 6) Maintain investments in preventive services.** Community-based preventive services are a smart investment of public dollars as they prevent more costly interventions today and in the future.
- 7) The not-for-profit human services sector and government are partners in service delivery and should not compete with one another for staff or reimbursement.** Most notably, this includes the provision of regular COLAs to the human services workforce when government employees receive them, as well as equal treatment in any reductions to COLAs. Additionally, not-for-profits should be provided with the same rates of reimbursement for services as their government and private counterparts, such as Article 31 clinic rates.
- 8) State agencies should consult with human service sector representatives prior to formalizing budget proposals, as well as after budget cuts are made, to ensure that the implementation of reductions does the least harm to client services.**