



PRESS STATEMENT – FEBRUARY 3, 2010

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Regarding the Governor's Elimination of Vital State Programs

In light of the recently proposed budget by Governor Carcieri, many of the critical and essential needs of the families and individuals including housing, child care and basic human needs will go unmet.

As the largest social service delivery system in Rhode Island, the Community Action Agencies serve all 39 cities and towns. CAP Agencies deliver basic services and essential programs to approximately 200,000 residents of this state annually. Community Action Agencies in RI help keep families and individuals from facing homelessness, foreclosure, provide affordable primary health and behavioral health, help with energy costs, prescription assistance, child care and other basic needs.

The decision by the Governor to eliminate programs such as Neighborhood Opportunities Program (NOP), child care, and other basic safety net services is disheartening since it comes at a time when our state is facing economic uncertainty of historic proportions. These cuts have a compound affect on the most vulnerable population in RI. Many families and individuals rely on some of these programs to enable them to continue to work and maintain their quality of life. Child care is essential. A reduction in this program will cause many to make difficult choices. NOP provides much needed housing in Rhode Island, elimination will cause this program to fall short in providing housing to those who need it the most. We urge the Assembly to look hard at the proposed cuts from the Governor and to reject the elimination of some of the most crucial programs for Rhode Islanders.

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