

## Need Help

In tough economic times, some of us experience difficulty in making ends meet. There may be help if you are having difficulties meeting your monthly obligations due to loss of income, or your mortgage payment has increased due to a variable rate plan. The state and federal government sponsor a number of programs that can help with energy costs and mortgages in certain circumstances.

### CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA)

860.721.9501 | [www.chfa.org](http://www.chfa.org)

### CHFA Borrower Assistance Program

860.571.3500 or 1.877.571.2432

### Department of Labor

860.263.6505 | [www.ctdol.state.ct.us](http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us)

### Energy Assistance Program 800.842.1132

### Infoline 211

**Legal Aid** 860.344.0380 or 800.453.3320 [www.slsct.org](http://www.slsct.org)

**Mortgage Foreclosure Assistance Hotline** 877.472.8313

**Other questions Please call my office at** 860.240.8585



*Bryan Hurlburt - Representing Ashford, Tolland and Willington 53<sup>rd</sup> District*

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# State Representative BRYAN HURLBURT

53<sup>rd</sup> District Serving Ashford • Tolland • Willington

## Capitol News 2009

Dear Neighbors:

The national economic crisis has seriously impacted Connecticut's fiscal position, and producing a fair and balanced budget will certainly require us to think out of the box. Revenues continue to shrink, unemployment continues to rise, and foreclosures continue to impact our residents.

The Governor and the Legislative have already addressed a \$1.3 billion deficit for this fiscal year and a projected \$9 billion deficit over the next two years. With legislative action, the Governor's rescissions, and this year's federal stimulus check, we have reduced the fiscal year 09 deficit by hundreds of millions but still have a significant way to go to balance the budget.

Obviously, everything is on the table, and everyone will have to share the pain, but it is my intention to work for a balance that identifies priorities, shares both sacrifices and resources, protects the most vulnerable among us and provides economic growth.

Please review these facts on the budget process and feel free to share your suggestions for balancing the budget.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bryan Hurlburt  
State Representative

## Options for Filling the Gap

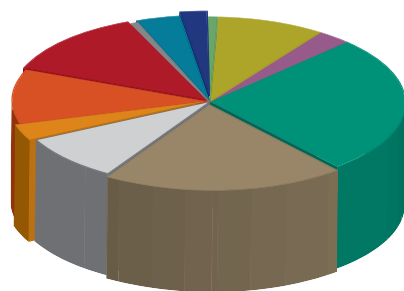
There are no easy options. We must consider a combination of multiple options, given the magnitude of our problem. Some of the options include:

- **Spending cuts:** This crisis provides the incentive to prioritize spending on essential programs that work, and eliminate the programs that fall short of producing results. We need to evaluate the effectiveness of each and every line item in the budget, and we need to commit to a leaner, more efficient government. When we are looking at spending cuts, we have to consider the effect of our cuts on our residents, cities and towns. Cutting the state budget, and shifting the burden to municipalities will create pressure to raise local property taxes. If you have suggestions for improving government efficiency, I welcome your ideas.

- **Revenue Sources:** At a time when many families and businesses are already struggling to make ends meet, increasing taxes have negative consequences. On the other hand, the deficit is so large that if we relied exclusively on cutting spending to eliminate the deficit it is estimated that we would need to cut all state funds for nursing home care, transportation, local public education, technical schools, special education and close UCONN and the Connecticut State University system.
- **Seeking federal funds:** The federal economic stimulus package will help our state by providing federal funds that will have a direct impact on our budget and a significant impact on our economy. In addition to the federal stimulus package, we should continue to look for additional federal funds.

- **Stimulating business growth to create taxable jobs, profits, and sales:** It is imperative to look for new opportunities to encourage job growth and new jobs. We need to work towards energy independence and seek our share of the emerging “green technology” industry.
- **State employee contributions:** State employees have a very large stake in the budget. Discussions are taking place to review renegotiating benefits, furlough days and retirement incentive packages. It is important that these discussions take place and receive a review from the legislature.
- **The Rainy Day Fund:** This fund currently contains \$1.4 billion. This was accrued through saving revenues in years that the state had a surplus. These funds will help mitigate the current state deficit, but can't fix the deficit completely. A bill has been proposed to increase the funding percentage of the Rainy Day Fund and make it an automatic deposit, as opposed to the discretion of the budget negotiations.

## Total Budget: \$18.65 Billion as of March 2009



<b>Regulation and Protection</b> (DPS, Banking, Insurance, and others)	\$438.7	2.4%	<b>Pensions/Benefits</b>	\$1,871.2	10.1%
<b>Conservation and Development</b> (DER, DECD, Tourism, and others)	\$108.7	0.6%	<b>Debt Service</b>	\$1,966.9	10.6%
<b>Health and Hospitals</b> (DPH, DDS, DMHAS, and others)	\$1,686.5	9.1%	<b>Judicial</b>	\$553.1	3.0%
<b>Transportation</b>	\$506.4	2.7%	<b>Corrections &amp; DCF</b>	\$1,599.0	8.7%
<b>Human Services</b> (Medicaid, SAGA, Families Assistance)	\$4,950.4	26.8%	<b>Legislative</b>	\$76.0	0.4%
<b>Education</b> (K-12, Higher Ed.)	\$3,810.0	20.6%	<b>General Govt.</b>	\$607.7	3.3%

(Based on Current Fiscal Year Estimates)

## Expenditures

This pie chart shows our expenditures by major category. Categorizing the expenditures another way, six large budget items that account for 70% of the budget are:

- Medicaid expenditures: 20% (40% of this is for nursing home care)
- Aid to towns, including education and roads: 16%
- Services to the mentally ill & developmentally disabled, and children in DCF: 13%
- Debt service: 10.6%
- Law enforcement, criminal courts, and prisons: 7%
- Transportation infrastructure: 2.7%

The remaining part of the budget covers such things as environmental protection, motor vehicle licensing, public health protection, banking and insurance regulation, UCONN, employee and veterans' services.

Cash assistance “welfare” to needy families and adults constitutes less than one percent of the budget.