

\$7M set for plans of new CSI campus

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ALBANY — Seven million dollars is sought for planning and designing a consolidated campus for the College of Staten Island under Gov. Mario M. Cuomo's executive budget proposal.

At the same time, Cuomo officials project a decline of the population at the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC), Willowbrook.

Three hundred fifty people are expected to leave by the end of the next fiscal year. That would leave about 300 to be cared for, budget officials said.

Funding for building group homes at SIDC is also included, budget aides said. An Island-based environmental group is in court trying to halt construction of the homes in Corson's Brook Woods, claiming it encroaches on the surrounding Greenbelt area.

While the SIDC grounds are being considered as the possible site for a new merged College of Staten Island (CSI) campus, no such plan is committed in the state budget.

The budget message does say that a master plan for eventual consolidation "is now under way for the College of Staten Island, with several possible sites under consideration for a consolidated campus."

"It is anticipated that no mat-

ter which site is chosen, design funding for initial phases of development of the consolidated campus will be needed in 1985-86 and \$7 million is recommended as an advance for such purposes."

That proposal is contained in a chapter of the budget devoted to the City University of New York, of which CSI is a part.

In the section on service for the mentally retarded, the Cuomo budget book states:

"Funding that would be needed to renovate the institutions will be far better used in the establishment of new, smaller community-based facilities (group homes).

"Combined with existing appropriations, 1985-86 community capital recommendations include funding to enable all current clients of SIDC to be deinstitutionalized by 1987."

Asked to elaborate, a budget official said Cuomo is asking for a \$1.2 billion addition to the state capital budget "to rehabilitate buildings we call staff cottages" on the SIDC grounds.

Construction funded from past allocations involves 72 beds.

Tomorrow, a task force on the future of the site is expected to meet, headed by John Egan, chief of the state General Services Department.

Last year, lawmakers rejected Cuomo's request for funds to explore possible uses of SIDC.