



Analysis on the Governor’s 2010 – 2011 Budget and Cuts to HIV/AIDS

The Governor’s budget proposes to cut Syringe Exchange and AIDS prevention services by 30% in the Department of Public Health’s budget. The cuts to AIDS Services places us at the 1997 funding level; and the cuts to SEP fall below funding levels prior to 1995. During that same time period, **the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the state has doubled.** We have publicly stated that we were willing to share the burden of the state’s budget crisis, but not to have to do so disproportionately. A 30% cut is far too deep for us to be able to sustain the tremendous HIV prevention work offered across the state.

An analysis of those cuts is below. There are other cuts, particularly in the area of health care (e.g. Medicaid, SAGA) and changes to programs that cover the cost of mental health and other medications that will also impact people living with HIV/AIDS. We will send out the details of those cuts once their impact is analyzed.

Department of Public Health

	Appropriated SFY 2009 – 10	Proposed SFY 2010 – 2011	+/-	%
AIDS Services	\$ 4,952,598	\$ 3,466,819	(\$1 485 779)	30%
Syringe Exchange	\$ 455,072	\$ 318,550	(\$136,522)	30%

Department of Social Services

CADAP	\$ 606,678	\$ 606,678	-	-
Housing/Homeless	\$47,306,657	\$44,894,782	(\$2,411,875)	5%

(This includes AIDS housing. We believe that this cut operationalizes the cuts made last year)

Delay implementation of the HIV/AIDS Waiver

This home and community-based services waiver that would provide services beyond what Medicaid offers (e.g. case management, homemaker, personal care assistance, adult day health and respite) for up to 100 PLWHA.

Action Steps

- 1. Attend the public hearings on the budget!** DSS is tentatively scheduled for the evening of February 11th and DPH for the evening of February 18th. We will need good turnout of PLWHA and providers. All should wear their AIDS Awareness T-shirts so that we stand together as a unified effort.
- 2. Reply to AIDS LIFE Campaign e-mail request for information on the impact of the proposed cuts!** Under a separate email, Shawn will be requesting information from you as to what impact these cuts will have on your programs (e.g. staff and services lost, number of clients who will no longer be able to access those services, etc.)—**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO RESPOND TO THAT REQUEST.** We will need to quantify what these cuts will mean in very concrete terms.
- 3. Contact your legislators to let them know how these cuts will impact you.** For example, if you have an SEP, what would a 30% cut look like in your agency? Find your legislator at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/CGAFindLeg.asp>

This is only the beginning of the budget process. We will need to respond quickly and strongly as things happen, and will need maximum participation from all of you, your boards, consumers and colleagues. As always, thanks for all you do. Contact Shawn at 860.761.6699 or Leif at 203.258.3718 should you have questions.

Peace,
Shawn & Leif