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GPUAC News

Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition • 1207 Chestnut St. • Philadelphia, PA 19107 • www.gpuac.org

PA BUDGET FY 2011 ADVOCACY ACTION STEPS

GPUAC Budget Watch

October 16, 2009

This is the last daily issue of GPUAC Budget Watch. We will continue to watch the PA budget process and keep you informed on a periodic basis to provide information and analysis as we prepare for the 2011 state budget. Look out for information on upcoming activities and events surrounding this topic. **Thank you for your devoted daily readership over the past months!**

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BUDGET 2011: ADVOCACY ACTION STEPS

Our work for the 2011 budget begins today.

GPUAC is working with state-wide partners to propose legislative solutions that can protect the nonprofit sector from some of the threats we experienced this year.

At the same time, **we encourage individuals and nonprofits throughout the state to stay focused on next year's budget process** and engage with their elected officials - early and often - to ensure that Pennsylvania's FY 2011 budget reflects the need of organizations and the people we serve.

Yesterday's Budget Watch provided a timeline for the state budget process. Today we provide recommendations on how to advocate for programs and funding at key junctures throughout the year. Only through continued pressure on our legislature will we ensure that a 101-day impasse and cuts to vital services do not happen again. **We can no longer allow nonprofits to be the collateral damage of budget negotiations.**

October and November: Each state department prepares a budget request for its needs. This includes funding to expand or implement new programs, commonly referred to as Program Revision Requests (PRRs).

Action: Contact appropriate department leaders (secretary, deputy secretary and bureau director) to push for funding support for essential organizations/programs in the governor's budget.

December and January:

Once the department heads submit their requests to the governor, the governor works with his senior staff to prepare his final budget.

Action: Continue contacting appropriate department leaders (secretary, deputy secretary and bureau director) to push for funding support for essential organizations/programs in the governor's budget.

February:

The governor submits his budget to the General Assembly on the first Tuesday in February.

Action: If funding is not included to support organizations/programs or funding levels are lower than requested, write to the governor and department heads expressing concern. Also contact state House and Senate members - especially your state representatives - asking for support or more funding in the final budget.

Action: If funding is included in the governor's budget to support programs, write to the governor and department heads to thank them for their support and contact state House and Senate members to encourage them to support the work at the level of funding proposed by the governor.

March: Each department head testifies before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on their portion of the governor's proposed budget.

Action: Contact members of the Appropriations Committees, especially your representatives, to ask for funding support of your organizations/programs during the hearings.

April through June: Legislation is introduced and considered by the House and Senate to enact a fiscal year budget.

Action: Contact key members of the House and Senate (district legislators and legislators on the Committees who would have jurisdiction over the programs as well as members of the Appropriations Committee) and ask them for funding support for organizations/programs.

June: The budget bill is signed into law by the governor. By law, the governor is required to sign the bill by June 30.

Action: If funding for your program is not included or is lower than was requested, begin preparing efforts for the following fiscal year.

Action: If the level of funding for your program is what was requested, write to the governor and the key members of the General Assembly thanking them for supporting the program.