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June 19, 2009

Dear Friends of Aspire,

You've probably heard talk in the papers or on TV about the State's "Doomsday Budget." This Budget claims that unless a large tax increase is passed, social service agencies will be cut dramatically. Worse, social services are the target of the budget cutting – most other areas of the budget will not sustain cuts.

This week, in fact, we received notice from the State that unless a new Budget is approved, several Aspire grants will be discontinued, which comprise about 4% of our total agency funding. Further, State leaders are threatening additional cuts to agencies of 50% or more.

We believe this may be a political game, but we are not taking it lightly. **Please contact your State Legislators to urge them to find a sensible budget solution that maintains full funding for community agencies like Aspire.** (For help finding your legislator, visit [www.votesmart.org](http://www.votesmart.org).) While the economy remains weak, and we're all doing belt-tightening, there is no reason why a budget should only target social service agencies.

Aspire's leadership continues to be in close contact with State leaders and the media. We are working to help ensure that a fair Budget is enacted that protects people with disabilities.

We will keep you updated on the Budget process here on our website—thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JKales", is written over a light blue circular scribble.

James Kales  
President and Chief Executive Officer