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What a session-this was certainly the most intense legislative season I can remember experiencing. For a time it seemed like every piece of news we heard would be translated into deeper budget cuts. Things really hit home for us when we had to separate a number of staff.

We started this session facing cuts of $13 million on top of the special session cuts. Most worrisome was the prospect of losing 150 staff. We were fortunate to have many legislators concerned enough about us that we ended the session with only a 3.6 percent cut for FY10. This was done by replacing general fund cuts with one time money from the federal stimulus package. What that means for us then, is next year, (starting in the fall), we will prepare a budget that requests replacement of the one time dollars.

While we’re not out of the woods because a lot of cuts were backfilled with one time money, we are hopeful that this will bridge us to next year when things get better in the country. The detail on the cuts is available at the Legislatures home page.