

Institutions may get more state money

ADVANCE ALBANY BUREAU

Three Staten Island institutions could benefit under changes unveiled yesterday in the governor's proposed budget.

Gov. Mario M. Cuomo asked to hike spending on several programs by a total of \$30 million because of adjustments in the state's projected expenditures for fuel.

The South Beach Psychiatric Center would receive a \$3.5 million addition to its capital budget for "appropriate treatment of 72 patients."

Money would also go to "assist our efforts to find employment for state employees affected by the closing of the Staten Island Developmental Center" in Willowbrook, the governor's announcement said.

Cuomo also may have headed off staff cuts at the City University he proposed a month ago when the original version of the budget was sent to the state Legislature.

The state university would get an added \$12 million appropriation, and \$2.5 million would go to City University, which includes the College of Staten Island. Such money is allocated according to the priorities of the universities' trustees.

Representatives of both universities had criticized the governor's proposed staffing cuts in January.

"It looks like he's willing to spend even more than he thought he had," said Eugene Tyksinski, top fiscal aide to Senate Finance Committee Chairman John J. Marchi, R-Ward Hill.

Senate Republicans argue Cuomo has underestimated revenues in his budget proposal by at least \$500 million and are pushing for a new multi-year tax cut program.

Further details are expected next week as the Legislature continues deliberations toward a budget to take effect in the next fiscal year, beginning April 1.

The governor traditionally makes changes in revenue and spending projections 30 days after the original document's release.

— DAN JANISON