



American Red Cross

Greater Buffalo Chapter

**NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF THE BUDGET
TOWN HALL HEARINGS
NOVEMBER 17, 2007**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
GREATER BUFFALO CHAPTER
NANCY M. BLASCHAK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

OUR FUNDING REQUEST:

- The American Red Cross in New York State is requesting \$20 million in the 2008-09 State budget for the programs and services we provide for all New Yorkers
- Total 2007-2008 New York State Funding for the region:
 - Allegany County \$ 11,565
 - Chautauqua County 33,298
 - Eastern Niagara County 20,194
 - Genesee County 14,539
 - Greater Buffalo Chapter 255,030
 - Niagara Falls 24,769
 - Orleans County 10,723
 - Wyoming County 10,527
 - Total \$380,645

WHO WE ARE:

- The American Red Cross is the only not-for-profit organization chartered by Congress to provide disaster relief, yet our chapters do not receive federal funding.
- The National Response Plan, which guides the federal government's response to disasters, gives the Red Cross primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of food, shelter, emergency first aid, disaster welfare information and bulk distribution of emergency relief items.
- At the State level, we are the only not-for-profit agency that is a member of the State Disaster Preparedness Commission.
 - The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan gives the Red Cross a major role in feeding and sheltering disaster victims.
- Daily chapter operations and responses to local disasters are funded by individual contributions and other fund-raising efforts conducted by each of the 36 Red Cross Chapters in New York State.
- Funding allocated to Red Cross Chapters in New York State for disaster preparedness and response activities are used solely for that purpose, to prepare and support the recovery of New Yorkers.
- Nationwide, the Red Cross is focusing on ways to ensure an adequate blood supply. Experts believe that a 5-7 day supply of blood is necessary at any time. However, we typically have no more than a 1-3 day supply of blood available.

HOW WE SERVE:

In New York State:

- Located throughout the state, our network of 36 Red Cross chapters helps New Yorkers prepare for disasters and provides assistance when disasters strike.
- Just last year in New York State, the Red Cross:
 - Responded to more than 5,000 disasters, many of them residential fires
 - Provided health and safety training, including aquatics, for more than 620,000 individuals
 - Provided more than 190,000 New Yorkers with basic preparedness training
 - Collected and provided the blood supply for a major portion of New York State communities

Throughout the Region:

- The Greater Buffalo Chapter recently was named as a regional chapter by National Red Cross.
- Working with community chapter executives and boards from Niagara Falls, Eastern Niagara County, Orleans County, Genesee County, Wyoming County, Chautauqua County, and Allegany County, the Red Cross will be able to even more effectively help the people in the cities and towns it serves.
 - Currently the eight chapters serve a population of 1.6 million people.
 - They provide disaster services, health & safety training programs and a wide variety of services through the work of 7,063 volunteers and 131 employees.
 - As of October 1, 2007, the eight chapters provided:
 - 69,262 people with health and safety training
 - 15,723 people with community disaster education
 - 1,372 military families with Armed Forces Emergency Services
 - 531 families with disaster services

In the Greater Buffalo community:

- In the past year, the Greater Buffalo Chapter:
 - Trained 40,860 people in life-saving skills such as CPR, AED, first aid, water safety, HIV/AIDS prevention and babysitting
 - Served more than 7,000 seniors living in their own homes, adult care facilities and skilled nursing homes
 - Assisted the community during last year's October Storm:
 - Opened six shelters
 - Sheltered 859 people for a total of 1,610 stays
 - Served 43,396 meals and snacks
 - Distributed 2,998 comfort and clean-up kits

SUMMARY:

- The American Red Cross is confident that funding for our proposal will significantly increase our ability to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of New York State.
- The American Red Cross and the State of New York have developed a strong partnership over the years, and this partnership has resulted in a safer New York. We look forward to continuing this partnership and working effectively to prepare, prevent and respond to future disasters in New York.