

# 5-year plan would relocate state agencies at Willowbrook

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ALBANY — Some of the 49 state agencies slated to move out of the World Trade Center in Manhattan would get office space on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, under plans announced yesterday.

A five-year plan to relocate the offices so that the state and city can boost income by renting to the private sector was described by Gov. Mario M. Cuomo.

There has been speculation

and some division in the community about what should be done with the grounds when the state eventually stops using the facility. The institution for the retarded is being phased out under the terms of the 1975 Willowbrook Consent Decree.

It had been reported previously that the state Office of General Services was eyeing the center, along with locations in the other boroughs, for the millions of square feet of office space it needed.

Thomas Cooper, a spokesman for that agency, said yesterday

there still are "no definite plans" for use of the center "at this time."

"We're talking about a five-year program," he said, that could bring offices to other sites on the Island as well.

Transportation problems for state workers and other possible disadvantages of the location have been brought up on a public level.

But Cuomo said yesterday he was "sure they will be understanding about it. We're trying to

do the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people."

Proceeds from a projected higher rental would go to the Port Authority (P.A.), which manages the 110-story towers, under the plan.

Eleven of the agencies are to move by the end of January. A handful have already made the switch, Cooper said.

Cuomo said the income would thus be used to create a \$200 million New York-New Jersey Economic Development Fund.

Tower 2 of the giant office complex houses the agencies in 2 million square feet of space.

Along with the center, the governor identified 180 Livingston St. and 55 Hansen Pl., Brooklyn; Fordham Plaza in the Bronx; a former department store in Jamaica, Queens, and

state and private buildings in Harlem and Lower Manhattan as the other sites targeted.

Cuomo said the city will get about \$10 million more a year in real estate taxes as a result of the move. He said \$5 million of that total would come from the P.A., which would offer the amount from freed-up monies in lieu of real estate taxes.

Cuomo and New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean alluded to the proposal last spring when announcing plans for the regional development bank.

"Already, many state offices and facilities are spread throughout boroughs of New York City," Cuomo said. "However, it is vital to many communities around the city that state offices be located so that their potential to generate other economic activity is fulfilled in areas most in need of a boost."