

**Budget Cuts and Unfriendly Legislation are coming at Adult Ed. from every level.**

## SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?

Remember, this is a long haul process, and a sustainable effort is important. It is vital that we not get burned out. There will be calls to action when action is needed, but there will also be lulls when the situation is being assessed and things are falling into new places. We need to plan ahead and get our programs prepared to mobilize when an action alert comes through. So, for now, here are things to be doing:

### →Stay informed

- Sign up on listservs—for example the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education National Literacy Advocacy (AAACE-NLA) online discussion list <http://lists.literacytent.org/mailman/listinfo/aaace-nla>
- Keep checking the LAC website <http://www.lacnyc.org/> for new information (make it your homepage even).
- Attend conferences <http://www.lacnyc.org/about/announcements/> (Tri Library Adult Learning Conference March 19, GLC Leadership Institute April 9, EL/Civics April 16, ABE Conference May 7, etc.)

### →Prepare our programs so we can mobilize quickly

- Discuss the budget issues with students and staff. This is not to scare people, but, to remind people that they can be self advocates—for this issue—and any others they may have.
- Get students signed up for free e-mail accounts (it is often easier and faster to contact elected officials via e-mail). This is a great lesson idea and can be used for lots of other activities.
- Include lessons about how a bill becomes a law, how to find out who your elected representatives are, taxes, government related current events, etc.

### →Build linkages—

- We need to get the word out to other sectors about how adult education impacts them and why funding for our programs benefits the whole community/city/state/country/world.
- Reach out to your board of directors to let them know what's going on. They may have connections they can use to help us with this cause.
- Let other organizations you're involved with know about the proposed cuts.
- Invite people to meetings about adult education.

The key is to

**GET READY!**