



Self Sufficiency, Education & Employment

 [Administration Outlines Proposed Changes to 'No Child'](#)


Obama administration said it will ask Congress to raise education spending by about \$3.5 billion, a 7.5% increase, for the 2011 fiscal year, even as it sought to limit other categories of spending. In outlining its budget request, the administration also said it would seek an extensive rewrite of main federal law governing public schools, [No Child Left Behind](#), seeking to replace law's much-criticized system for rating schools based on student test scores.

 [Building Opportunity: How States Can Leverage Capital and Infrastructure Investments to Put Working Families on a Path to Good Jobs](#)

Recommends state policies to boost supply of skilled workers by expanding education and skills development opportunities for low-income, low-skilled adults and strengthening employer demand for and commitment to hiring them at family-sustaining wages.

 [An Integrated Approach to Fostering Family Economic Success: How Three Model Sites Are Implementing the Center for Working Families Approach](#)

Outlines Casey's framework for expanding low-income families' economic opportunities by integrating employment, benefits and work support, and financial services. Profiles 3 organizations' early evaluation results.

 [Number of Americans Seeking Emergency Food Assistance Up 46 Percent Since 2006, Report Finds](#)

1 in 8 Americans- or more than 37 million people, including 14 million children and nearly 3 million seniors- receive emergency food each year through the nation's network of foodbanks and the agencies they serve. The number represents an increase of 46 percent since 2006.

 [Expanding Choice in Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

The Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings and a task force composed of leading education policy experts propose expanding school choice to increase equity and create a market within the public sector for school quality. Parents should be afforded the maximum degree of choice, provided with information on performance of education programs that are available, and have their preferences for programs reflected in the funding of those programs.

 [Colleges Market Easy, No-Fee Sell to Applicants](#)

More than 100 other colleges and universities paid marketing companies to send out variations of fast-track applications last fall, more than a five-fold jump since 2006. Some have spent upward of \$1 million on their application campaigns, and many have seen their applicant pools double or even triple in the last two years.

 [Endowments plummet at WNY colleges](#)

College endowments across WNY plunged during the worst of recent marketplace turmoil. In fact, several local endowments have lost anywhere from 1/4 to nearly 1/3 of their entire values during the global economic crisis, according to report that tracks year-to-year changes.

Philanthropy/Grantmaking


 [Quick Question: What Do Grantees Think of Funder Collaboratives?](#)

Presents survey findings on grantees' experiences of being supported by a funder collaborative, advantages, and disadvantages. Suggests how grantmakers could maximize benefits.

 [Foundations receive more requests as funds tighten](#)

Growing need in the nonprofit sector is butting up against diminished philanthropic capacity — a combination that has created an unusual challenge for WNY's grantmaking community.

Regional Assets

 [Buffalo church's move to Georgia: 'Preservation by relocation?'](#)

Instead of building a neoclassical church, a growing parish wants to buy classical-style St. Gerard's, take it apart and ship it 900 miles from Buffalo's east side to Norcross, Ga., for reassembly. The parish has the endorsement of the Catholic archdiocese of Atlanta, the diocese of Buffalo and St. Gerard's former parishioners. Now it needs \$10 million.

 [Panel will prep for future UB hires](#)

UB announced an advisory board is being formed to help identify and create ways to make sure local residents are prepared to fill future jobs created by UB 2020.

Strengthening Neighborhoods

 [State looks at West Side as model for redevelopment](#)


On the West Side, there is a belief entire neighborhoods, even those with vacant housing, can be turned around using environmentally friendly strategies. An ambitious 25-block redevelopment plan is now on radar of Gov.Paterson.

 [Grants will underwrite home improvements](#)

3 WNY nonprofit agencies: Southtowns Rural Preservation Co; FLARE and Wyoming County Community Action Inc have received \$825,000 in state funding to renovate 108 homes in the region.

 [National group will study building rehabs](#)

With several historic restoration projects in Buffalo's economic development pipeline, local leaders want to see if the incentive packages for the projects are in line with national standards. Buffalo Urban Development Corp. will retain Nat'l Development Council to review perks offered. Review will focus on 2 downtown buildings- the former AM&As dept. store and Statler Towers.

 [Responsible Approaches to Neighborhood Stabilization: Case Studies in Action](#)

Explains elements of responsible redevelopment: engagement; ownership; health, safety, and sustainability; and partners and stakeholders. Analyzes 9 groups' work and lessons on demolition, foreclosure and abandonment prevention, and revitalization.