



**"PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE HEART OF
NEW YORK CITY!"**

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET COALITION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TALKING POINTS- FISCAL YEAR 2014

The People's Budget Coalition for Public Health is an alliance of 15+ community and labor organizations united around preserving our city's public health programs and services. We work together to put the message that city funding for health services is critical and must be at the top of the priority list for the Mayor and for all of our City Council members. The Mayor delivered his Fiscal Year 2014 Preliminary Executive Budget and eliminated funding for important public health services again: new cuts and council restoration funds. While federal health reform, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), will improve access for many New Yorkers, it is important to keep in mind that many parts of the ACA have not been implemented yet. Please help us stop this whittling away of New York City's safety net for our most vulnerable communities- We need all the help to get these issues prioritized and funding restored!

exams, and immunizations.

3 NEW FY' 2014 PEGS +1

DISCONTINUED CITY SUBSIDY TO 4 SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS- \$775,000

This cut will discontinue city subsidy, and consequently, matching state subsidy, to four School- Based Health Centers, one in each borough except Staten Island. The SBHCs are at Franklin K Lane Campus, Theodore Roosevelt Campus, Percy Ellis Sutton Educational Complex and George Wingate Campus and serve over 6.500 children.

SBHCs are a student's medical home during the school day. Many children and families rely on SBHCs as their only source for counseling, health screening, dental care, reproductive care, physical

DOHMH FUNDING FOR SCHOOL HEALTH VISION SCREENING FOR KINDERGARTENERS AND FIRST GRADERS- \$2.8 MILLION

This cut eliminates DOHMH funding for vision screening for kindergartners and 1st graders. About 200,000 students benefit from these screenings each year.

This vital preventative service is a shared responsibility between the DOHMH and the Department of Education. It ensures that children with serious vision problems receive the evaluation, early intervention, referral



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and follow-up intervention for students who fail these screenings.

We are extremely concerned about DOHMH backing out of their responsibility in school-based preventative children's health and whether DOE will be able to absorb the additional workload. In addition, we can't see the DOE absorbing the 200,000 screenings while the same budget also calls for reduction of DOE-Bureau of School Health Staff to a total cut of \$6.7 million.

**LAYOFFS TO ONE OF TWO
IMMUNIZATION TEAMS AND 3 EAST
HARLEM ASTHMA CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE OUTREACH STAFF-
\$700,000**

The East Harlem Asthma Center of Excellence has been providing services to families since 2008. They have trained over 1,000 children and families and 150 school staff members, day care centers and community organizations on how to manage asthma. They also provided case management services to over 500 children and families, with 49% of families reporting a reduction in ED visits and 33% reduction in hospitalizations after one year. While asthma hospitalization rates for children and adults have decreased in the past decade, *rates in East Harlem are still higher than in Manhattan and NYC overall.* Therefore it is crucial to continue steady funding and support for this

program and community.

**INFANT MORTALITY REDUCTION
INITIATIVE- \$3 MILLION**

This initiative targets community districts with high infant mortality rates, preterm birth and low birth weights and works to improve birth outcomes and reduce the severe racial/ethnic disparities. The Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative has been funded by City Council every year, yet the Mayor persists in not baselining these dollars. Despite the persistent need, funding has dropped drastically over the past four years. Now the Initiative's participating agencies propose to redesign and transition the program into the nationally-recommended model of preconception health education, counseling, and care, that emphasizes what women should do before pregnancy to improve their baby's birth outcomes and their own health. In order to reach more women in the preconception and interconception period, we are asking City Council to restore IMRI to the FY 2011 level of \$3 million.

**COUNCIL RESTORATIONS
CHILD HEALTH CLINICS- \$5
MILLION**

Child Health Clinics have been providing primary care and immunizations for all children for over a century. There were 48 Child Health Clinics in 1988. Today,



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there are only 19, as 5 were closed in FY 2012 (3 in Brooklyn) because of the cuts to HHC's budget! We cannot afford to let this vital resource be ended entirely as a source of local primary care for children, including children with asthma.

HHC UNRESTRICTED OPERATING SUBSIDY- \$6 MILLION

HHC is the healthcare lifeline and safety-net for 1.4 million New Yorkers and serves nearly half a million uninsured patients. HHC already has a budget deficit of \$1.2 billion and has had to close 5 Child Health Clinics, dental clinics, lay-off workers, and privatize and contract-out their services. Our public hospital system cannot afford to take any more cuts and needs City Council support especially since it is NYC's premier hospital provider for uninsured and Medicaid patients.

CHILDREN UNDER 5 MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE- \$1.25 MILLION

This initiative funds 8 community-based outpatient mental health clinics to provide mental health treatment for children, age 5 or under. These programs offer consultation, treatment, training and supervision for children, their families, pediatricians, preschool teachers and child welfare workers. Past cuts to this initiative have already closed programs in previous years.

More than 47,000 children under 5 in NYC have a mental health disorder and

about 60,000 children 5-17 have a mental health disorder. It is important and cost-effective to address mental health needs early because it prevents more serious and costly interventions later, such as special education and psychiatric hospitalizations. Studies show that the earlier a child's mental health needs are met, the better a child does socially, academically and ultimately, as an adult.

MENTAL HYGIENE CONTRACTED SERVICES PEG- CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY- \$525,000 MENTAL HYGIENE CONTRACTED SERVICES PEG- DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CLINICS- \$806,000

Mental health programs at all ages help avoid the "hidden" costs associated with untreated mental health such as increased family disruption, school truancy, increased crime, abuse, neglect and violence. A portion of these HHC monies fund 3 developmental disability clinics. HHC needs these resources to continue providing mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services for the most vulnerable individuals and their families.

STD CLINIC SERVICES AND TREATMENT IN HIGH SCHOOLS REDUCTION- \$297,000

The Department of Health proposed discontinuing the STD education and testing program in city high schools.



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The Commissioner said those students could go to city STD clinics or school-based health centers. However, most of the schools with the STD program don't have full health centers and last year, a couple of School Based Health Centers were closed.

diagnosing 12,200 as HIV positive. Of those positively diagnoses, more than 90% have been linked to life-saving HIV medical care and treatment at HHC within 90 days.

HHC currently serves about 19,000 HIV/AIDS patients- about 20% of NYC's HIV/AIDS population in New York City.

HIV/AIDS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING- \$5.086 MILLION

Funding for HASA-contracted supportive housing programs has been restored by City Council each year since 2009. If City Council does not restore funding again in this budget cycle, the cuts will take effect beginning on July 1st.

This PEG would impact permanent congregate and Scatter Site programs contracted by HASA. There were 4,535 HASA-contracted supportive housing units, including NY/NY III, as of December 2012.

FOOD AND NUTRITION (PROJECT MOMENTUM)- \$995,000

Mayor Bloomberg has repeatedly tried to shut down Project Momentum's food and nutrition programs. This funding supports their efforts to provide over 40,000 hot meals per year to homeless and extremely low-income people living with HIV, along with approximately 29,000 pantry bags that provide an additional 353,000 meals. City Council has made one-year restorations for the program, now administered by the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), during the past two years.

HHC RAPID HIV TESTING- \$2 MILLION

Since 2005, HHC facilities have tested over 1.2 million patients for HIV,

PBC Organization Members

Arab-American Family Support Center, Brooklyn Perinatal Network, The Bronx Health Link, The Children's Defense Fund- New York, Citizen's Committee for Children, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Commission on the Public's Health System, District Council 37, Doctor's Council SEIU, Federation of County Networks, Inc, Fort Greene SNAP, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Housing Works, Manhattan Borough President's Disability Task Force, New York Immigration Coalition, New York State Nurses Association, Spanish Speaking Elderly Council- RAICES, Village Care