



LEGISLATIVE ALERT: March 9, 2010

Budget

Today, Tuesday March 9, the Legislature will convene the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate to start moving the FY 2010 cuts and FY 2011 budget bills through Special Session.

Shockingly, **this budget proposal permanently repeals LTAF I and II.** The redirecting of this revenue to the State and away from seniors, the disabled, and stranded workers is immediate.

Just weeks from a negotiated deal that protected LTAF funding while providing the State with much needed collateral for loans, we now learn of the latest budget proposal to undo this commitment. Unveiled only hours before committees are scheduled to begin; this budget plan reverses the agreement made as part of Lottery reauthorization to protect lottery beneficiaries.

We must Act now!

Loss of this revenue will be devastating for many Arizona communities. Matching funds for programs to help seniors live independently are being eliminated permanently in this budget and routes that move your citizens to work and school will lose their funding.

Reach out to your community partners who support and operate paratransit and transit programs – let them know this is happening and how to reach out to their elected officials.

Legislators' emails can be found at www.azleg.gov under the House and Senate links.
Governor's Office constituent phone lines are 602-542-4331 or 1-800-253-0883

Without your immediate intervention, funding for paratransit programs could be wiped out by week's end.

Many of you have strong partnerships with the communities who need these services to live independently, to have access to groceries, and to access therapy and care. Reach out to them **today** and share with them the need to contact their legislators and the Governor about these life-sustaining services.