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Buffalo News Live

Groups want community to have voice in stimulus spending

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Millions of dollars of stimulus funds are still at stake, and three local groups want community members to have a voice in how they're spent.

The three groups -- PUSH Buffalo, VOICE-Buffalo and Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope -- will hold a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. tonight at the Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda, to discuss stimulus money.

The community-based organizations are part of a statewide coalition, New York Stimulus Alliance, that has been tracking how money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has been spent.

"We want to do some demystification, especially around this particular issue of the Recovery Act," said Eric Walker of PUSH Buffalo. "I think there are a lot of questions in people's minds about what's been effective, if it's been effective, and I think that there's a conversation to be had about that."

The organizations have been focused on how stimulus funds have been spent on transportation, weatherization assistance programs and childcare subsidies, Walker said.

"We also want to let folks know that there are opportunities to contribute to directing the remainder of that funding so that we are controlling the fight for our jobs, our families, our communities and our futures," Walker said.

Find out more about the New York Stimulus Alliance and see a slideshow that gives an overview of the economic crisis on the group's website [here](#).

Hear Eric Walker of PUSH Buffalo explain why the issue is important in this audio clip:

--*Denise Jewell Gee*

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