

SEE YOU AT THE  
SECOND AVENUE STREET FAIR!

THIS SATURDAY, MAY 6  
VISIT OUR TABLE @ 79 STREET

**Rebecca**  
**Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This week we voted to enact the 2023-24 New York State budget. Enclosed in this special report is a breakdown of the funding included in the \$229 Billion budget.

As Chair of the People With Disabilities Committee, we pushed for an 8.5% cost of living adjustment for our state's non-profit direct service providers. The Executive Budget proposed only 2.5%. We acted in the Assembly to reject the low proposal and our amendments requested 8.5% increase. The enacted budget ultimately included a 4% COLA for human service workers. I share the disappointment of the New Yorkers who benefit from the service of direct support professionals and was interviewed by AMNY reacting to the enacted budget.

Join us for an upcoming event we are pleased to sponsor:

**2023 Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony**- Wednesday, May 10 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Zuckerman Auditorium, 417 East 68 Street (York/First Ave.).

**Rent Freeze Clinics**- Wednesdays, May 17 & May 24 from 10:00am-2:00pm at our district office, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 St.). Call 212.288.4607 to RSVP.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Seawright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

As Featured In...



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## Enacted Budget Highlights

As Chair of the People With Disabilities Committee, Chair Seawright's priorities to advocate for the protection of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities were included in the enacted budget.

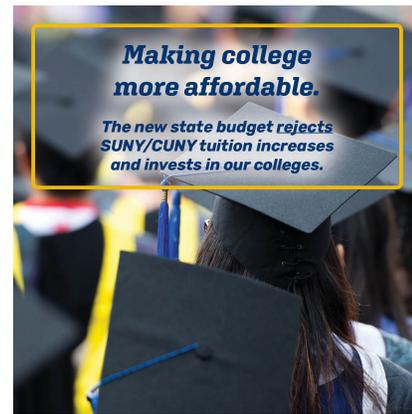
To that end, the enacted budget:

- Restores \$4 million for Schools for the Blind and Deaf (4201 Schools), provides an additional \$2 million for a total of \$112 million, and restores \$3 million in appropriations for individual schools for the blind and deaf
- Provides \$4 million for Students with Disabilities in higher education, a \$2 million increase over last year
- Provides \$15 million to develop housing support for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)
- Provides \$1.5 million in additional funding for the Disability Advocacy Program (DAP), for a total of \$6.8 million
- Provides \$1 million for a Disability Ombudsman within DAP, granting legal representation to disabled New Yorkers whose federal benefits were denied or discontinued
- Provides \$250,000 to re-establish the Interagency Coordinating Council for Services to Persons who are Deaf, Blind, or Hard of Hearing
- Provides \$2 million for an independent intellectual and developmental disability ombudsman program
- We are greatly disappointed that the enacted budget did not include a Direct Support Wage Enhancement, which would have increased the hourly pay of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). New York State has previously provided targeted wage increases only for those DSPs employed by New York State. This creates an enormous disparity between state employed and non-profit DSPs who are making on average \$9/hour less than their state counterparts. The non-profit sector provides services to over 85% of New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- \$3 million for Access to Home to support the adaptation of homes for low- and moderate-income persons with disabilities
- Provides \$60 million to expand the Medicaid buy-in program for those with disabilities
- Includes \$1 million for a pilot program for the Child Mind Institute (CMI) in New York State. The funding will enable CMI to implement Healthy Minds, Thriving Kids, a series of evidence-based video and print resources available in English and

Spanish that educators can voluntarily use to teach kids critical mental health and coping skills.

### **We successfully fought to reject SUNY and CUNY tuition increases for NYS resident undergraduates**

- Provides \$1.1 billion in capital funding for CUNY and \$1.9 billion for SUNY
- Additional SUNY Operating Aid is \$178 million over last year, and includes the following:
- \$103 million in new operating aid to prevent a tuition increase
- \$75 million for a Transformation Fund
- In addition, \$60 million of one-time funds from last year have been converted into continuing operating aid this year
- CUNY Operating Aid is \$103 million more than last year



### **The enacted budget fully funds and completes the phase-in of the Foundation Aid formula, securing the largest annual School Aid allocation of \$34.5 billion**

- Expands Free School Meals: Provides \$135 million to expand eligibility to up to 300,000 additional New York students by fully reimbursing school meals



### **MTA**

- Generates \$1.15 billion from a New York City-only Payroll Mobility Tax increase on the largest businesses, defraying \$350 million in cost shifts to New York City
- Provides a one-time \$300 million state subsidy and raises \$165 million in new MTA revenues by increasing the City of New York's paratransit contribution
- Provides \$65 million to reduce the proposed fare increase from 5.5 percent to 4 percent
- Provides \$35 million for security enhancements and \$35 million for subway service frequency enhancements
- Provides \$15 million for the Assembly's zero-fare bus pilot program, which will provide one free bus line in each borough



### **Cannabis oversight**

- Improves enforcement authority for illicit cannabis retailers to support the newly established legal market
- Provides \$4 million, from legal cannabis tax revenue, to develop educational programs for students in New York to prevent underage substance use

### **Preventing violent crime and bail changes**

- Clarifies the standard by which judges make bail determinations
- Provides a record \$30 million for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) social service programs, crisis intervention and community-based programs combatting bias-related crimes
- Allots an additional \$147,000 in funding for rape

crisis centers, totaling \$6.5 million in support across New York State

- Invests over \$110 million in anti-gun violence programs, including

The new state budget provides over **\$110 million** for anti-gun violence programs.

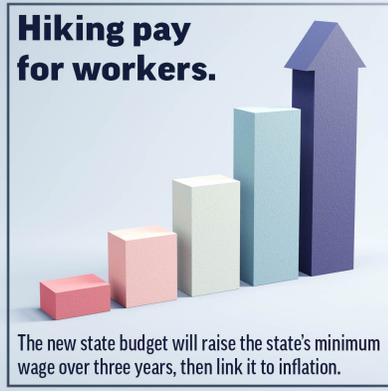
**Keeping families safe.**

### Expanding access to affordable housing

- \$391 million for rental arrears, including those in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) portal and those in subsidized housing
- \$25 million for the new First-Time Homeowner program to provide assistance to low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers for closing costs and down payments
- \$10 million for land banks, which are not-for-profit corporations created to redevelop vacant or abandoned properties to better serve the public interest
- \$135 million for the New York City Housing Authority
- \$50 million for Mitchell Lama Preservation to continue providing affordable rental and cooperative housing to moderate- and middle-income families
- \$8.4 million for Housing Opportunities for the Elderly

### Boosting the minimum wage and helping families across New York

- Increases the minimum wage in NYC to \$16, and the rest of the state to \$15 on Jan. 1, 2024
- Increases the minimum wage over two years to \$17 in NYC by Jan. 1, 2026
- Increases the cost of living adjustments from the Executive's proposed 2.5% to 4% for employees in OTDA, OPWDD, NYSOFA, OCFS, DOH and OMH.
- Supports workforce development by providing \$23.95 million.
- Provides \$25 million in capital funds for 60 step-down units in New York City, which care for people who no longer need in-patient psychiatric care, but do need some assistance in their daily lives
- Provides \$500 million for Child Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grants
- Expands income eligibility for the state childcare program to families earning up to 85% of the State Median Income (\$93,200 for a family of four)
- Establishes a maternal mental health workgroup under the Office of Mental Health to study and issue recommendations related to maternal mental health and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders
- Restores \$2.5 million for Settlement Houses, providing community-based supports including tutoring, employment assistance and early childhood development services
- Restores \$1.43 million for Career Pathways, providing New Yorkers with job training within growing industries, encouraging upward economic mobility



### Libraries, arts and cultural programs

- Restores funding for libraries to \$99.6 million and provides \$34 million in capital funding for libraries
- Adds \$40 million for New York State Council on the Arts grants
- Provides \$20 million in capital funding for arts programs statewide
- Provides \$8 million for Regional Arts and Cultural Councils
- Provides \$7.5 million to help establish The American LGBTQ+ Museum, which seeks to preserve, investigate and celebrate the dynamic histories and cultures of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people, as well as those of emergent

## Protecting the environment and investing in green energy

- Implements the All-Electric Buildings Act - Requires electric construction for new buildings that are less than seven stories beginning Dec. 31, 2025, except new commercial or industrial buildings greater than 100,000 square feet; the effective date for all other buildings is Dec. 31, 2028
- Establishes a climate fund to receive proceeds from any revenues generated pursuant to Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act regulations or actions
- Authorizes the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to build renewable energy projects to fill the gaps in meeting the CLCPA, support the REACH program that will provide bill credits to low- and moderate-income customers in disadvantaged communities and maintain an adequate and reliable supply of electric power and energy
- Invests \$500 million for the Clean Water and Infrastructure Act.

### The new state budget's all-electric buildings plan

will require most **new** buildings to be powered by electric and does **not** affect gas hookups in current buildings



## Expanding access to care for New Yorkers experiencing mental illnesses and mental health crises

- Provides \$1 billion in funding to strengthen mental health programs throughout the state, providing New Yorkers with innovative care to set them up for healthier lives
- Provides \$34.5 million for children's mental health programs, including \$10 million for suicide prevention programs for high-risk youth



### Tackling the mental health crisis.

The new state budget provides funding for more psychiatric in-patient beds, including some specifically for children.

## Better compensating workers in health and human services

- Provides \$324 million to increase the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) by 4% for human services providers
- Provides \$70.6 million in additional Quality Incentive/Vital Access Provider Pool (QIVAPP) funding, helping health agencies hire and retain workers
- Provides \$53 million to increase home health care workers' wages by \$1.55 per hour beginning January 2024, and indexing wages with inflation in the following years
- Provides \$13.7 million to increase transportation service reimbursement rates

## Improving care options for older adults

- Provides \$1.25 million for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), connecting residents at long-term care facilities with advocates for their rights and well-being
- Provides \$9.3 million in additional funding for the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) program, which provides non-medical in-home services to seniors
- Provides \$1.1 million for the Holocaust Survivors Initiative, providing trauma-informed health care to survivors

## Protecting Medicaid patients and the providers who serve them

- Includes \$1 billion in health care capital funding and expanded Medicaid coverage for more than 7.8 million low-income New Yorkers, including a significant rate

increase of 7.5% for in-patient hospital services and 6.5% for out-patient hospital services, nursing homes, and other providers.

- Provides \$60 million to expand the Medicaid buy-in program for those with disabilities

#### Health and food access

- Provides \$8.3 million to strengthen New York's reproductive health system
- Provides \$1 million for the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Wellness and Equity Fund
- Provides \$212 million for the Opioid Stewardship Fund's statewide harm reduction initiatives, including:
  - Helping law enforcement implement harm reduction strategies
  - Allowing individuals to test their substances for fentanyl
  - Community-based harm reduction centers
- Provides \$22 million for the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP)
- Provides \$2 million for Double Up Food Bucks, helping SNAP recipients purchase more fruits and vegetables at farmers markets

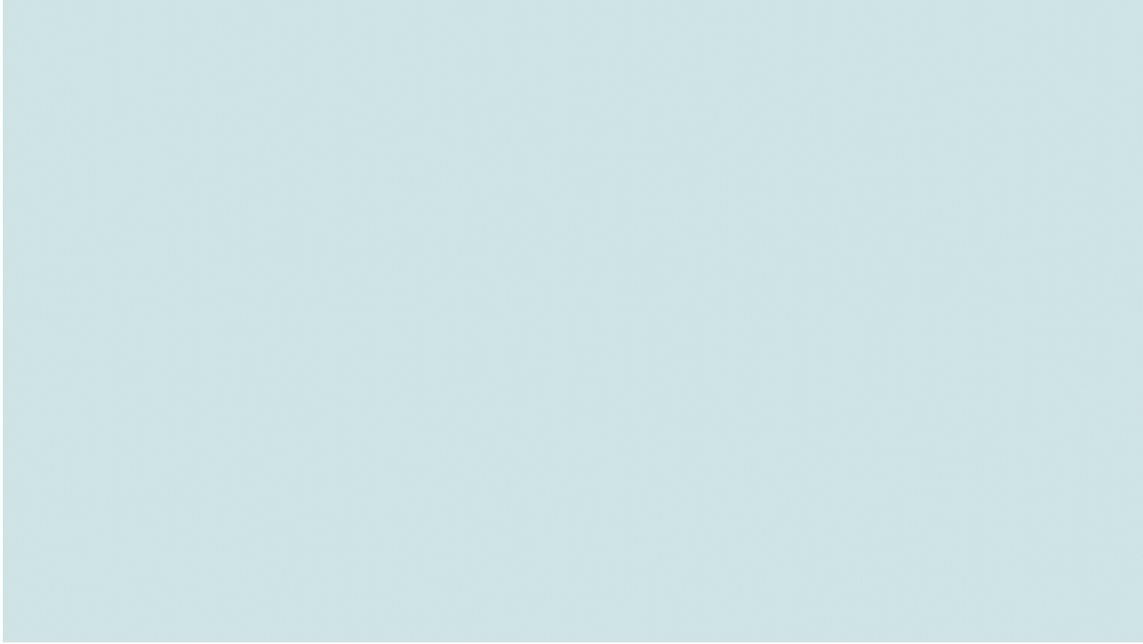


## WEEKLY E-NEWS

SIGN UP TO  
RECEIVE OUR  
UPDATES

Share this email with your friends and neighbors.  
The link to sign up for our updates can be found [here](#).

Consider Our Office A Resource!



## Upcoming Events





**ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**



**LEGISLATIVE  
DISABILITIES  
AWARENESS DAY**

**MONDAY, MAY 15**

**1:00 PM**

**THE WELL  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
198 STATE ST, ALBANY, NY 12210**

**RSVP:**

**Email**

**SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov**

**Call 212-288-4607**

**OR**

**Scan the QR Code**

**SCAN HERE**



**SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023**

**SECOND AVE**

**10 AM - 6 PM**



**MANHATTAN  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

# **SHOP SMALL BIZ**

## **STREET FAIR**

**Enjoy a day of  
fun and  
shopping! Stroll  
the avenue and  
support small  
businesses.**



# JOIN HAKI COMPOST COLLECTIVE

**NEXT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION  
SAT., May 6th - 11AM TO NOON**

MEET AT 11AM / AT THE BINS  
GOOD SHEPHERD PLAZA - PICNIC TABLES



**Haki  
Compost Collective**

Formed in 2020, Haki Compost Collective, is a group of islanders and friends who support composting initiatives including education and volunteering each Saturday from 9am to 2pm for the food scrap drop off for compost next to the farmers market on Roosevelt Island.



**Saturdays**  
Food Scrap Drop-Off  
9am - 2pm  
Near the picnic tables  
Good Shepherd Plaza



Visit Haki Compost to find out more!

✉ [hakicompost@gmail.com](mailto:hakicompost@gmail.com)    📷 [@hakicompost](https://www.instagram.com/hakicompost)

Thanks Drury Design & Four Freedoms Park for this design layout.

**SATURDAY**

May 6, 1-4 pm - French Cookin' Band

May 13, 1-4 pm - Gene Casey and the Lone Sharks

June 3, 1-4pm - Noiz R & B Band

Rain Date: June 10

**FREE  
ICE CREAM**

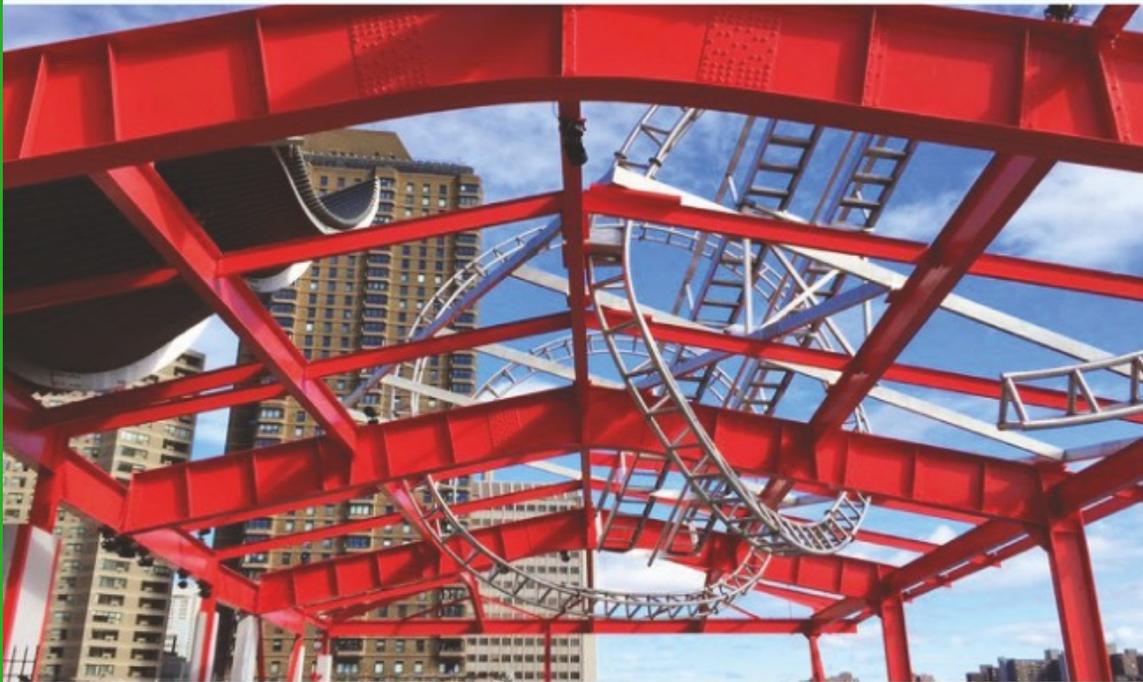
**SPRING**  
*at* **AYCOCK**  
Live Music



Live Music



Kids Activities by Craft Studio



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**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
EAST  
RIVER  
ESPLANADE**

**60th Street &  
The East River  
Esplanade  
at the  
Waterfront**  
*Rain Date: June 10*



[EsplanadeFriends.org](http://EsplanadeFriends.org)



[EastRiverEsplanade@gmail.com](mailto:EastRiverEsplanade@gmail.com)



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DONATIONS



**SUNDAY  
MAY 7th  
2-4 PM**

**iDig2Learn hosts  
COMMUNITY  
FLOWER & TREE  
CARE**

**Lighthouse Park  
Butterfly Beds  
Roosevelt Island**



iDig2Learn is a project of Open Space Institute, a nonprofit 501(c)3 public charity



Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright  
invites you to the

# 2023 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS CEREMONY

Co-sponsored by:



Wednesday, May 10, 2023

6:00pm-8:00pm

MSK Zuckerman Auditorium  
417 East 68 Street (York/First Ave.)

Together, let's celebrate **Women's History Month**  
by recognizing the extraordinary women of the 76th District  
who are making our community stronger.



To RSVP, or more information about this free event or any other  
community issue, contact Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright at  
212-288-4607 or [seawright@nyassembly.gov](mailto:seawright@nyassembly.gov).

**FREEZE YOUR RENT  
ENROLLMENT CLINICS**

**WED. MAY 17  
WED. MAY 24**

**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**1485 YORK AVENUE  
(78/79 ST.)**



**CALL 212-288-4607  
OR EMAIL  
SEAWRIGHT@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**



**Who is eligible:**

- Are 62 years old +
- Live in a rent regulated apartment
- Have a household income of \$50,000 or less
- Spend more than 1/3 of your income on rent

**Document checklist:**

- Government issued ID
- Federal or state income tax returns with all schedules and 1099s.
- Current and prior leases, signed by you and your landlord.

The Women & Families Committee of Community Board 8 Manhattan invites you to a special forum:

# THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE ABORTION PILL MIFEPRISTONE

*What you need to know NOW*

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 6: 30 pm on ZOOM**

*Featured speakers:*

**REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**, NY State Assembly Member

**SUSAN APPLETON**, Law Professor, Washington University

**JENNA LAUTER**, Equal Justice Works Fellow, NY Civil Liberties Union

To access this free virtual program, click the attached QR code or visit [www.cb8m.com](http://www.cb8m.com) and click Women & Families Committee.



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