



Assemblyman

CARL E. HEASTIE

Reports To The People

SPRING 2014

Dear Neighbor(s):

On March 31 we passed the state budget. I wanted to brief you on what the budget contains. We were able to make progress in enhancing education, higher education, healthcare and to provide child care support for working families.

The spending plan totals \$138 billion and continues to reflect our commitment to the working families of New York. It provides essential funding to educate our children, continues to alleviate the tax burden on families and helps create a better economic environment that will create jobs.

There is still much work to be accomplished during this year's legislative session but I wanted to keep you informed of our progress. 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

Member of Assembly

COME VISIT CARL HEASTIE'S NEW OFFICE LOCATION



Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie's District Office has a new location at 1446 East Gun Hill Road on the corner of Fenton Avenue. The new office is just up the road from our old location. Our new location

is conveniently located two blocks away from the 5 train and is located on bus Rt. 28. We hope that you can come by and visit us.

2014 Legislative Budget Report



Assemblyman Heastie and Staff: Kevin Riley, (Constituent Liaison) Jessica Maldonado (District Office Manager), Isa Marie Puallo (Executive Assistant), Jevonni Brooks (Chief of Staff), Carl Heastie (Assemblyman), and Marcus Salgado (Administrative Assistant).

Historic Investment in Education

The 2014-15 state budget increases school aid by \$1.1 billion, or 5.4 percent, which is \$551 million over the executive budget proposal (A.8556-D). Included with this increase is \$251 million in additional funding

for Foundation Aid and \$602 million in restorations to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), helping to reduce the negative financial impact on schools statewide.

A More Affordable College Education

The 2014-15 state budget helps grow our higher education system by providing \$10.4 billion for SUNY and \$4.3 billion for CUNY. This year's budget also helps students and parents by increasing funding for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for the first time in 14 years and restores funding for other college opportunity programs (A.8556-D).

"The key to a bright and successful future is a college education," Assemblyman Heastie said. "Making

higher education accessible to everyone is one of my top priorities."

Moreover, this year's state budget provides an additional \$20.2 million for community colleges, increasing base aid to SUNY and CUNY community colleges by \$75 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, bringing the total to \$2,497 per FTE. This is the third consecutive budget increase in community college funding.

Boosting TAP and Opportunity Programs

To help students afford the rising cost of college, the budget increases funding for TAP for the first time in 14 years. The maximum TAP award will be increased by \$165 for a maximum award of \$5,165 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student.

The budget also provides \$102 million in funding for college opportunity programs, an increase of \$4.2 million over the executive proposal. The funding restores cuts and provides a 3 percent increase for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), the Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) program and the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).

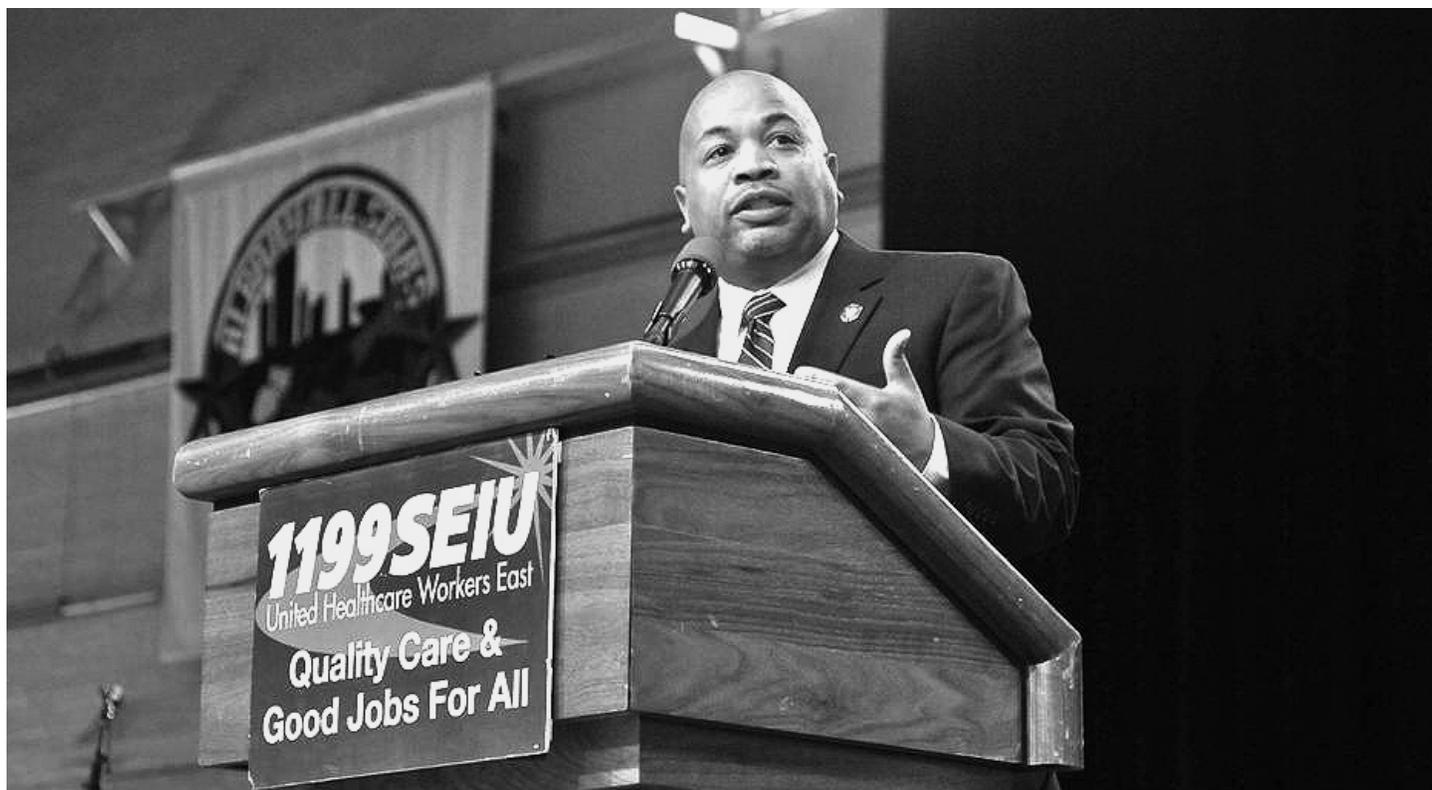
State Budget Funds Universal Pre Kindergarten

The 2014-15 state budget commits \$300 million per year for two years to fund universal, full-day pre-K in New York City. "The funding set aside for pre-K programs represents a significant commitment on my and Mayor de Blasio's goal for full-day Universal Pre-K (UPK)," said Carl E. Heastie.

Under this budget, approved community-based organizations, public schools, charters and non-public schools will be eligible to receive funding to create pre-K programs. Teachers will be required to be certified or be on the three-year path to certification. In addition, pre-K class sizes will be subject to standards set by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

"The future success of our children is dependent on how we prepare them for it today," said Assembly Member Heastie. "Every child deserves to have a first-class education. This year's state budget makes a significant investment in education to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed."

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Assemblyman Carl Heastie speaking at a rally for quality jobs and healthcare.

Assemblyman Heastie supports the Summer Youth Program

The adopted budget provides \$27.5 million to the Summer Youth Employment Program. This program continues to help young adults find jobs in worksites throughout New York City.

“The Summer Youth Employment Program has helped

many young New Yorkers on their path to success and I am happy to report this program can continue to help our youth with jobs during the summers,” Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie said.

Expanding the NY Works Program

The budget expands the NY Youth Works Program, which encourages businesses to hire unemployed, disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 24, by connecting them to community colleges. “Tying the occupational

training component of the NY Youth Works Program to the Job Linkage Program will help encourage more employers to hire inner-city youth,” said Assembly Member Heastie.

State Budget Restores Funding for Advantage After School Program

The Assembly restored \$500 million in funding to the Advantage After School Program that the governor had cut in his executive budget proposal. Advantage After School is an after-school child care program for low-income children that reduces violence, crime, and substance abuse among school-age children. The programs provide parents with the knowledge their kids are in a safe after-school environment.

Safe Patient Handling

This year’s budget establishes the Safe Patient Handling Act which would require healthcare facilities to establish safe patient handling committees that would design a specific program for proper care for patients. The finalized state budget calls for the implementation of the Act by certain healthcare facilities beginning on January 1, 2017.

“The Safe Patient Handling Act is a smart, much-needed initiative that will help improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery in our state,” said Assemblyman Carl Heastie.

Making Housing more Affordable

The budget offers tax relief for New York City residents by providing \$85 million in tax credits for homeowners, condominium and co-op owners and renters by implementing a “circuit breaker” plan. The “circuit breaker” will run for 2 years and will factor in household income for the property tax break.

The budget also restores \$742,000 in funding for the New York City Housing Authority Tenant Watch Program. In addition, the budget increases the income limit for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for a two-year period.

Two Percent COLA for Direct Caregivers

Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie announced today that the 2014-15 final budget agreement restores a two percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for human services workers at state-funded human services agencies. The budget includes \$13 million to support a two percent COLA for direct care workers, effective on January 1, 2015. Direct care workers will receive another two percent salary increase for the following fiscal year, beginning April 1, 2015.

“Direct caregivers are entrusted with the well-being of some of New York’s most vulnerable people,” said Assemblyman Heastie, “Their pay should reflect the enormous responsibility they take on at work every day.”

The COLA would be implemented for programs funded by the State Offices for Aging, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, People with Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Health.

Expanding EPIC Coverage

The budget provides \$4.1 million for the expansion of eligibility for the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program by increasing the income limit for the deductible plan from \$35,000 to \$75,000 for those who are single and \$50,000 to \$100,000 for those who are married.

Strengthening New York’s Child Care System

The 2014-15 state budget provides funding to increase access to quality, affordable child care. The provisions include:

- \$34 million for more than 4,500 additional subsidized child care slots;
- disregarding the earned income of teenagers under 18 in the household for the purpose of determining a family’s child care subsidy eligibility; and
- requiring child care providers to post their most recent inspection report in a prominent place.

“It has become nearly impossible for working families to find affordable and reliable child care,” Member of Assembly Heastie said. “The state budget addresses New York’s child care crisis so families don’t have to break the bank to afford safe, nurturing care for their children.”



Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie

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