

Community Action Day at Capitol targets Malloy, Trump budget ax

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NEW BRITAIN — More than 200 Community Action Agency Network staff and clients are converging on the state Capitol this morning for a Community Action Day.

The event comes in opposition to Gov. Dannel Malloy's 20 percent reduction in Human Services Infrastructure and Community Action Program funding and also President Donald Trump's budget proposal. Trump's budget eliminates funding for numerous programs in the country, including funding for the Community Services Block Grant.

"These budget cuts would just be devastating to our whole network and the people we serve," Kelley Hall, development, communications and grants manager for the CAFCA, told The Herald on Wednesday.

The Human Resources Agency of New Britain — the city's

Community Action Agency that benefits from CSBG funds — will have 20 to 30 staff and clients representing the agency at today's event.

Caren Dickman, Communication and Grant Development specialist for HRA of New Britain, said any cuts would hurt the agency.

"We're the antipoverty agency for our community," Dickman said. "We're the ones helping people become more self sufficient."

Dickman listed energy assistance, food assistance, financial services and child care as ways the HRA helps residents.

"They're really critical services to a lot of members of this community," Dickman said.

State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, Republican President Pro Tempore Len Fasano, R-North Haven, House Majority Leader Matthew Ritter, D-Hartford, and House GOP Leader Themis Klarides R-Derby

are co-sponsoring today's event.

The senators will discuss the work that Community Action Agencies do across the state and the impact budget cuts may have on these agencies. Residents served by several agencies — including New Britain HRA client Yomaira Colon — will then share stories on how Community Action Agencies have positively impacted their lives. Amos Smill, vice chairman of the CAFCA, will give closing remarks.

A breakfast and meet and greet will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the second floor atrium of the Legislative Office Building, followed by a press conference at 11 a.m. in Room 2B. The Legislative Office Building is located at 300 Capitol Ave. in Hartford.

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