

BUDGET PRIORITIES

Fund human services to build strong communities.



Strong Nonprofits for a Better New York is a Statewide Coalition of more than 350 nonprofit human services providers, calling for the State to honor State contracts and to recognize human services workers as essential workers.

Strong Nonprofits for a Better New York urges the State to utilize a portion of any federal aid received to fund emergency pay for New York State's essential workers. Given the state's anticipated revenue shortfall of over \$30 billion for FY2021 and FY2022, Strong Nonprofits further urges the governor and legislature to raise revenue for key investments by enacting sensible revenue raising policies.

Honor State Contracts

The State must honor contracts and pay for services already delivered to New York State residents and communities. New York should pay all nonprofit contracts immediately, register late contracts, and put a halt to the 5 percent withholding on state contracts. Since June, the State has withheld 20% of contract payments while asking providers to do 100% of the work, putting vital organizations in financial peril. While we are happy to see that end, continuing to "withhold" 5% of contracts continues to put organizations at risk. If the State refuses [or does not] honor its contracts, then residents who need critical health, mental health, domestic violence, housing, nutrition, and early childhood education services – just to name a few - will lose access to critical lifelines of support and suffer deeper economic and social harm.

Recognize Human Services Workers as Essential Workers!

The need for human services increased exponentially during the pandemic as residents from across New York State struggled with economic uncertainty caused by revenue shortfalls at the state and local levels, widespread layoffs, as well as social isolation due to mandatory shutdowns. Workers in the human services sector immediately stepped up, rapidly adapting and transitioning service delivery models to meet the needs of residents and communities. It is past time for the State to recognize human services workers as essential workers and allow them to receive emergency pay for their crucial work in combatting COVID-19 in their communities.

Raise Revenue Responsibly – Invest in Our New York!

New York faces a deficit of ~\$60B over the next four years. Unfortunately, the State has responded with austerity, cutting essential services and failing to provide relief during our economic crisis. Governor Cuomo must enact a tax policy that is equitable and start investing in our New York. The State must prevent cuts and allocate more funding to human services organizations that provide essential services to New Yorkers. A package of six bills – Progressive Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax, Heirs' Tax, Billionaires' Tax, Corporate Tax, and Wall Street Tax - will raise \$50 billion to invest in the human services sector, our workers, and communities. New Yorkers across the State are joining together to call on Governor Andrew Cuomo and our State Representatives to pass the Invest In Our New York Act now!