

# Both Parties Sign On to Support Governor Christie's Budget Plan to Close Unprecedented Gap, Protect New Jersey's Most Vulnerable

FY 2011 Budget Closes \$11 Billion Shortfall Without Raising Taxes, In-Step with Governor Christie's Commitment to Restore Fiscal Order and Begin Fundamental Reform

"At the end, a budget's got to get passed. That's why I think it will be very close to what I proposed... There are very limited choices here. We've been very transparent with them. ...So we all know what the scope of the problem is and with a problem of that scope, there are very limited fixes that you can do. We've put what I believe is our best foot forward."

(Kelly Heyboer, "Gov. Chris Christie's budget storm: Excerpts from governor's visit to Star-Ledger editorial board,"The Star-Ledger, 3/18/2010)

Governor Christie has made clear that passing a budget that stays true to the principles he originally outlined is critical to meeting today's fiscal challenges and changing the way state government operates. The Governor has insisted that any budget accept responsibility for our state's future, address our fiscal challenges head on and set New Jersey on a different course:

- Cutting government spending and ending public excesses that the taxpayers can no longer afford;
- Reforming government so that it costs less, but works smarter and faster for New Jerseyans;
- Restoring balance to the obligations the State takes on so that in the future we can provide sustainable funding for priority services.

Today, members of both parties in the Legislature agreed to a budget that not only will help restore New Jersey's fiscal health, but lays the foundation for long term reform, while restoring funding for programs that protect our most vulnerable citizens.

- The final budget closes an \$11 billion shortfall without raising taxes and keeps spending levels and surplus at the same amounts proposed by the Governor;
- This budget is the result of hard and difficult choices, which while not easy, sets New Jersey on the right path to achieve fiscal health by reducing costs and eliminating waste;
- The result is a budget that makes much needed changes now that will ensure New Jersey has a government that delivers necessary services at affordable and sustainable costs;

The final fiscal year 2011 budget fulfilled Governor Christie's commitment to the people of New Jersey to close a nearly \$11 billion budget gap, without any increase in taxes. The budget calls for spending \$29.38 billion, with a surplus of **over \$300 million**, unchanged from the fiscal year 2011 budget proposed by Governor Christie in March and updated in May.

As Governor Christie has maintained, even during an unprecedented fiscal crisis, we must protect those most in need by providing funding for critically needed services.

In the end, Governor Christie and the legislature identified \$74 million in additional cost-savings that will make it possible to restore funding for the following programs:

## Protecting The Most Vulnerable New Jerseyans

- Funding For General Assistance: \$21,995,000
- Supplemental Security Income/Personal Needs Allowance For Community-Based Developmental Disabilities Clients: \$10,282,000
- Personal Assistance Home Care : \$9,669,000
- Education Services For Blind Children: \$20,000
- Adult Medical Day Care: \$2,379,000
- Sheltered Workshops for People with Disabilities: \$3,000,000

- Respite Care: \$800,000
- Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital: \$6,370,000

#### Providing For New Jersey's Students

- NJ After 3 Program: \$3,000,000
- NJ STARS Tuition Scholarships: \$1,000,000
- Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Opportunity Program: \$1,300,000

#### Preserving New Jersey's Cultural and Community Resources

- New Jersey Cultural Trust: \$4,000,000
- Center For Hispanic Policy: \$1,400,000

Additionally, the Governor and Legislature agreed to restore funding for the State Commission of Investigation in the amount \$3,539,000.

Finally, through budget act language, funds will be made available for approved, shovel-ready UEZ projects in our urban centers, as part of New Jersey's economic development plan