

Program to Eliminate the Gap increases transparency in NY

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In order to ensure that spending reduction goals are met, New York Governor David A. Patterson has adopted a plan that allows state leaders to monitor agency finances throughout the year, and provides the public access to the same information.

In the most recent in a series of high profile decisions coming out of the New York Governor's office in the post-Spitzer era, Governor David A. Patterson has adopted a New York City deficit reduction mechanism for state level use. The **Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG)** was first created during the City's financial crisis in the 1970's and has proven successful at monitoring City spending levels. The PEG will allow the governor to track the progress of recently implemented agency spending cuts.

What does this mean for state agencies?

Increased Accountability

- Agencies that are required to implement the largest budget cuts will be monitored on a monthly basis to identify problem areas ahead of time.
- An Oversight Board will be created with authorization to freeze hiring and/or funding for agencies that do not meet their goals.
- Just like in school, no one wants to bring home a bad report card, this type of scrutiny could provide the extra push that is needed to ensure that some agencies stick to their budgets.

What does this mean for citizens?

Increased Transparency

- All of this information will be made available to the public on the **NY Division of the Budget website**.
- Transparency websites created by other states have proven to be **extremely popular** among citizens, and in today's tight economic times citizens have a heightened interest in making sure that their tax dollars are being spent appropriately.

For more information on the status of transparency initiatives and analyses of states that have already launched transparency web sites, watch for GovWin's upcoming Industry Insight on the topic.

Or gain more insight into transparency initiatives within state and local governments at GovWin's **3rd Annual State & Local MarketView event** on June 4, 2008 in Tysons Corner, VA.