

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2005**

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**State and National Experts to Discuss State and Federal
Budgets and Impacts on Connecticut Residents**

***Options for resolving both structural budget deficits
while maintaining critical services to be reviewed***

What:	The 4th Annual State Budget Forum is an informational forum that will present options from a variety of perspectives on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of recent and proposed federal and state budget changes on Connecticut’s children and families, • How to address the state and federal budget deficits while maintaining critical services, and • The pros and cons of various spending and revenue proposals.
Who:	Featured speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Tannenwald, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston • Spencer Cain, Office of Fiscal Analysis • Sharon Parrott, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities • House Speaker Jim Amann, Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, & House Majority Leader Chris Donovan • Shelley Geballe & Ellen Scalettar, CT Voices for Children
When:	Tuesday, February 22, 2005, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Where:	Old Judiciary Room, State Capitol, Hartford
For more information:	To RSVP, contact Katie McKeon at katiem@ctkidslink.org or (203) 498-4240 x199.

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Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:10 **Jim Amann, House Speaker**, will offer a welcome to the event.
- 10:10 – 10:30 **Shelley Geballe, President of CT Voices for Children**, will speak on “Connecticut’s Budget in Context,” reviewing recent trends in state revenues and spending that have led us to this point.
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Spencer Cain, Section Chief at the Office of Fiscal Analysis**, will present an overview of Governor Rell’s proposed budget.
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Sharon Parrott, Director of the Welfare Reform and Income Support Division at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities**, will speak on President Bush’s proposed federal budget, the impact of the increasing federal deficit, and the challenges that federal fiscal pressures will pose for Connecticut.
- 11:30 – 11:45 **Questions and discussion**
- 11:45 – 12:15 **Lunch** (in Old Judiciary Room)
- 12:15 – 12:20 **Chris Donovan, House Majority Leader**, will offer afternoon welcoming remarks
- 12:20 – 12:30 **Martin Looney, Senate Majority Leader**, will introduce Robert Tannenwald
- 12:30 – 1:15 **Robert Tannenwald, Director of the New England Public Policy Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston**, will speak on “Devolution: The Challenge to the States.” An economist, he will speak on the impact of reductions in federal public investment on the state’s budget and economy.
- 1:15 – 1:30 **Ellen Scalettar, Senior Policy Fellow at CT Voices for Children**, will speak on Connecticut’s alternatives in addressing the structural budget deficit while maintaining critical services.
- 1:30 – end **Questions & discussion**

The event is sponsored by Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based policy and advocacy organization for children and families (www.ctkidslink.org).

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