

Please Endorse Our Citywide Budget Coalition Today!

ONE NEW YORK: FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS

Statement of Principles

- **One New York: Fighting for Fairness** We come together as One New York: Fighting for Fairness, a broad-based coalition of New Yorkers demanding that our communities are prioritized and protected in this time of economic difficulty. Our elected leaders have embraced the needs of Wall Street, together we must ensure that the talk about taking care of Main Street is more than lip service. If we can prioritize a bail out for New York's financial industry, surely we can prioritize protecting the greatest needs of New York's communities. Now, more than ever, government must protect New Yorkers by not cutting AIDS services, child care, child welfare, education, health care, higher education, homeless housing, housing, immigrant services, income support, legal services, people with disabilities, senior services, youth services and other vital areas.
- **City and State Government Must Not Balance Their Budgets on the Backs of the Neediest** At this time of economic difficulty, it is essential that government recognizes that the neediest among us will feel the pain of economic downturn the most sharply. No matter what we must protect our community safety net and make no budget cuts to services for those with the greatest needs. Budget reductions must not produce across the board cuts to all programs and services. Such a blunt approach does not reflect our values as New Yorkers and will produce serious harm by cutting programs that are essential to our safety net. It will also be necessary to increase investment in certain critical components of our community safety to protect people from the worst consequences of the economic downturn; such investments are prudent and cost effective as they will prevent much costlier emergency expenditures.
- **We Cannot Cut Our Way Out of this Economic Downturn: City and State Must Fairly Address Our Revenue Needs.** While many of our elected officials are talking about shared sacrifice, we are calling on them to also call for shared commitment. New York City and New York State must address the serious and immediate need for additional revenues. We must ask government to deliver fair and equitable tax policies and revenue sources that call on all New Yorkers to contribute fairly. It is a matter of fairness to our taxpayers, urgency for our communities and necessity for effective functioning of government services. **Budget Cuts Will Hurt the Economy; Investing in Our Communities Will Help.** As Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz pointed out in a letter to New York State leaders earlier this year, "It is economically preferable to raise taxes on those with high income than to cut state expenditures." Stiglitz points out that, "Budget cuts reduce the level of total spending." Budget cuts will be a drag on an already hurting economy. Investing in our community needs will provide economic stimulus to our economy.