

**Statement by David R. Jones
President & CEO**

Governor's Budget Allocates Funds to Needed Jobs Program

New York, NY, April 10, 2009 - During this economic downturn, it is critical that we put low-income and all New Yorkers back to work immediately in paid positions. We must also create a sustainable workforce development system – one that addresses fundamental employment barriers such as language, child care, and skill deficits; and helps individuals build skills to find jobs with sustainable wages, and opportunities for advancement in their careers.

The Community Service Society (CSS) was a consistent voice for the Transitional Jobs Initiative, the Health Care Job Subsidy Program Career Pathways and Green Corps Job Subsidy Programs. We are pleased that CSS staff modeled many of the concepts adopted in the budget in this area. CSS applauds the Governor and Legislature – under the leadership of Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Commissioner David Hansell, Senator Daniel Squadron, and Assembly Member Keith Wright – for taking the following steps to achieve these goals in the FY10 budget:

- The creation of a new \$5 million **Transitional Jobs Initiative (TJ)** to provide paid, subsidized work experience combined with paid education related to work to TANF eligible individuals, including disconnected youth and the formerly incarcerated.
- The creation of a new \$5 million **Health Care Job Subsidy Program** to allow for subsidized health care outreach workers to provide information and education to assist low-income individuals with obtaining and maintaining eligibility for public health care programs, and connecting to other preventative health care services.
- A \$10 million expansion of the **Career Pathways Program** to link TANF eligible individuals to jobs in high-growth sectors of the economy, and to link clients to education and training so they can advance in their careers.
- The creation of a new \$5 million **Green Corp Jobs Subsidy Program** to provide subsidized employment that links TANF eligible individuals to job skills training, basic education, and career advancement opportunities in entry-level, high-growth energy efficiency and environmental conservation industries.

“These are firm steps to transform New York’s welfare-to-work system to a robust skill-building career advancement system. Allocation of these funds for these important programs is a small, but important step to meet the demand of New Yorkers to find meaningful jobs and careers. A great deal of work remains to be done, given the state of the economy and the economic condition of New York. We are hopeful these allocations will help to improve lives, particularly for the formerly incarcerated and disconnected youth,” Jones added.