

# Maryland Nonprofits

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***\$2 Billion Of Additional Cuts May Be Necessary To Programs and Services - Nonprofits Feel Frustrated Or Helpless.***

## ***BUT You Can Do Something***

**FIRST, directly contact your elected officials.**

- Explain to them the harm that recent budget cuts are doing; and  
- Ask them why they are planning to approve more cuts that will hurt real people, rather than support some sensible revenue measures, such as:

- The gasoline tax was last raised in 1992; since 2007 we have been diverting sales tax revenue from the general fund (and programs) to subsidize it.
- Taxes on beer and wine were last increased in 1972; the tax on distilled spirits hasn't been raised since 1955.
- The state sales tax applies primarily to 'goods' while the nation has shifted to a service-driven economy – reducing the share of economic activity it covers.
- The progressive 3/4% sur-tax on income over \$1 million is set to expire on January 1, 2011.
- A study of corporate taxes will report in Dec. 2010 – the state needs to address the problem of multi-state businesses that can now avoid taxation on much of their profitable Maryland activity.

**SECOND, more importantly, help educate the public - your friends, neighbors and the community at-large.**

The public is generally not aware that cuts are hurting real people, and many believe, or are being told, there is plenty of waste or unnecessary spending still to be eliminated. Too many voices still speak of the budget crisis as a 'big spending' problem.

**The “crisis” must be understood as vulnerable seniors without adequate care; adults and children with mental or physical disabilities, or other problems, left without appropriate, or any, treatment and services; people often passed around among inadequately funded programs; educational systems deteriorating or being priced out of reach; the quality of life that makes our state and communities attractive being sacrificed; et cetera.**

**While the recession affects everyone, people who need the public’s help even in normal times are the ones being hurt the most when public programs are cut.**

**Conventional political wisdom is that we will continue to cut into the future, revenue measures are ‘off the table’ until at least 2011, and then will be limited.**

**Political leaders care about what they think the public cares about, and they know people don’t like taxes.**

**THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT THEIR CONSTITUENTS CARE EVEN MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS HURT BY SPENDING REDUCTIONS.**

**If you don’t have the capacity to distribute stories or examples of budget harms to local media, at least share that information with us.**

**To learn more about the budget crisis, how to lobby or share information or stories, contact:**

**Henry Bogdan at Maryland Nonprofits [hbogdan@mdnonprofit.org](mailto:hbogdan@mdnonprofit.org), or  
Neil Bergsman at the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute  
[nbergsman@mdnonprofit.org](mailto:nbergsman@mdnonprofit.org)**