STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

Fellow New Yorkers:

I've heard from countless parents, workers, community leaders, and business owners about the bureaucratic obstacles that stand in their way and waste valuable time and money. This red tape makes it harder for small businesses to grow and create jobs, slows the construction of the housing and infrastructure New Yorkers need, and creates unnecessary barriers to accessing healthcare, child care, and other essential services. We owe it to New Yorkers to make government work better, faster, and more efficiently.

To address these burdens, I made it a priority in my State of the State to modernize New York's regulatory landscape and make government work better for everyone. We launched EXPRESS NY (Expediting Processes and Regulations to Enable Streamlined Services) to do exactly this - make it easier, faster, and more affordable to deliver the critical projects and services New Yorkers need. As part of this effort, we heard directly from New Yorkers by launching a public portal that received nearly 4,000 recommendations from every county in the state, and we called on state agencies to identify outdated or obsolete policies.

Today, I'm pleased to announce the first 50 actions across more than 20 agencies that will make government work better for New Yorkers. These updates will:

- **Save over 1 million hours for New Yorkers** by cutting unnecessary reporting requirements, simplifying and digitizing paperwork, and streamlining training.
- **Save tens of millions of dollars for New Yorkers** in unnecessary fees and compliance costs.
- **Impact over 1.5 million New Yorkers** across the state including families, small businesses, and workers.

The purpose of government is to work for people, not against them. These reforms tackle a wide range of issues that New Yorkers are dealing with every day and will make it easier to do things like renew occupational licenses for over 800,000 workers across the state and cut down duplicative paperwork for patients and healthcare workers. These actions will put money back in New Yorkers' pockets and give them time back in their days.

This report provides a summary of the 50 reforms that we are announcing today and represents an important step forward in our ongoing commitment to cut red tape, lower costs, and ensure government works better for New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Introduction

As laid out in her 2026 State of the State, Governor Hochul has launched a whole-of-government effort to address red tape that drives up costs, wastes time, and impedes access to critical services for New Yorkers. The EXPRESS NY initiative was launched as part of this effort and a Director of Regulatory Reform & Delivery was appointed to oversee and coordinate reforms throughout the state.

Following a call from the Division of the Budget, state agencies identified burdensome, redundant, or outdated regulations, policies, and practices in need of modernization. The Executive Chamber reviewed these proposals, and today, is announcing a first set of 50 reforms across 22 agencies.

These actions will deliver impact across four key areas:

- **Saving New Yorkers money** by eliminating unnecessary fees, financing requirements, and streamlining project costs.
- **Saving New Yorkers time** by reducing burdensome reporting requirements, removing duplicative forms, digitizing paper-based processes, and streamlining training.
- **Increasing access to services** by building flexibility into state programs to better serve small businesses and increasing access for our most vulnerable populations.
- **Rescinding** obsolete and archaic regulations that are no longer relevant or enforced, but have remained in place for decades.

Saving New Yorkers Money

Too often, New Yorkers face bureaucratic obstacles, fees, and financial barriers that drive up costs. These reforms will put money back into the pockets of New Yorkers:

1) **Lowering Financial Barriers For Building Nursing Homes (DOH)**: The Department of Health is reducing the requirement for nursing homes to contribute 25% equity to construction projects. Reducing this requirement will lower barriers for nursing homes to undertake construction projects and modernize their facilities across the state.

2) **Reducing Barriers for Prefabricated Housing Moves (DOT)**: The Department of Transportation is eliminating a $25,000 bonding requirement for the transportation of manufactured homes between 14 and 16 feet wide. This reform will make it easier and more affordable to deliver prefabricated homes throughout New York.

3) **Eliminating Fees for Commercial Measuring Devices (Agriculture and Markets)**: The Department of Agriculture and Markets has repealed a $100 application fee for the use of a commercial weighing or measuring device in New York State. Previously, this fee had applied to manufacturers of a wide range of equipment, including farm milk meters, grocery store scales, and electric vehicle chargers. The Department will now approve the use of these already approved new device models free of charge, eliminating an unnecessary processing fee.

4) **Eliminating Fees for Leashed Tracking Dog Licenses (DEC)**: The Department of Environmental Conservation is repealing a $25 application fee for leashed tracking dog licenses. This license will help lower costs for recreational hunters and other New Yorkers seeking to receive this license.

Saving New Yorkers Time

Bureaucratic red tape can cause New Yorkers to spend hours filling out redundant forms and waiting on slow approvals. To save New Yorkers time, Governor Hochul directed state agencies to streamline reporting, eliminate duplication, and digitize paper-based processes. These actions will result in more than 1 million hours saved for New Yorkers, including healthcare workers and providers, small business owners, and licensed professionals.

5) **Streamlining the Occupational Licensing Renewal Applications (DOS)**: The Department of State has simplified the renewal application for the over 800,000 New Yorkers who have occupational licenses with the department, including barbers, cosmetologists, real estate professionals, notaries, security guards, and other licensed professionals. DOS has reduced 67 percent of the information required on the renewal application form. These improvements include: consolidating multiple background questions, and removing the requirement for applicants to list continuing education. DOS is also working to launch a modern, mobile-friendly digital service to make it easier and faster for New Yorkers to renew their licenses online.

6) **Accelerating Affordable Housing Projects by Streamlining Historic Preservation Reviews (Parks and HCR)**: The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) have streamlined the evaluation process used to determine which HCR-funded projects should undergo state historic preservation review to save time on reviews of affordable housing projects. This change will accelerate the delivery of affordable housing across New York, while ensuring preservation of significant historic resources.

7) **Streamlining Nurse Aide Training (DOH)**: The Department of Health will adjust the training hour requirements for nurse aides to match the minimum federal standards (75 hours) instead of the higher state requirement (currently 100 hours). This regulatory reform will make it easier for those seeking to become a certified nurse aide to complete their training requirements and help to address workforce shortages.

8) **Streamlining Medicaid Paperwork and Reporting for Healthcare Providers (DOH)**: The Department of Health will reform their regulations to replace dozens of repetitive documentation and recordkeeping requirements in the Medicaid program with a single cross-referenced standard. This will save time and money for healthcare providers (e.g., ophthalmologists, audiologists) and hospitals by allowing clinical staff to spend less time on duplicate forms and more time on patient care.

9) **Reducing Barriers to Entry For Nursing Home Administrators (DOH)**: The Department of Health will change their regulations to lower barriers to entry for the nursing home administrator licensure program. Changes include reducing the required hours for the Administrator in Training Program from 12 months full time to 9 months full time, expanding the practice areas that qualify for the field experience requirement, and changing the required years of experience that a preceptor must have as an Administrator of Record of a nursing home from 3 years to 1 year. This change will address workforce shortages by making it more accessible for prospective nursing home administrators to enter the field.

10) **Digitizing Medicaid Workflows for Healthcare Providers (DOH)**: The Department of Health will update their regulations to explicitly authorize the use of digital signatures and online forms for Medicaid administration. This regulatory change will help ensure that healthcare providers can

utilize electronic workflows and modernize their systems to increase efficiency and improve the experience of patients.

11) **Accelerating Recertification For Addiction Services Providers (OASAS)**: The Office of Addiction Services and Supports will streamline the recertification process by conducting reviews at the organizational level, rather than evaluating individual programs. This shift provides a holistic view of an organization's operational health, while reducing duplicative document requests, site visits, and corrective action plans and maintaining oversight and predictable timelines for certification decisions.

12) **Modernizing Standards for Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Programs (OASAS)**: The Office of Addiction Services and Supports will be making a number of technical updates to the regulations, including updating outdated terminology and aligning state regulations and federal changes. These changes will reduce the administrative burden for rehabilitation facilities. For example, these amendments remove a previous requirement for outpatient rehabilitation programs to obtain a separate certification than outpatient programs, thereby increasing patient access and reducing burden on providers to obtain a separate certificate.

13) **Streamlining Incident Reporting Across Supportive Services (OASAS)**: The Office of Addiction Services and Supports is updating their regulations to allow the same digital incident reporting system used by mental health clinics. This will impact staff at dual-licensed programs by eliminating the need to enter the same incident into two different state systems, saving thousands of hours in administrative time, and reducing risk of human error.

14) **Increasing Efficiency and Flexibility in Scheduling of Settlements (DHR)**: The Division of Human Rights will be updating their regulations to remove language that is unduly restrictive as to scheduling and timing of settlements. This will help lead to faster resolution of cases and reduce the costs of prolonged litigation.

15) **Cutting Paperwork for Small Daily Purchases (OPWDD)**: The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities will update their regulations to provide more flexibility around handling of personal allowances, including increasing the threshold amount to $25 from $15 to reduce the paperwork associated with minor, daily purchases and save administrative time.

16) **Modernizing Thruway Advertising Rules (Thruway)**: The Thruway Authority is eliminating the permitting requirement for on-premises advertising aligning Thruway regulations with State Department of Transportation and federal standards. This change will reduce administrative burdens for both the Thruway Authority and nearly 100 roadside businesses, who now face one less hurdle in advertising business activity taking place on their property.

17) **Modernizing Municipal Utility Billing (DPS)**: The Department of Public Service is modernizing billing requirements for gas, electric, steam, and water services, including consolidating sections that contain redundant requirements for the contents of utility bills and timely billing requirements for utilities. This modernization will allow for more efficient municipal utility billing and ensure compliance with recent changes to the Public Service Law.

18) **Digitizing Escort Vehicle Identification (DMV)**: The Department of Motor Vehicles is replacing paper "escort certificates" for vehicle operators with a digital "J" endorsement printed directly on their driver's license. The switch to digital endorsements will reduce fraud, save on printing costs, and eliminate the need for drivers of escort vehicles to carry separate, easily lost paper documents.

19) **Modernizing Safety Belt Approval Processes for Auto Manufacturers (DMV)**: The Department of Motor Vehicles is updating safety belt approval rules that haven't been amended since 1975 by removing obsolete requirements for physical samples and recognizing the Automotive Manufacturers Equipment Compliance Agency (AMECA) as the modern industry authority instead of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). This aligns state standards with modern industry practices.

20) **Improved Process and Forms for Requesting Claims Records (Workers' Compensation Board)**: The Workers' Compensation Board's new process will expedite the release of records by eliminating form deficiencies and generating immediately actionable work items. With over 3,000 requests monthly, the streamlined process will save WCB personnel up to 100 work hours each month as numerous forms no longer need to be returned for correction and requests no longer need to await written correspondence to be acted upon. These record requests are needed for the adjudication of claims in the system, and the sooner the parties receive the records, the sooner their claims can be resolved. The records requested will now be acted on within 7 business days, an anticipated reduction by 10 business days, saving New Yorkers time.

21) **Narrowing the Asian Longhorned Beetle Quarantine Areas Due To Successful Eradication Efforts (Agriculture and Markets)**: The Department of Agriculture and Markets is narrowing the Asian Longhorned Beetle quarantine area due to successful eradication efforts. This lifts restrictions on the movement of wood for many areas where the beetle is no longer a threat, alleviating an unnecessary burden for the local maple and timber industries.

22) **Digital Access to Public Hearings (DHR)**: The Division of Human Rights will update their regulations to allow for video conferencing, online submissions, and e-filing for public hearings. This will help increase efficiency of administrative processes and allow cases to be resolved in a more timely manner.

23) **Streamlining the Victim Compensation Process (OVS)**: The Office of Victim Services is updating their regulations and operations to improve the victim compensation process including allowing for digital document submission, adding rideshare as an eligible compensable expense, increasing the burial reimbursement cap, and removing the requirement that a crime must be reported to law enforcement for a victim to receive services. These changes make it easier for victims to receive the help and compensation that they are entitled to.

24) **Modernizing Crime Victim Programs (OVS)**: The Office of Victim Services amendment expands the types of activities that OVS can fund for local programs and removes categories of information the office no longer needs to request. This reduces the administrative burden on service providers, allowing them to dedicate their resources to service provision.

25) **Updating No-Fault Insurance Forms (DFS):** The Department of Financial Services has made reforms to support the submission of no-fault insurance forms through an online portal and shift insurance administration away from outdated paper processes toward digital efficiency. This reform will help create a safer and more secure portal for the hundreds of thousands of no-fault arbitration requests there are annually.

Increasing Access to Services

Too often, bureaucratic obstacles and overly restrictive rules have shut vulnerable New Yorkers, small business owners, families, and workers out of essential services and opportunities. Governor Hochul is overhauling these rigid frameworks to build a more equitable government.

26) **Modernizing the MWBE Program to Streamline Certification and Boost Outcomes for MWBEs (ESD)**: Empire State Development has proposed a comprehensive package of regulatory updates that will modernize the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program. These changes will create new pathways to certification, boost contracting opportunities for MWBEs, and fortify compliance across state agencies and within the program itself. The updated regulations will introduce a Professional Declaration of Eligibility application to fast-track review applications for licensed professionals (e.g., architects, engineers, attorneys), cutting anticipated review time for those applications by roughly 50 percent. The proposed regulations will also institute new mandatory training for agency MWBE liaisons, clarify discretionary purchasing guidance, and implement new quarterly reporting mandates for agencies to track and maximize MWBE participation on state contracts. In addition, the updates provide guidance on applicant requirements to ensure clarity and uniformity for businesses, clarify MWBE certification eligibility for specialty trade union contractors, and strengthen procedures for prime contractors to modify utilization plans to better protect MWBEs.

27) **Expanding Telehealth in Assisted Living (DOH)**: The Department of Health has issued guidance which clarifies that after an initial in-person assessment, telehealth may be used in Adult Care Facility and Assisted Living settings. This reform will help reduce delays in care, increase access for specialists and doctors for seniors across the state, and eliminate the need for fragile residents to travel for every routine appointment.

28) **Increasing Flexibility for Mental Health Clinics (OMH)**: The Office of Mental Health will create increased flexibility for Mental Health Outpatient Treatment and Rehabilitative Services (MHOTRS) providers to ensure that health-related social needs and preventative interventions for families can be addressed at the moment someone seeks help. This new framework ensures patients receive timely appointments, robust follow-up care, and enhanced care coordination. Furthermore, the reform introduces vital standards to guarantee safe discharges from inpatient and emergency settings, creating a more supportive safety net for individuals with complex needs. This action will further help hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers annually.

29) **Streamlining Certification Processes for Detox and Rehab Facilities (OASAS)**: The Office of Addiction Services and Supports is modernizing regulations to allow providers to offer both detoxification and inpatient rehabilitation care under a single new certification. This improves care by allowing patients to seamlessly transition between these services in one location, reducing unnecessary discharge and re-admission cycles, and saves providers the time and expense of multiple certifications and siloed business processes.

30) **Expanding Access and Reducing Barriers for the Addiction Services Workforce (OASAS)**: The Office of Addiction Services and Supports will expand the types of professionals classified as “Qualified Health Professionals” to include credentialed prevention professionals and specialists with bachelor degrees. This change will help to fill essential roles, address workforce shortages, and expand access to prevention services.

31) **Making it Easier for Relatives to Foster (OCFS)**: The Office of Children and Family Services is updating their regulations to create flexible standards specifically for "kinship" foster homes where relatives care for children. Permitting these separate standards for relatives and kin will help reduce barriers and increase the number of approved relative or kinship foster family homes receiving services and financial resources.

32) **Reducing Red Tape in Public Assistance Programs (OTDA)**: The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance will make it easier for survivors of domestic violence to access Public Assistance (PA) safely by easing documentation required to obtain waivers of program requirements to reduce their risk of abuse. Specifically, instead of conducting stringent "credibility assessments" to verify the experience of victimization in order to waive certain requirements, survivors will be allowed to self-attest in order for those requirements to be waived. In addition, OTDA will increase flexibility for the recovery of PA overpayments from households no longer receiving PA when those overpayments were not the result of fraud by raising the threshold at which districts may choose not to pursue recovery from $125 to $2,500.

33) **Improving Administration of SSA Benefits (OPWDD)**: The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities is updating their regulations governing how providers manage Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits on behalf of the individuals in their care. Currently, these regulations are very restrictive, making it challenging for providers to administer SSA benefits. This update will streamline the benefits process and reduce the burden on care facilities.

Rescinding Outdated Regulations and Policies

A modern state cannot run on rules written for a different century. By repealing these regulations, we are removing and ensuring our regulatory system reflects modern values and standards.

34) **Rescinding "Y2K Bug" Guidelines (ITS)**: The Office of Information and Technology Services is rescinding guidelines originally drafted in the late 1990s to address the "Y2K" date/time bug. This potential error stemmed from legacy systems representing years with only the last two digits, rendering dates in 1900 and 2000 indistinguishable. This change removes unnecessary guidelines that are no longer relevant to modern software systems.

35-49) **Repealing 15 Outdated Labor Regulations (DOL)**: The Department of Labor is repealing 15 obsolete regulations that have been preempted by federal standards (OSHA), relate to statutes that no longer exist, or address outdated societal norms. These decades old regulations, some dating back as far as the 1920s, are no longer in effect but cause confusion for regulated communities and create unnecessary compliance burdens. This will provide clear, modern guidance for the labor and business community.

35) Removing 1970s standards around control of air contaminants that were later preempted by federal OSHA requirements. These old rules are no longer enforceable by the State and only create confusion for businesses looking for current safety standards.

36) Removing a building code from the 1920s that is now entirely superseded by local municipal codes and modern state building standards.

37) Removing outdated radiation safety rules for ionizing radiation protection that have since become the Department of Health's (DOH) responsibility following legislative changes in 2008.

38) Removing regulations built around the laser examining board that the Legislature dissolved in 2006, rendering the rules legally unusable. This change is administrative cleanup and will not change how laser safety is practiced today.

39) Removing licensing and inspection fees that are no longer valid because the regulatory oversight was transferred to the Department of Health.

40) Removing a specialized registry for 9/11 recovery related contracts that has since become obsolete after the underlying law was repealed in 2008.

41) Removing driving hour rules for truck and bus operators that were replaced by the State Transportation Law decades ago and have not been used by the Labor Department since.

42) Removing a discriminatory 1950s-era rule that required restaurant owners to get a special permit to allow women to work after midnight. The rule required employers to prove that 'adequate transportation' and 'proper supervision' were available specifically for female employees; it has not been enforced for decades.

43) Removing 1960s-era narrow and outdated employment standards for 14- and 15-year-olds, such as allowing 'light delivery' work for 'goods weighing less than 15 pounds' including the delivery of 'photographic prints.' These rules have been superseded by more comprehensive, modern protections for teens in the Labor Law.

44) Removing a 1973 process for approving youth safety programs (focused on the use of machinery, equipment, and devices) that is no longer in use or compatible with current workplace safety requirements.

45) Removing procedural rules for investigating labor disputes that were replaced by the modern functions of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB).

46) Removing training allowance rules from 1974 and 1980s homemaker programs that were replaced by federal USDOL programs or are no longer operational.

47) Removing requirements for a 1980s agency Council Of Contracting Agencies that is no longer required or active under current Executive Orders.

48) Removing an old method for calculating labor statistics that was replaced by a more accurate, modern system already in use.

49) Removing empty "placeholder" sections of the code regarding food stamps that have no content and only serve to mislead the public.

50) **Rescinding Pandemic-Era Mandates in Office of Mental Health Facilities (OMH)**: The Office of Mental Health reform will repeal regulations regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements for staff in OMH facilities. This impacts facility staff and visitors by simplifying operations and removing rules that are no longer appropriate for the current public health landscape.