



NEWS FROM

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



Dear Neighbor,

I hope you and your family are enjoying the spring weather! Although this year's budget was late, it was a priority to pass a responsible spending plan that would make critical investments to give New Yorkers the resources they need. **This year's state budget delivers transformative policies and historic investments for the Northeast Bronx.**

Together, we've worked hard to ensure our promises to New Yorkers were fulfilled. This budget continues to put families first by providing critical funding to ensure **quality education and safe, healthy communities while bringing costs down and providing families relief.** Our combined efforts have brought necessary changes that will positively impact our communities for years to come.

We've made progress, but the work is far from finished, and I'll continue doing what I can to help our families thrive and provide New York with the leadership it needs. Economic stability, affordable housing options and safe neighborhoods will continue to be our focus, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our community. Our next newsletter will include information on allocated funds for local projects right here at home.

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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Supporting our children and investing in NY families

Speaker Carl Heastie announced that the Enacted State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-24 Budget makes critical investments in programs that will help New York families meet the challenge of the rising cost of living.

Child care bonuses

The final budget makes child care more affordable for New York families by providing funding to expand income eligibility for child care assistance and reduce child care assistance co-payments. The budget also includes funding for Facilitated Enrollment programs to expand income eligibility to families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level who are otherwise ineligible for the state child care program.

Support for our families

- **\$500 million for Child Care Workforce** Recruitment and Retention Grants
- Child care employees are eligible to receive one-time **bonuses of up to \$2,000**, depending on setting
- Grants to facilities to promote recruitment ranging from \$800 to \$4,000
- **Expands the Child Tax Credit** to include families with children age 4 years old and younger

Speaker Heastie secured **\$5 million for the YMCA** of Greater New York. Places like the Y, provide a safe place to swim, exercise and social opportunities for all.

Connecting Bronx families to health and wellness!



Minimum wage increase

The approved budget will assist working families, providing scheduled increases to the minimum wage to contend with inflation. These changes will take effect on January 1, 2024, and increase over the next three years, as follows:

Year	NYC & Downstate (Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk counties)	Rest of State
1/1/2024	\$16.00	\$15.00
1/1/2025	\$16.50	\$15.50
1/1/2026	\$17.00	\$16.00

Thank you to our human service professionals!

To help those who help us, the final budget includes a 4% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for human service professionals. This increase is on top of a 5.4% COLA that was authorized last year.

Ensuring quality education from preschool to college

This year's state budget invests in our children and young adults to give them the best possible start and every opportunity to learn. Speaker Heastie secured a budget that includes a **\$3 billion increase in aid to public schools and fully funds Foundation Aid**, ensuring that all students receive equitable support. In addition, Speaker Heastie fought to support our kids' health by delivering **\$135 million for free school meals** for up to 300,000 more students. The budget also delivers **\$100 million in aid to our local libraries** to maintain safe and educational community spaces.

Higher education

To provide our students with more opportunities and an affordable education, the final budget rejects tuition increases and includes:

- **\$1.38 billion** in operating aid for State University of New York (SUNY) schools and **\$821.4 million** in operating aid for City University of New York (CUNY) schools, and includes **no tuition increases** for New York State residents
- **\$203 million** for opportunity programs

Keeping our community safe

Anti-gun violence

Speaker Heastie secured vital funding to keep our families safe. The final budget provides over **\$110 million for anti-gun violence program**, \$36.6 million for the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative, **\$21 million** for NY SNUG outreach, and **\$31.1 million** for youth justice and gang prevention programs.

Criminal justice

The final SFY 2023-24 budget also includes **\$170 million** in total discovery funding, **\$40 million** in funding for Aid

to Defense, **\$10 million** for expenses and services of state and local law enforcement associated with enforcing and investigating extreme risk protection orders, and **\$7.2 million** for expenses and services of community safety and restorative justice programs. Additionally, the budget provides **\$3.3 million to support criminal justice programs** including **reentry** programs, **community dispute** resolution centers, community-based organizations, transitional **housing, civil or criminal legal services** and **crime prevention programs**, as well as **\$750,000** for the cost of conducting a study on missing Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) women and girls.

Speaker Heastie provides financial investments into health care system

New York State's health care system has been at the frontline for the last three years. Through this year's cold, flu, and RSV season, doctors, nurses and all hospital staff have made the people of New York a priority. The enacted budget makes critical investments in hospitals and nursing homes that New Yorkers rely on.

Hospitals/Medicaid

- Provides **\$500 million** for financially distressed and **Safety Net hospitals**
- **Transitions Managed Care back to Fee-For-Service**, now called NYRx, to simplify how Medicaid patients receive their prescriptions, saving \$410 million
- Provides **\$318.8 million** to **increase inpatient** hospital Medicaid reimbursement rates by 7.5%
- Provides **\$76 million** to **increase outpatient hospital** Medicaid reimbursement rates by 6.5%
- Provides **\$60 million** to expand the Medicaid **buy-in program** for those with disabilities
- Provides **\$58.9 million** to **expand Mental Hygiene** programs in Medicaid
- Provides **\$53.6 million** to **expand Medicaid coverage** of preventative care
- Provides **\$49.5 million** in SFY 2024-25 to **restore "Prescriber Prevails,"** giving providers, not insurers, the final decision over patients' health needs



Nursing homes

- Provides **\$216.5 million** to increase nursing home and assisted living program rates by up to 7.5% pending approval from the federal government

Mental hygiene

- A multi-year, **\$1 billion** investment to overhaul the continuum of mental health care and reduce the number of individuals with unmet mental health needs

Public transportation usage rates grow, making investments critical

Speaker Heastie fought for direct investments into public transportation infrastructure. Many New Yorkers rely on our public transportation systems statewide to complete everyday tasks. This year's budget directs funding to these transit systems so services can continue operating and residents can get to and from their destinations safely. Additionally, the budget includes **\$15 million** to fund a zero-fare bus pilot program that will provide a **free bus route in every borough**.



MTA funding

The budget supports the financial stability of the MTA by adjusting the Payroll Mobility Tax for the largest businesses within New York City to 0.6%, which will generate approximately \$1.1 billion. The budget also includes:

- **\$300 million** in one-time state aid for the MTA
- **\$65 million** to reduce a proposed fare increase on the MTA from 5.5% to 4%
- **\$35 million** to expand subway service frequency enhancements

Affordable housing in New York remains at the forefront

This year's budget focuses on housing affordability for all New Yorkers. By directing funding for new programs that prioritize not only subsidized housing but also homeownership, New Yorkers will have the ability to remain in their communities.

- **\$356 million** to address pandemic-era rental arrears at federal or state subsidized housing, and public housing authorities such as NYCHA
- **\$40 million** for the **Homeowner Protection program** (HOPP), to aid homeowners in default or foreclosure and stabilizing homeownership
- **\$25 million** for the new **First-Time Homeowner** program





Changes to bail law

The final state budget clarifies the standards by which judges make bail determinations.

Illegal cannabis shops

To support the newly established legal cannabis market, the final state budget includes policies to improve the enforcement authority for illicit cannabis retailers.

Greener, more affordable NY

New York has long been a leader in environmental protection efforts, passing some of the strongest laws in the nation. To continue this fight to preserve our natural resources and combat climate change, the final state budget provides provisions to phase out the use of fossil fuels in most new buildings and invest in new renewable energy projects to help New York State meet the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA).



Did you know?

There are federal tax breaks, tax credits and rebates that could save you thousands on energy-efficient home renovations, appliances and vehicles purchased this year?

Please visit www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/fs-2022-40.pdf to find out more!

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NEWS FROM

Speaker
Carl E. Heastie

"Every year, my goal is to deliver for our families and make New York a more affordable place to live and raise a family. That's why I fought to keep costs down and ensure more New Yorkers can afford child care, invest in education and reach for their dreams."

– Speaker Carl E. Heastie

