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Non-profits adjust to new reality

The tentative agreement reached June 21 on a \$29.4 billion state budget restores some funding to non-profits, but many organizations are left to operate with far less state financial support.

This new reality for non-profits has the potential to diminish a network of support services that have taken years to build. But we at NewBridge Services Inc. recognize the state's dire predicament. We understand we can't keep shaking the state piggy bank for more money. Yet the need for services has not dried up like the funding; in fact, it's

growing. So we're taking a new tack and suggest others do the same.

For 47 years, NewBridge has provided innovative and affordable behavioral health programs and education services. We have historically relied on state funds; now, we are engaging in our first fund-raising campaign and asking those in the local communities that we serve to make an investment in us.

The state can no longer be the sole provider. Non-profits like ours need the help of individuals so we can remain an effective and critical part of the community's support system.

Robert L. Parker

Pompton Plains, June 25

The writer is executive director of NewBridge Services Inc. in Pompton Plains.