






**Self Sufficiency, Education & Employment**


 [For Students at Risk, Early College Proves a Draw](#)  
 48 SandHoke seniors are in a fast-track program that allows them to earn their high-school diploma and up to two years of college credit in five years — completely free. Until recently, most programs like this were aimed at affluent, overachieving students — a way to keep them challenged and give them a head start on college work. But the goal is quite different at SandHoke, which enrolls only students whose parents do not have college degrees. Here, and at North Carolina’s other 70 early-college schools, the goal is to keep at-risk students in school by eliminating the divide between high school and college.

 [With Federal Stimulus Money Gone, Many Schools Face Budget Gaps](#)  
 Federal stimulus money has helped avoid drastic cuts at public schools in most parts of the nation, at least so far. But with the federal money running out, many of the nation’s schools are approaching what officials are calling a “funding cliff.”


 [NYSUT takes on charter schools](#)  
 Amid fierce controversy, New York State United Teachers slowly is making headway in unionizing charter school teachers. The outcome will depend in considerable measure on NYSUT's ability to convince charter school teachers that it can stand up for their interests while representing teachers in practically all of the state's roughly 700 traditional public school districts.


 [Working-poor families losing subsidies](#)  
 It appears that time will run out on the working-poor families in Erie County who are trying to save their child care subsidies. No pleas or financial compromises have dissuaded County Executive Chris Collins from ending the support that helps hundreds of families pay up to two-thirds of their day care costs.


 [Once stigmatized, food stamps find acceptance](#)  
 A decade ago, New York City officials were so reluctant to give out food stamps, they made people register one day and return the next just to get an application. The welfare commissioner said the program caused dependency and the poor were “better off” without it. Now the city urges the needy to seek aid . Neighborhood groups recruit clients at churches and grocery stores, with materials that all but proclaim a civic duty to apply — to “help New York farmers, grocers, and businesses.”

 [Improving Access to Public Benefits: Helping Eligible Individuals and Families Get the Income Supports They Need](#)  
 Scans online screening and application tools to help families apply for benefits such as food stamps, unemployment insurance, and Child and Earned Income Tax Credits. Calls for improving outreach, screening, and online applications and removing barriers.


**Not-For-Profit Management**


 [Creative Disruption: Sabbaticals for Capacity Building and Leadership Development in the Nonprofit Sector](#)  
 Examines outcomes of sabbaticals for nonprofit leaders for the leaders themselves, their organizations, leadership transitions, and the sponsoring foundations, as well as lessons learned and challenges. Includes case studies.

 [Obama Proposes New Tax Credit for Nonprofit and Other Employers](#)  
 President Obama plans to announce a proposal to help small employers—including nonprofit groups—hire workers and raise wages. The plan would give companies or charities a \$5,000 federal tax credit for every net new employee they add in 2010 and reimburse them for any taxes they owe to Social Security.


 [Funding Woes Push Nonprofits to Mergers, Closing](#)  
 Hit by a drop in donations and cuts in government funding, nonprofits are being forced to make painful choices, including cuts in services, restructuring, mergers, collaborations, and/or closing. After more than doubling between 1987 and 2007, private giving declined by 6% in 2008, the largest drop since [Giving USA](#) began tracking the data more than fifty years ago.

**Regional Assets**

 [Parks official says city lags in spending](#)  
 Buffalo has spent far less money to nurture its sprawling parks system than other cities — coming in dead last in per capita spending — and City Hall's new deputy parks commissioner said today some creative strategies must be pursued to fund improvements.

 [State parks face cutbacks this summer](#)  
 Some of New York State's parks and historic sites will remain closed this summer, others will be open fewer hours, some will have reduced services, and some will charge higher fees, all because of the state's precarious financial situation.

**Strengthening Neighborhoods**

 [Green redevelopment plan praised on West Side](#)  
 An ambitious new plan to redevelop a 25-block neighborhood on the West Side got rave reviews from state officials looking for a project to fund. Officials stopped short of endorsing the “green development zone”—one of about three Buffalo sites being considered by Gov. Paterson — but indicated a location would be announced soon. The neighborhood chosen by Paterson would serve as a state-funded demonstration project, the first step in a statewide effort to address the vacant-housing crisis here and across upstate.