

Urging The New York State Assembly And The New York State Senate To Reject Any Cuts, In Any Form, To The Flexible Fund For Family Services (FFFS)

The Health and Human Services Committee (Chairman Frey and Legislators Harris, Petit, Ronk, Briggs and Stoeckeler) and Co-Sponsors: The Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Belfiglio, Fabiano, Petit, Ronk, Richard Parete and Rodriguez) offer the following:

WHEREAS, difficult fiscal times require hard choices, and this includes not taking away funding for core services to fund additional or supplemental services, no matter how loud the advocacy, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature opposes the proposed cost shift in social services funding in legislative negotiations on the 2010-11 State Budget. NYSAC has learned that despite the Executive Budget proposal to maintain Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds at last year's levels, both houses of the State Legislature are instead, insisting on a \$100 million cut to the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS). If enacted, this represents a cost shift to counties and county property taxpayers. Counties will still have to provide the State mandated services under the FFFS, but the Legislative proposals would have counties do so with \$100 million less, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly and Senate proposals achieve the \$100 million cut to the FFFS in different ways, but the effect is the same. One is a straight cut and the other attempts to backfill a cut with Federal Stimulus funding, which will run out at the end of this year and poses problematic implementation issues, and

WHEREAS, currently, 97% of the FFFS is used for State mandated social services programs—and, as estimated by the Governor, Assembly and Senate—only 3% of the FFFS is “flexible” or subject to county discretion. Counties use the 3% of discretionary funds to fill gaps in providing employment programs and other social services supports, like child care, that assist TANF-eligible families in gaining self-sufficiency. The other 97% is only flexible if our caseloads for a particular program are reduced; in which case we can funnel those funds to other programs in the block grant, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature strongly advocates that there can be no cut to the FFFS, as this is the funding for the State's most vulnerable population. In the current economic climate, it is a gross misalignment of priorities to reduce TANF funding for State mandated social services programs within the FFFS, in order to pay for the Legislature's additional TANF programs. These additional

Resolution No. 171 June 15, 2010

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programs are more accurately defined as “supplemental services”, as opposed to core services provided by the counties under FFFS, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature further urges the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate to reject any cuts, in any form, to the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS), and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Belfiglio and Roberts)
(Legislator Richard A. Parete left at 8:52 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0619

STATE OF NEW YORK
ss:
COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 15th day of June, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 17th Day of June in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature