



NYS RURAL HEALTH NETWORK FACES CRIPPLING BUDGET CUTS

January, 2018

The Governor’s Budget Harms Rural Health (*Public Health and Aging Programs, Page 73 of the briefing book*)

The Governor’s budget which proposes to consolidate health care resources to achieve savings is contrary to the State’s goals of improving population health, driving down utilization of expensive curative care and advancing the state’s Prevention Agenda. ***Together, added to the cuts leveled last year, these programs will experience a crippling 37% cut in program funds.*** We already know from last year’s 21 % cut that New York State’s rural communities are being hurt, jobs are being lost and access to programs that drive down health costs to New York is being restricted.

Cuts to Key programs across NYS that Save Money...today and for a generation to come.

- This year’s cumulative 37% cut will affect prevention programming such as
- Disease prevention, to include diabetes, obesity, cancer, and cardio vascular disease
 - Children’s Asthma prevention
 - Maternal and child health,
 - School Health programming
 - Sexually transmitted disease and TB prevention
 - Public health workforce support,
 - The Rural Health Network Development Program,
 - Area Health Education Centers, and
 - Other programs that address emerging public health needs and improve health outcomes.

The Executive Budget inappropriately proposes to consolidate 30 public health appropriations into 4 pools. Funding for the overall bundle is proposed to be cut by ***another 20 percent.*** This cut would have an immediate and direct effect on New York State’s rural communities in the areas of access to healthcare services and the continuation of the Medicaid reform efforts now underway through DSRIP and the Prevention Agenda. ***IF ENACTED, THIS ADDITIONAL 20% BUDGET CUT WILL BE DEVASTATING TO SEVEN VALLEYS HEALTH COALITION.***

Please write AND call your NYS Senator and Assemblyperson, and the Chairs of the NYS Senate and Assembly Health Committees:

Senator James Seward
CORTLAND DISTRICT OFFICE
4030 West Road
Cortland, NY 13045
Phone: (607) 758-9005

Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton
DISTRICT OFFICE
106 East Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607)-277-8030

Assemblyman Gary Finch
DISTRICT OFFICE
69 South Street
Auburn, NY 13021
(315)-255-3045

Senator Kemp Hannon, NYS Senate Health Committee Chair
ALBANY OFFICE
The Capitol – Room 420
Albany, NY 12247
(518)-455-2200

Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly Health Comm. Chair
ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 822
Albany, NY 12248
(518)-455-4941

10 Kennedy Parkway
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 756-4198
sevenvalleyshealth.org

Sample text: I am writing/calling today to urge you and the Health Committees to “unbundle” a number of public health and workforce components of the proposed executive budget that would have a significant negative impact on rural communities across the state. The Governor’s proposed budget adds an ADDITIONAL 20% cut on top of a 21% cut that was levied in the 2017-18 budget, which would result in a total loss of a crippling 37% cut for these programs. We urge your committees to support restoration of funding for these programs to Fiscal Year 2016 levels. It is already clear from last year’s 21 % cut that New York State’s rural communities are being hurt, jobs are being lost and access to programs that drive down health costs to New York is being restricted. Cuts to these programs are short-sited; prevention work drives down costs in the long run. In my own community, I am aware that Seven Valleys Health Coalition, which is part of the Rural Health Network and receives the majority of their operating budget through NYS Rural Health Network funding, provides valuable services and resources to Cortland County. This funding cut puts them at risk for survival.

Sample list of Seven Valleys Health Coalition’s most RECENT contributions to Cortland County (with only a full-time staff of 6) we stand to lose if this cut is enacted:

- *Chronic Disease Prevention:*
 - Coordinated Logistics and Volunteer Services for the Summer, 2016 U.S. Military’s *Innovation Readiness Training, Healthy Cortland Medical Event* at Homer Intermediate/Junior High School which provided medical, dental and veterinary services to community residents over a 10 day period valued at more than \$800,000.
 - Sole provider of the CDC approved *National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP)* in Cortland County
 - Worked with City of Cortland to pass *Complete Streets Policy* in 2017
 - Co-Chairs County’s *Bike/Ped Committee*
 - Working with City of Cortland through DRI process to bring first *Bike Share* to Cortland County
 - *Accessible Aquatics* program at Wickwire Pool
 - *Senior Walking Program at Barry School* (Database of free, indoor walking spots in the County in works)
 - Chair Cortland Food Project, working to create a year-round *Farmers’ Market and Commercial Kitchen*, to be managed by SVHC, as part of the \$6,000,000+ *Homer Ave. Redevelopment Project*
 - Participate in Breastfeeding Partnership, spearheading the “*Breastfeed Your Baby Here*” initiative
 - USDA grant-funded *local foods media campaign* (Cortland County Food Trail Map in production)
- *Transportation*
 - House Cortland County’s *Mobility Management* Coordinator
 - Manage the *Way2Go Cortland* website including updating online and printed bus route maps
 - Assist and advocate for residents with *public transit* and other mobility issues
 - Coordinate *Bike/Walk Week, Summer Challenge, and Car Free Challenge* programs
- *Dental Education:*
 - Provide *Mighty Molar* dental education and dental hygiene kits to County schools and appear in community events such as the Dairy Parade and Homer Winterfest Parade.
 - Chair *Cavity Free Cortland* committee, providing dental education to the community
- *Behavioral Health:*
 - Co-Chair *Cortland Trauma Response* Team, providing team organization and an on-call mobile phone
 - Provide funding and coordination for the Cortland County *Emotionally Disturbed Persons Response Team (EDPRT)* (training and coordination for first responders such as police officers and 911 dispatch)
 - Provide funding and coordination for the *May is Mental Health Month* stigma reduction walk
 - Produce the *Cortland Mental Health Association Newsletter*
- *Community Health:*
 - Provide the *2-1-1 Information and Referral Service* to Cortland County
 - Provide and help fund the *Cortland Counts* Annual Report Card and Annual Forum and Track Break-Outs
 - Responsible for 2017 relocation of *New York State Association of Rural Health* headquarters
 - *Backpacks for Kids in Care* – provide children entering foster care with a backpack of comfort items
 - Helped facilitate the *2017 Housing Confab* and actively participate in *Cortland Housing Consortium*
 - Serve on multiple community boards in committees, helping to drive collaborative efforts including Chairing *United Way for Cortland County Allocations Committee* and charter member of *Cortland Area Communities That Care* with ongoing board involvement