



## Summary of the New York State Executive Budget Proposal FY 2025-2026

### State Agencies

#### Civil Service

- Extends the **New York Helps** Program through June 30, 2026.
- **Waives** state civil service exam fees through June 30, 2026.
- Launches the New York State Jobs Portal and Application Tracking System to modernize recruitment, streamline hiring, and improve civil service efficiency.
- Introduces an optional **lag pay** program for state employees hired on or after July 1, 2026, allowing an earlier issuance of a paycheck, repayable over 14 pay periods. Under the current system, new state employees wait four weeks for their first paycheck. This change would require negotiations with each state union.

#### State University of New York (SUNY)

- Adds **\$125 million** in additional state support for SUNY State-operated campuses.
- Provides \$100 million in operating assistance to **prevent the closure** of SUNY Downstate University Hospital & Medical Center.
- Allocates **\$450 million** in capital funding for SUNY Downstate University Hospital & Medical Center (in addition to \$300 million from last year).
- Grants \$200 million to help build a **new emergency department** at SUNY Upstate.

#### Office of Mental Health (OMH)

- Adds **100 new forensic inpatient state operated** psychiatric beds at Manhattan Psychiatric Center and proposes a **\$160 million** capital investment to expand the forensic unit.
- Reforms the involuntary commitment process by empowering more professionals to intervene when individuals are at substantial risk of harm to themselves or others.

### **Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**

- Invests \$18 million to renovate the **Sunmount campus** in Tupper Lake. This funding will support roof replacements, exterior repairs, kitchen and bathroom renovations, and paving of roadways and parking lots.
- Provides \$75 million in funding to modernize the **OPWDD Institute for Basic Research** in Staten Island.
- Provides a 2.1% wage COLA for human service workers in **not-for-profit agencies**.

### **Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)**

- Allocates \$400 million in new funding for the acceleration and continued **installation of fixed cameras** in all facilities.
- Provides \$18.4 million for the **expansion of the body camera program**.

### **State Department of Education**

- Invests \$150 million to renovate the **State Museum** in Albany.

### **Department of Health**

- Provides \$25 million to modernize and enhance **State Veterans' Homes** and **Helen Hayes Hospital**.

### **Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**

- Allocates \$200 million to enhance and improve state parks.

### **Department of Agriculture**

- Provides \$44 million in capital investments at the **State Fairgrounds**.

### **Unified Court System**

- **Increases** funding by \$264 million over last year's appropriation.

### **Olympic Regional Development Authority**

- Grants \$110 million in capital **funding** to support projects at Olympic facilities in **Lake Placid** and **Belleayre Mountain Ski Center**.

### **Department of Transportation**

- Raises criminal penalties from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony for individuals who assault a **highway worker** employed by the Department of Transportation or any state agency or public authority.

## Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

- Raises criminal penalties from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony for individuals who assault a DMV employee, including **motor vehicle license examiner and motor vehicle representative**.

## Canal Corporation

- Invests \$50 million in the New York State Canal System, including **dam and lock repair**.

## Other Issues of Note

- Enhances the existing **Work Zone Speed Camera Program** by:
  - Making the program **permanent**.
  - **Expanding** it to the New York State Bridge Authority and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.
  - **Increasing penalties** to \$125 for a second violation and \$175 for a third or subsequent violation within an 18-month period.
- Requires state and public authority employees who use technology as part of their jobs to take annual **cybersecurity awareness training**.
- Mandates supervisors and employees that work in human resources in state agencies to take **gender-based violence training**.

# Local Governments

## Funding

- Increases Aid and Incentives to Municipalities by \$50 million, totaling **\$765.2 million**.
- Provides \$15 million in one-time assistance to **Monroe County**.
- **Allocates \$335 million to Albany** through the “Championing Albany’s Potential Initiative,” to increase economic development, public safety, and enhance affordability.

## Workforce

- Raises criminal penalties from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class D felony for individuals who assault a **highway worker employed by a municipality**.
- Mandates **cybersecurity awareness training** for all local government employees, funded by the state.
- Removes the maximum age limit of 35 for law enforcement recruitment.

## Community Colleges

- Maintains a **funding floor** for community colleges at 100% of prior year funding, **preventing a \$124 million loss** in formula aid due to enrollment declines.
- Allocates **\$449 million** for SUNY Community College operations, marking a **\$32 million increase** from last year.
- Provides **\$131 million new capital funding** for SUNY Community Colleges.
- Implements **free community college** for students aged 25 to 55 pursuing associate degrees in high-demand industries, including advanced manufacturing, technology, cybersecurity, engineering, artificial intelligence, nursing, green and renewable energy.

## Transportation

- **Maintains funding** for the following programs at last year's levels:
  - Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).
  - Extreme Winter Recovery Program.
  - Marchiselli Program.
  - Pave Our Potholes.
  - BRIDGE NY Program.
- **Adds \$5 million** for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority.
- Proposes **\$3 billion** in funding for New York City mass transit.

## Infrastructure

- Permits counties, cities, towns, and villages to use the **Dormitory Authority (DASNY)** for planning, design, procurements, and construction management services for municipal projects.

## Social Services

- Introduces **self-service kiosks** in high need communities to access public benefits like SNAP, WIC, and childcare subsidies.

# Education

## K-12

- Increases School Aid by **\$1.7 billion** (4.7%), bringing the total to \$37.4 billion.
- **Guarantees** that no school district will receive less than a 2% year-over-year increase in Foundation Aid.
- Implements **universal free breakfast and lunch** for all students in public, private, and charter schools participating in the federal school lunch program.
- **Bans the use of internet-enabled devices** (e.g., smart phones, smart watches) during school hours, with \$13.5 million for implementation. Schools must submit plans for compliance, effective in the 2025-2026 school year.

## Libraries

- Increases **library aid** to \$104.6 million, a \$700,000 increase from last year.
- Provides \$34 million for **library construction**, a decrease of \$10 million.

# Healthcare

## Workforce Issues

- Launches the Career Pathways Training Program to fund tuition, textbooks, and educational support for careers in behavioral health, social care, and healthcare. Participants must commit to a three-year term working with Medicaid-serving providers.
- Joins the national nurse licensure compact, enabling out-of-state registered nurses to practice in New York.
- Expands **Certified Nursing Assistants'** scope of practice to include medication administration in nursing homes.

## Safety-Net Hospitals

- Allocates **\$1 billion** in new funding to the Health Care Facility Transformation Program, which provides capital funding to support projects at safety-net hospitals.
- **Expands** the Safety Net Transformation Program with an additional **\$300 million** investment.

## Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

- **Maintains** funding at last year's level - **\$55.4 million** in state operating funding and **\$51.3 million** in capital funding.

## Childcare

- Allocates **\$10 million** to fund renovations and repairs for family childcare programs.
- Establishes the **NY Coalition for Child Care**, a partnership aimed at developing a universal childcare system in New York.
- Creates a **childcare substitute pool** to ensure access to verified and qualified professionals when regular staff are unavailable.

## Workers' Compensation

- Updates the fee schedule to **align with Medicare**, encouraging more providers to treat Workers' Compensation patients.
- Automatically authorizes **all licensed medical providers** to treat Workers' Compensation claimants.
- **Mandates** health insurers to cover medical treatments while Workers' Compensation claims are under dispute.
- Allows Workers' Compensation insurers to pay medical bills **temporarily** without admitting liability.

## Retirees

- Reforms the state reimbursement for the **Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)** by:
  - Eliminating the state's IRMAA reimbursement to NYSHIP enrollees.
  - Providing a **premium reimbursement** to:
    - 1) State employees who retired between **1983 and 2012**.
    - 2) Employees who retired in **2012 or after at Grade 9 or below**.
  - The premium reimbursement will be equal to the savings from eliminating the IRMAA reimbursement (approximately **\$12.5 million** annually) and spreading it across all eligible retirees (estimated to be **89,000 people**).
  - IRMAA is paid by Medicare recipients with annual incomes **exceeding \$106,000 (\$212,000 for joint filers)** with costs ranging from \$70 to \$419 per month.

## Revenue

- **Extends** the state tax surcharge on high earners for five years.
- Reduces income taxes for joint filers making up to \$323,200 annually, benefiting **77% of New Yorkers**.
- Introduces an **inflation refund**, providing:
  - \$500 checks to families earning less than \$300,000.
  - \$300 checks to individuals earning less than \$ \$150,000.
- Increases the **Child Tax Credit** to:
  - \$1,000 per child under the age of four.
  - \$500 per child aged four through 16 (up from the current \$330 maximum).

If you have any questions about these proposals, please contact the CSEA Legislative & Political Action Department: (518) 436-8622.