

Having lived and worked in upstate NY for the past 59 years, it has become increasingly obvious that the budget process is biased towards downstate, especially metropolitan New York City. It has now become more personal with the **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance 2007 NYS Citizenship Initiative Awards.**

Not only was the amount of funding increased for this grant, but it appears that the increase in funding, plus the overall percentage, has been given to New York City area agencies. Moreover, it appears that the allocation process was done at best "behind closed doors" without input from those agencies in upstate NY.

In round numbers the three year grant allocates about \$2 million to downstate NY and about \$200,000 to the rest of the state. It seems most unusual that the area encompassing Syracuse, Rochester, Binghamton, Oswego and Geneseo (and the surrounding areas) lost two-thirds of the grant from the previous allocation as the absolute amount of the grant was increased. It is not practical to expect that an area of this size can adequately support the needs of its constituents for less than \$45,000 a year. The New York State budgeting office should be looking into this most unusual occurrence. It is most difficult, especially when the allocation process is not transparent, to understand and agree with this type of allocation. Not only are tax revenues being inappropriately allocated, but jobs are being lost and services not provided in the upstate area constituents. To me this does not seem fair and the budget being currently considered needs to be reviewed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this I hope that it is important enough for you to respond.

Karen Webber