

EMERGENCY Calls and Emails Needed To Support LEAP

Thank you so much for making calls and sending emails to support LEAP.

Background:

LEAP receives almost 25% of our funding from the Connecticut Department of Education (\$465,000 this year). The state has reached a big stalemate on the budget. The compromise budget worked out by the Governor and the Democratic leadership in the legislature funded LEAP but failed to pass. Then a Republican budget which eliminates all funding for LEAP was passed by the state Senate and House. Governor Malloy plans to veto this budget. The most likely next scenario is that a bipartisan compromise budget will be created. **We need your help to be sure that LEAP is in that new budget.**

Impact:

This cut to LEAP's budget means we will serve hundreds fewer low income children and employ many fewer New Haven teenagers. We will close at least one neighborhood site and dramatically cut the number of children who learn to swim or program computers at LEAP.

Talking Points:

It can be helpful to have a couple of facts to share. Here are two about LEAP over the last year:

- LEAP served over 1100 unduplicated New Haven children ages 7 to 15.
- LEAP trained and employed 176 New Haven teenagers and young adults as junior counselors, senior counselors and swim instructors.

If LEAP has impacted you personally you should tell what that impact is and why LEAP matters to you. This could be because you have a child in LEAP, you have been a counselor in LEAP, or you have seen LEAP's good work over the years. Ask that LEAP be **funded in any new budget!**

State Legislature:

New Haven's State Senators and Representatives have been very supportive of LEAP. But it is still important that they hear from you so they continue their advocacy and know that LEAP has broad support. Because the votes are so close, if you live outside New Haven, please call your State Representative and Senator as well.

Message: Give your name and city. Thank the legislators for their support for LEAP. Tell them how much LEAP means to New Haven children and teenagers. Remind them of what a cut to LEAP would mean in terms of programs for low income children and jobs for New Haven teenagers and young adults. Ask them to ensure that LEAP is funded in any new budget!

Important because they represent LEAP neighborhoods (all have been strong LEAP supporters):

Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney	860-240-8614	Martin.Looney@cga.ct.gov
Senator Gary Winfield	860-240-0422	Gary.Winfield@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Toni Walker	860-240-8585	Toni.Walker@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Robyn Porter	860-240-8585	Robyn.Porter@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Juan Candelaria	860-240-8585	Juan.Candelaria@cga.ct.gov

Important because of their leadership positions (all have helped LEAP in the past):

House Speaker Joe Aresimowicz	860-240-8500	Joe.Aresimowicz@cga.ct.gov
House Minority Leader Themis Klarides	860-240-8700	Themis.Klarides@cga.ct.gov
Senate Republican President Pro Tempore Len Fasano	860-240-8800	Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov

Important because they represent New Haven and care about New Haven kids:

Rep. Pat Dillon	860-240-8585	Patricia.Dillon@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Roland Lemar	860-240-8585	Roland.Lemar@cga.ct.gov
Rep. Alphonse Paolillo	860-240-8585	Alphonse.Paolillo@cga.ct.gov