

Prison, lab and CSI heading state's list of Island projects

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ALBANY — A new way to run a well-known research lab. Improvements to a prison. Better funding for a college. And no money for a cultural center.

All of the above are included in Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's latest budget proposal. And all of them apply to Staten Island.

Furthermore, \$7 million is sought for a consolidated College of Staten Island campus, \$1.2 million for group homes for clients at the Staten Island Developmental Center, and funds for air-monitoring equip-

ment to track pollution over the Island.

The state budget program unveiled yesterday also includes a plan by which the Consolidated Clinical Laboratory of the noted Institute for Basic Research in Willowbrook would be run like a business.

Fees gained through Medicaid and other insurance payments would be plowed back into the lab's operation, according to Cuomo budget aides. The plan would be phased in over two years.

But that is just one of many

fiscal items in a borough with its share of state programs.

Under Cuomo's proposal, part of a special \$5.6 million allotment to the Department of Correctional Services would go to construction of an infirmary at the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility, Rossville.

"Other facility program improvements" are also cited in the printed budget message to lawmakers.

Statewide, the budget calls for continuing the construction program officials say will add 1,200 new prison cells in the next year.

Funding hikes for the City University also are sought in the Cuomo budget. But there is ordered from the university board a reduction of 95 teaching positions because of projected declining enrollment in the system.

One division with increased enrollment, however, is the College of Staten Island, which is seeking additional teaching staff.

For operating costs in the fiscal year starting April 1, CSI's budget would expand by \$433,000, to \$28.65 million.

But Cuomo does not include any money for the Snug Harbor

Cultural Center, Livingston, which is receiving \$375,000 in the current budget year. As was the case last year, the governor is in effect leaving it to interested lawmakers from the Island to fund the center.

The South Beach Psychiatric Center, serving the Island and Brooklyn, would get \$33,436,000, as compared to this year's \$32,953,000.

For the separate category of children and youth, the South Beach request totals \$2,947,000, while allocation for the current fiscal year was \$3,215,000.

However, according to one budget analyst, inpatient and outpatient services are included in those totals, but not financial aid to South Beach programs that may be coming through New York City coffers. Also, the figures assume — probably wrongly — that there will be no wage hike for employees at the center. Contract talks are under way.

Even as Cuomo and Senate Finance Chairman John Marchi tangled publicly over tax cuts yesterday, the governor was requesting an increase of \$230,000, to more than \$4 million, for the finance committee.