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Budget Should Protect Neediest, Group Says

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Congregational and community leaders were scheduled to meet with County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) this week to discourage him from balancing the county's books on the backs of the neediest. The group [Action in Montgomery](#) is asking Leggett to commit to a list of initiatives assembled after meetings with more than 1,000 residents.

Among the group's issues: preventing cuts to programs for the homeless and for health services; doubling funds for a youth summer job program; increasing to \$80 million a pot of county funding for affordable housing; and coming up with a plan to guarantee two years of post-high school education to students eligible for financial aid.

In the past, the countywide group has successfully pushed to boost funding for Montgomery's community centers and to expand resources for the county's Housing Initiative Fund.