



# Coalition Briefs

## FLASH

**BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK**

## **Legislature Fails to Restore Funding to Aid to Locality Cut: NYC to Face Cuts of \$3.3 Million in State Funding**

The Coalition has just learned that in all likelihood the Governor's cut of \$7.7 million to the community mental health sector (including \$3.3 million to NYC) will stand. The Senate today passed a one-house budget reform bill that did not include any provisions for funding restorations, and the Assembly is unlikely to meet again before the end of the year. It is a disappointing way to end the year, to say the least.

To recap, the Governor proposed the cut of \$7.7 million in his State Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Executive Budget. The legislature restored nearly \$4.4 million in their budget response. In August, the Governor vetoed over \$200 million in legislative restorations, including the \$4.4 million in Aid to Locality funding.

Of the \$3.3 million cut to NYC, just over \$3.1 million in cuts will be identified by the City's Division of Mental Hygiene. Over the next several days, the Coalition will reach out to the leadership at DMH to try and discern how the cuts will be taken. As soon as we learn any information at all, we will notify you immediately. The remaining \$186K in cuts will be taken from NYC agencies that contract directly with SOMH. Some of our members have already received those notices from SOMH.

In spite of this bad news, we thank our members for the phone calls, the letters, the legislative visits, and the overall commitment to fighting for the restoration of this funding. Your efforts will reinforce our advocacy in 2005.●