



NEWS FROM

Speaker of the Assembly **Carl E. Heastie**



Dear Neighbor,

This year's state budget represents a tremendous victory for transformative policies and promotes equity in our communities.

Our combined efforts have brought about historic investments in education, health care and programs to help our most vulnerable.

New York State's fiscal outlook has taken a turn for the better since the federal

government provided substantial relief to our state. This assistance has had a profound impact in that it allowed us to dedicate much-needed resources to long-neglected social programs. I also wanted to update you about some funding allocations that I have secured for the Northeast Bronx.

As we shake off the economic paralysis that has crippled the state since the beginning of the pandemic, it remains critical

that we do not leave our most vulnerable neighbors behind. I am aware that there is still much work to be done and I have redoubled my commitment to providing New York with the compassionate leadership we need.

I hope you and your family enjoy the spring. I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our community. Our next newsletter will include allocated funds for local projects. As always, if there is any way that I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office is here to serve you.

With Love and Hope,

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly

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Speaker Heastie Announces Enacted Budget Invests in N.Y. Families

Speaker Carl Heastie today announced that the Enacted State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23 **Budget makes critical investments in programs that will help New York families** meet the challenge of inflation and rising gas prices.

"The last two years have been especially hard on families across our state, and now they are seeing increased inflation and sky-high gas prices," Speaker Heastie said. "This year's budget puts New York families first, making historic investments in programs that make a difference in the day-to-day lives of New Yorkers while providing real relief for hardworking men and women who move our state forward."

Tax Relief

The budget includes critical tax credits and rebates to help New York families. It accelerates the phase-in of the middle-class tax cut from 2025 to 2023, which will save New York families \$162 million in state fiscal year (SFY) 2022-23 and \$615 in SFY 2023-24. The budget also provides critical tax credits, including a:

- **One-year property tax rebate credit** for households that are eligible for STAR and Enhanced STAR and have incomes below \$250,000;

- **Supplemental Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** to taxpayers equal to 25% of their 2021 EITC benefit, which would be an average of \$190 per taxpayer; and
- **Supplemental Empire State Child Tax Credit** for families with children over the age of four and would be calculated based on taxpayers' 2021 credit amount.

With gas prices soaring, **the state will not collect sales taxes.** This is being done to help fight inflating costs for gas. This tax break will last from June 1 through December 31, 2022, saving drivers approximately \$585 million. This provision would also allow counties to cap their sales tax at \$4 per gallon.

Hospitals

New York State's health care system and hospitals have been at the front line of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The enacted budget makes critical investments in the hospitals that New Yorkers rely on by adding an additional **\$800 million for distressed hospitals, for a total of \$1.15 billion.** It also includes \$1.6 billion for capital projects.

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Summer Reading Challenge



Assembly Announces Approved SFY 2022-23 Budget Invests \$7 Billion over Four Years in Childcare

Includes \$1.1 Billion for Universal Pre-K

Speaker Carl Heastie announced that the approved State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23 Budget makes unprecedented investments in children and families, including **\$7 billion over four years to expand childcare access across the state.**

"The Assembly Majority has always believed in putting families first because we know that the success of our state depends on the well-being of our families," said Speaker Heastie. "The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the childcare crisis and forced too many New Yorkers out of the workforce entirely. The Assembly Majority fought for unprecedented investments in childcare to get New Yorkers back in the workforce and to get our economy moving."

The SFY 2022-23 Budget will increase eligibility for subsidies to 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and increase the market rate to the 80th percentile in 2022. The plan will also invest \$343 million in stabilization grants, including funds specifically for wage enhancements for providers. The plan also includes \$50 million in capital money for childcare, \$15.6 million in start-up funds to expand childcare to all SUNY and CUNY campuses and \$1.1 billion in funding to increase access to Universal Prekindergarten.

The approved budget incentivizes childcare expansion with the inclusion of a five-year property tax abatement for property owners that create a new or expand an existing childcare center in New York City.

Other critical trauma prevention and mitigation investments for children in the approved budget include a \$7.1 million investment in runaway and homeless youth, \$5 million for youth sports and \$2.5 million for YouthBuild, an organization that helps young people develop the skillsets they need to succeed.

Assembly Announces SFY 2022-23 Budget Includes \$20.2 Billion in Funding for Higher Education

Includes \$203 Million in Funding for Opportunity Programs

Speaker Carl Heastie announced the approved State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23 **Budget includes critical funding for higher education programs** that are accessible and affordable for New York students. The investments in the State University of New York (SUNY) and City University of New York (CUNY) ensure the systems can continue to provide world-class educational programs. Additionally, this budget provides **\$203 million in funding for opportunity programs, which the Assembly Majority has successfully fought to double state investment in since 2015.**

"Since I became speaker in 2015 and announced the Higher Education Road to Success, New York has doubled its investments in opportunity programs that play a critical role in providing access to an affordable, quality higher education for all New York students," said Speaker Heastie.



"This year's budget builds on our previous investments in higher education, ensuring that students have the resources they need to complete their education and enter the workforce knowing they possess the skills necessary to build successful careers."

SUNY and CUNY

New York's SUNY and CUNY systems are invaluable assets that provide an affordable, quality education to families throughout the state. The approved SFY 2022-23 **Budget includes \$48.8 million for SUNY and \$59.6 million for CUNY** to fully reimburse each system and accelerate the planned elimination of the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) gap by two years.

The final budget also makes investments so that SUNY and CUNY can continue to provide important educational programs to students. These investments include \$60 million in state operating support funds for SUNY and \$60 million for CUNY, as well as \$106 million – \$53 million each for SUNY and CUNY – to hire additional full-time faculty at four-year colleges and community colleges.

The Assembly Majority has long been dedicated to making college affordable. This budget also increases state support in operating revenue to raise the amount campuses receive for Excelsior Scholarship recipients by \$13.7 million for SUNY state-operated campuses, \$2.1 million for SUNY community colleges and \$2.8 for CUNY senior colleges, for a total of \$18.6 million. Additionally, the enacted budget provides \$15.6 million in start-up funds to expand childcare to all SUNY and CUNY campuses.

The SFY 2022-23 Budget also includes the following capital investments for SUNY and CUNY:

- **\$225 million for SUNY and \$170 million for CUNY in additional capital funding;**
- **\$1.2 billion in capital for SUNY and \$882 million for CUNY. This amount includes \$650 million in expansion capital for SUNY and \$535 million for CUNY;**
- **\$10 million for Educational Opportunity Centers; and**
- **\$3 million for the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.**





Community Colleges

Many New Yorkers look to community colleges as an affordable, accessible option as they consider higher education. Due to declining enrollment, especially caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the SFY 2021-22 Budget enacted a 98% funding floor instead of funding on a solely per pupil basis to ensure that community colleges receive critical funding to educate their students. This year's budget includes \$416.4 million to SUNY and \$217.2 million to CUNY to increase the funding floor to 100% of the prior year funding.

The spending plan also includes funding for the following programs:

- \$2.5 million in funding for Accelerated Study and Associates Program (ASAP);
- \$2.1 million for SUNY and \$1.7 million for CUNY for existing community college childcare centers;
- \$6.1 million in funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), an increase of \$1.7 million which includes \$500,000 for the CCE-NYC office and \$1.2 million for CCE's existing programs; and
- \$2 million each for SUNY and CUNY mental health services for the systems to provide necessary care to students, faculty and staff.

TAP Increases

Many New York students and families rely on grants and scholarships as they consider how to afford higher education options. The enacted budget includes \$150 million to expand TAP eligibility to 75,000 additional part-time students and \$5 million to restore TAP eligibility for incarcerated individuals.

Opportunity Programs

Since the announcement of the Higher Education Road to Success in 2015, the **Assembly Majority has helped to double investments in opportunity programs so that every student has access to a quality education**, regardless of their family situation. The SFY 2022-23 Budget provides a total of \$203 million for opportunity programs across the board, a \$6 million increase above the executive's proposal, and \$24 million over the SFY 2021-22 Budget. Funding for these programs includes:

- \$48.3 million for Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP);
- \$43.8 million for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP);
- \$38.2 million for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK);
- \$25 million for Liberty Partnerships;
- \$21.5 million for Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP);
- \$16.3 million for Collegiate Science and Technology Program (CSTEP);
- \$8.2 million for Foster Youth College Success Initiative; and
- \$1.8 million for College Discovery.

The enacted budget maintains \$35.1 million in Bundy Aid to independent colleges and universities and provides \$45 million for an additional round of the Higher Education Capital (HECap) Matching Grants Program, a \$15 million increase.

Approved SFY 2022-23 Budget Includes \$31.2 Billion Investment in School Aid

Speaker Carl Heastie announced that the approved SFY 2022-23 Budget will **include \$31.2 billion in funding to General Support for Public Schools (GSPS)**, an increase of \$2.1 billion, or 7%, over last year's budget. The enacted budget also includes \$21.3 billion in Foundation Aid, an increase of \$1.5 billion over SFY 2021-22.

"For years, the Assembly Majority has been a tireless advocate for our public schools because we know that an investment in the education of our children is an investment in the future of New York," said Speaker Heastie. "This historic investment reflects our continued commitment to our students and our public schools as they recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The approved budget includes a **\$1.1 billion investment in Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)**, which is \$125 million above last year. Additionally, UPK will grow by an additional \$250 million over the next two years, giving every school district the opportunity to access state funding for UPK and increasing the state's investment in UPK by \$375 million over three years.

The SFY 2022-23 Budget also includes \$100 million over two years for the Recover from COVID Schools Program (RECOVS), which provides matching funds for enhanced education or mental health support and would expand the allowable source of matching funds beyond federal stimulus funds. Additionally, BOCES would be eligible to apply for these grants.

The approved budget maintains funding for Community School Aid at \$250 million. Community schools take a holistic approach to educating students by acting as community hubs and offering wraparound services including academic, health, mental health, social services and after-school programs to students and their families.

Six years ago, New York became the first state in the nation to fund the My Brother's Keeper initiative. The initiative focuses on family and community engagement, professional development, the expansion and development of exemplary school practices and models and addresses issues related to restorative justice and racial disparities in education. The SFY 2022-23 Budget includes **\$18 million in ongoing funding for My Brother's Keeper programs**, for a total of \$126 million in funding since the program's creation.



Assemblyman Heastie Announces the Continuation of the Doe Fund Clean Streets project on White Plains Road

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie has successfully secured funding for The Doe Fund's "Ready Willing & Able Program." Since 2003, the Doe Fund has had a work crew along White Plains Road from Gun Hill Road and Burke Avenue to Eastchester Road that collects trash and keeps the sidewalks and streets clean.

Assemblyman Heastie secured \$100,000 in funding for the Doe Fund Inc. during the 2022 Legislative Session to continue this highly successful street cleaning and community beautification project in the Northeast Bronx.



Assembly Announces Enacted Budget Makes Critical Investments in Quality, Affordable Housing Across New York State

Spending Plan Includes \$1.1 Billion in Rental Relief for those Financially Impacted by Pandemic Through ERAP and LRAP

Speaker Carl Heastie announced that the Enacted State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23 Budget invests in affordable housing programs and keeps New Yorkers that struggled financially during the pandemic in their homes.

“Every New Yorker deserves a safe, affordable place to call home, and the Assembly Majority is committed to making that a reality,” Speaker Heastie said. “This budget makes critical investments in programs to provide rental and landlord relief, and gives more families a path to homeownership.”

New Yorkers are still feeling the financial strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many were unable to pay their rent or their mortgage as a result. This budget makes critical investments in rent and homeownership relief to help New Yorkers stay in their homes, including:

- **\$1.1 billion in funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** and the Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP), including \$150 million in federal funding;
- **\$250 million for a utility arrears** program to be administered by the Department of Public Service; and
- **An additional \$15 million for the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP)**, for a total of \$35 million.

The Enacted SFY 2022-23 Budget **includes a five-year housing plan with \$4.5 billion in capital funding to support the construction or rehabilitation of 100,000 units of affordable housing.** In addition to the construction and rehabilitation of units, the plan would create programs to encourage homeownership among middle- and low-income families, and support affordable housing for seniors.

The enacted budget also funds critical affordable housing programs, including:

- **\$350 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA);**
- **\$100 million for additional Mitchell-Lama repairs and homeownership programs;**
- **\$100 million for the Housing Our Neighbors with Dignity (HONDA) Program;**
- **\$7 million for the construction of rental housing with under 20 units; and**
- **\$2 million in additional funding for the HOPE/RESTORE program, for a total of \$3.4 million, to help keep seniors in their homes.**

The budget also includes \$50 million for land banks and \$41 million in federal funding for flooding victims of Hurricane Ida.

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NEWS FROM

Speaker
Carl E. Heastie

Heastie Secures Funding for Regional Aid for Interim Needs

Speaker Carl Heastie secured a total \$865k for RAIN Senior Centers under the State Office for the Aging, through two adds that were fully financed by the Assembly:

- \$200,000 restoration in operating funding; and
- \$665,000 for new vans, repairs to its existing fleet

