



# COMMUNITY NEWS

from Assemblyman

# J. GARY PRETLOW

89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



*The 2022-23 state budget I helped craft gives New Yorkers' budgets some relief by accelerating middle-class tax cuts, providing an extra child tax credit and Earned Income Tax Credit payment and providing \$2.2 billion in property tax relief checks. We're also implementing a state gas tax holiday to ease drivers' pain at the pump caused by lingering effects of the pandemic and exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Finances are tight for many families right now, making unexpected price increases even more difficult to weather. The final budget provides a \$250 million fund to help with utility arrears for those who had higher energy bills this past winter and furthers our investment in safe, affordable housing.*

*I am pleased to deliver information that is important to the 89th Assembly District. I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this newsletter and please know that my staff and I are always available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have.*

## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



### Assembly SFY 2022-23 Budget Secures Critical Pandemic Relief to Advance New York's Recovery

- Provides \$1.1 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP)
- Provides \$250 million to create a refundable tax credit program to help small businesses cover COVID-19-related expenses, offering a minimum credit of \$1,000 per business
- Provides \$100 million to offset the Distressed Hospital Sales Tax Intercept
- Adds \$10 million for Arts Recovery Grants, for a total of \$50 million
- Provides \$22 million for the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program
- Provides \$15 million more than the executive budget – for a total of \$35 million – for the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP), which helps homeowners avoid foreclosure by connecting them to free, qualified mortgage assistance relief services
- Provides \$4.2 million for the Nutrition Outreach & Education Program (NOEP), which helps connect New Yorkers to nutrition assistance programs
- Includes \$4 million in capital funding for the New York State Regional Food Hub building in the Bronx
- Provides \$41 million for flooding repair assistance for Hurricane Ida victims

## Assembly SFY 2022-23 Budget Makes Critical Investments in Mental Health

The Assembly Majority has always put families first and this budget takes that promise a step further in addressing the health and wellness of New Yorkers.

- Increases the human services cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to 5.4%
- Includes \$7.7 million to fund the statewide expansion of the Dwyer Program, which provides peer-to-peer support and counseling to veterans transitioning into civilian life and navigating PTSD, depression and traumatic brain injury
- Expands the \$50 million RECOVS Matching Grant Program to allow school districts to match grant funds with any funds, not just federal pandemic relief funds
  - Also allows Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to be eligible to apply for these grants
- Provides \$2 million for the Positive School Climates Pilot Program
- Provides \$10 million in capital funding for localities and non-profit organizations to increase capacity and expand access to mental health and substance abuse providers
- Provides an increase of \$53 million for children's mental health programs under state Office of Mental Health (OMH)
- Includes \$4 million for mental health programs at SUNY and CUNY



- Provides at least \$50 million for mental health, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) community-based providers
- Provides at least \$75 million for residential health care facilities and adult care facilities
- Provides \$35 million to create the 988 Suicide and Behavioral Health Crisis Hotline, which supports those experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis
- Includes \$27.5 million for increased Medicaid rates for inpatient psychiatric beds
- Includes \$9 million to support workforce recruitment and retention of psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners
- Allocates \$2 million for Crisis Intervention Services

## Assembly SFY 2022-23 Budget Provides School Aid Across the State

- State funding for school aid totaling \$31.2 billion, an increase of \$2.1 billion, or 7% over last year, and \$120 million over the executive budget proposal
- Increases Foundation Aid by \$1.5 billion, fully phasing it in by the 2023-24 school year
- Increases special education provider rates by 11%
- Includes \$40 million to increase the teacher workforce
- Provides \$18 million in ongoing funding for the My Brother's Keeper program
- Allocates \$125 million annually for a three-year UPK step-up program, for a total of \$375 million
  - A portion of this would fund new pre-K slots at the current program level, and another portion for an RFP process to pay \$10,000 per pre-K slot
- Includes a \$3.5 million increase in aid for public libraries over the executive budget for a total of \$99.6 million – a \$5.5 million increase over last year



- Also includes \$20 million in additional capital for library projects for a total of \$34 million
- Expands the \$50 million RECOVS Matching Grant Program to allow school districts to match grant funds with any funds, not just federal pandemic relief funds
  - Also allows Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to be eligible to apply for these grants

*In this year's budget the City of Yonkers Public Schools will receive a total of \$360,082,276 in state aid, an increase of 7.61% from last year which equates to \$25,455,701.*

## 89<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



## Assembly SFY 2022-23 Budget Makes Critical Investments in Affordable Housing Across New York State

- \$4.5 billion for a new five-year affordable housing capital plan
- Provides \$1 billion for Affordable Rental Housing
- Allocates \$1.1 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and Landlord Rental Assistance Program (LRAP)
- Provides \$350 million in capital funding for NYCHA
- Provides \$50 million for public housing outside New York City
- Includes a \$15 million increase to the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) for a total of \$35 million
- Allocates \$35 million, an increase of \$10 million over last year, for the Legal Representation for Eviction Cases Program to provide legal services and representation during eviction cases for renters living outside of New York City who cannot afford to pay for counsel during eviction proceedings
- Provides \$250 million to weatherize and electrify units
- Provides \$250 million for residential gas and electric utility arrears



- Includes \$120 million for existing Mitchell-Lama Preservation Programs
- Includes \$100 million in funding for the Housing our Neighbors with Dignity Act (HONDA) to convert distressed hotels or other commercial properties into affordable housing
- \$100 million for additional Mitchell-Lama repairs and homeownership programs
- \$7 million for the construction of rental housing with under 20 units
- \$2 million in additional funding for the HOPE/RESTORE program for a total of \$3.4 million to help keep seniors in their homes
- \$41 million in federal funding for flooding victims of Hurricane Ida

## Assembly SFY 2022-23 Budget Invests in Higher Education

- Includes \$60 million in additional state operating support funds for SUNY and \$60 million for CUNY
- Includes \$48.8 million for SUNY and \$59.6 million for CUNY to fully reimburse each system and eliminate the “TAP gap”
  - The TAP gap is the difference between TAP funding for students and actual tuition costs
- Provides \$150 million to expand TAP eligibility to 75,000 additional part-time students and \$5 million to restore TAP eligibility for incarcerated individuals
- Increases state support by \$13.7 million for SUNY state-operated campuses, \$2.1 million for SUNY community colleges and \$2.8 million for CUNY senior colleges for a total of \$18.6 million to raise the amount campuses receive for Excelsior tuition
- Accelerates the reset of the tuition rate that SUNY and CUNY receive for the Excelsior program by a year
- Provides \$53 million each to SUNY and CUNY to hire additional full-time faculty members



- Includes a \$225 million increase in expansion capital for SUNY and \$110 million for CUNY
- Provides an increase of \$6 million to all opportunity programs, for a total of \$203 million
- Provides an additional \$1 million for a total of \$2 million each for SUNY and CUNY mental health services
- Provides a \$1 million increase to SUNY’s High Needs Nursing Programs for a total of \$2.7 million and \$1 million to CUNY’s expansion of nursing programs for a total of \$3 million
- Includes a tax exemption for all state loan forgiveness programs



**CLIP AND RETURN**



*Your questions or comments are important to me. If you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss with me, please indicate and return to:*

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**COMMUNITY  
NEWS**

*from Assemblyman*

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**SPRING 2022**

**Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow**



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