



Opportunity Agenda

End of Session Report 2015

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

June, 2015

Overview

A little more than four years ago when Governor Andrew M. Cuomo took office, New York State was still reeling from the Great Recession. The unemployment rate at 8.9 percent was unacceptably high, the State had a \$10 billion budget deficit and decades of rising taxes and uncontrolled government spending were forcing families and businesses to leave New York. Perhaps worst of all was that many New Yorkers had lost faith in government to make the state a better place as, year after year, budget talks broke down into bitter battles stretching well into the new fiscal year.

Today, after the close of the fifth legislative session, New York is a very different place and its government has shown that it can once again effectively perform the people's business. Spending increases have been held to less than 2 percent a year as a result of fiscal discipline and strong leadership. For five years in a row, the legislature has passed a fiscally responsible and timely budget, an accomplishment not seen since Nelson Rockefeller was governor. The statewide personal income tax rates are lower at every bracket than in 2010. Corporate taxes are at the lowest point since 1968, manufacturing tax rates are the lowest since 1917 and property tax growth is capped. A massive budget deficit has been replaced by a surplus, the state's credit ratings are the highest they've been in decades, and dramatic steps have been taken to rebuild upstate New York's long-neglected economies.

All these accomplishments have helped to dramatically boost the state's economy and create jobs. During Governor Cuomo's time in office, more than 670,000 new private sector jobs have been created, growing the private sector workforce to more than 7.8 million, an all time high. The current unemployment rate, as of May 2015, was 5.7 percent is the lowest it has been since 2008.

By every measure, New York today is a better place to live, work, and do business than it was just over four years ago. As Governor Cuomo described in his 2015 Opportunity Agenda, today the Empire State is a State of Opportunity.

To rebuild local economies and create new jobs, Governor Cuomo has reframed the State's strategy for economic development. Instead of one-size-fits-all plans and policies dictated by Albany, the State has created 10 Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) to generate locally-driven approaches to revitalization. By the start of 2015, these REDCs had awarded more than \$2.9 billion to fund over 3,100 projects designed to create or retain more than 150,000 jobs for New Yorkers. This year, seven of the upstate REDCs will compete for three \$500 million awards through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative to fund plans modeled after the successful Buffalo Billion initiative. Combined with \$750 million in REDC development funds and tax credits, all 10 Councils will support visionary economic plans tailored to regional strengths with more than \$1 billion in awards later this year, when each region will receive more funding than the top-scoring region was awarded last year.

Another of Governor Cuomo's signature economic development programs – START-UP NY – is laying the ground work for private sector growth in the state for years to come. So far, more than 70 colleges and universities are participating in START-UP NY and 110 companies have committed to create over 3,300 jobs and pump nearly \$200 million into New York's economy.

Economic development is only part of what it takes to make New York successful. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the State's traditional role as a progressive leader in the nation has been strengthened. The achievements of Governor Cuomo's first four years – including marriage equality, sensible gun control, and enrolling more than two million New Yorkers in affordable health insurance coverage – redouble on New York's trailblazing heritage. This year, the trend continues as the administration: increased funding for public education to a record \$23.5 billion; convened a wage board to examine raising the minimum wage for fast food workers; advanced several elements of the Women's Equality Agenda; established a set of uniform policies to protect students from sexual violence; Announced the appointment of a special prosecutor for situations dealing with a nonelected public official who in the course of duty kills someone who is unarmed; took Executive Action to removed 16- and 17-year olds from State prisons; increased its Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises goal to 30 percent of all State contracts; launched a plan to end AIDS in New York State by 2020; and launched a multi-pronged campaign against poverty.

When it comes to making New York a State of Opportunity, few efforts have been as important as improving education for all of New York's students. This year under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the State legislature passed transformative legislation to: recruit the best and the brightest to the teaching profession; increase graduate education program standards; enhance the recertification process for teaching licenses; strengthen the link between teacher tenure and performance; reward top-performing teachers; reduce student testing; replace an ineffectual teacher evaluation system with a meaningful, functional system; establish new procedures for addressing chronically failing schools; continue the State's commitment to pre-K education and expand that commitment to cover 3-year olds in high-need districts.

A government that can pass budgets on time, lower spending and taxes, reform public education, and tackle contentious social issues has shown that it can perform effectively. But to completely recapture the trust of the people, government must also show it can act ethically. New York implemented the strongest outside income disclosure laws in the nation, cracked down on the abuse of legislative per diems and campaign accounts, and enhanced funding for enforcement.

The work of this legislative session was built upon the foundation of the previous four years and takes New York further along the path to a still brighter future. Many challenges remain: passing education reform is not enough – we must now implement those reforms and raise the quality of public education for all students; we will continue to ensure public safety against threats of extreme weather, terrorism and health crises; and we will strive to achieve the larger goal of transforming Albany's culture after passing and enforcing new ethics policies. Now is not the time to slow down the upstate renaissance.

While there is much left to do, we can take pride in our work thus far. This report highlights some of the accomplishments of the past session.

I. Fiscal Responsibility

Governor Cuomo continued to build on the remarkable financial turnaround of New York. For the fifth consecutive year, New York passed a timely and balanced budget, reversing decades of dysfunction. The new budget maintains the fiscal discipline that has characterized the last four years by once again holding the growth in spending below two percent, while investing in schools, health care, infrastructure, and economic development to position every region of the state for growth.

The State closed the 2014-15 fiscal year by making the maximum deposit allowable into the rainy day reserves, bringing the balance to \$1.8 billion, or 2.9 percent of General Fund spending. In addition, \$500 million is available for debt management. By adhering to the two percent spending benchmark, the State is expected to accrue surpluses in future years.

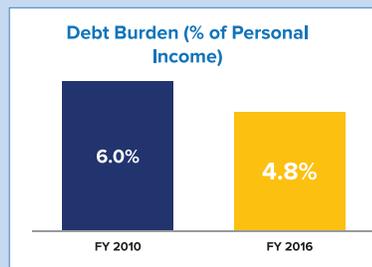
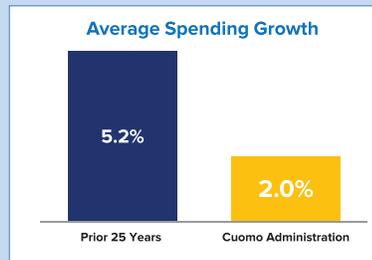
The 2015-16 budget also allocates \$5.4 billion in financial settlements to continue strengthening New York's economy, as outlined by Governor Cuomo in his Opportunity Agenda. This includes the

\$1.5 billion Upstate Revitalization Initiative to jumpstart the best regional approaches to economic development; \$1.3 billion to stabilize the Thruway Authority and keep tolls down while funding critical repair and maintenance and supporting the ongoing construction of the New NY Bridge; and \$500 million to ensure that every New Yorker has broadband access by 2019 – representing the largest and most ambitious State broadband investment in the nation. Importantly, the State is acting responsibly by using one-time resources to fund one-time purposes, rather than using them for recurring expenditures, which would make it more difficult to balance future budgets.

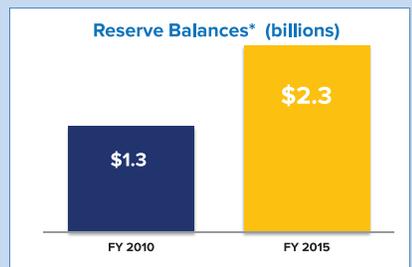
Before Governor Cuomo came into office, New York had a long history of overtaxing and overspending. In the previous 50 years, the annual State Budget grew faster than income in three out of every five budgets, and spending grew at an average rate of approximately seven percent, compared to income growth of 6.2 percent. If spending and income had grown at the same rate, spending today would be approximately \$40 billion below its current level. With the adoption of the two percent spending benchmark, the unsustainable trend has been reversed. Since 2011, State spending has grown more slowly than income every year and at its slowest rate in 50 years.

New York's debt outstanding declined from \$55.7 billion in the 2010-11 fiscal year to \$54.2 billion in the 2014-15 fiscal year. For the first time in over 50 years, debt outstanding declined for three consecutive years (2012-13 fiscal year through 2014-15 fiscal year). These achievements have been recognized by investors and the major credit rating agencies – all three of which recently upgraded New York's General Obligation bonds to their highest rating in decades.

A Stronger, More Sustainable New York



- Spending is down
- Debt is down
- Reserves are up



*Excludes monetary settlements.

II. Cutting Taxes for Every New Yorker

Governor Cuomo has championed significant tax relief in the last four years, including: the enactment of a property tax cap; the lowest middle-class tax income rate in over 60 years; elimination of the MTA payroll tax for school districts, more than 700,000 small businesses and the self-employed; creation of a new family tax relief credit; tax cuts for small businesses and manufacturers; reforms to unemployment insurance and workers compensation insurance; the launch of START-UP NY tax free zones; reforms to the Estate Tax; and the most important overhaul of corporate taxes in seven decades.

Lowering Taxes for Homeowners: Governor Cuomo has prioritized keeping property taxes under control. Between 2000 and 2010, property taxes grew at an unsustainable rate - more than double inflation. To stop this trend, in 2011 Governor Cuomo worked with the legislature to win enactment of the Property Tax Cap.

New York State's Property Tax Cap limits increases in school and local property taxes to two percent a year, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, with limited exemptions, while maintaining local control. Carefully constructed based on lessons learned from other states, the Cap does not impose a State determined level of taxation, but empowers local citizens to scrutinize the taxes that they have to pay.

As a result of the Cap and citizen involvement, New York's property taxes have been held to an average growth rate of approximately two percent during the past three years, less than half the rate of growth over the previous 10 years.

Controlling the rate of property tax growth results in enormous savings for taxpayers, and the impact grows over time. Through the first three years of the Cap, the typical tax payer has saved more than \$800 in property taxes that would have been due had taxes continued to grow at the previous growth rate. If the trend continues, by 2017 the typical taxpayer will have saved more than \$2,100 in local property taxes as a result of the Cap.

The Tax Cap puts New York voters at the center of local government spending decisions, requiring governments to do more with less and reducing costs rather than raising taxes. In the first three years, more than 80 percent of all local governments and school districts have been compliant with the Tax Cap. In the third year, voters passed Cap-compliant budgets in over 97 percent of all school districts.

The Property Tax Cap has since been strengthened through the next phase of Governor Cuomo's property tax plan, the \$1.5 billion Property Tax Freeze program. The Property Tax Freeze Credit is designed to give local governments and school districts incentives to share services and reduce their financial burden on the taxpayer. In 2014, about 2.3 million taxpayers received property tax relief when their local school district stayed below the property tax cap. In 2015 and 2016, additional relief will be provided to taxpayers in school districts and local government jurisdictions that comply with the cap and put forward plans to save one percent of their tax levy per year over three years.

This year, legislation was passed extending the property tax cap for an additional four years. Since its enactment in 2011, the property tax cap has dramatically reduced the growth in local property taxes. Through the first three years of the Cap, the typical property taxpayer has saved more than \$800, compared to if taxes had continued to grow at the previous growth rate. If the trend continues, by 2017, the typical taxpayer will have saved more than \$2,100 in local property taxes as a result of the Cap.



Property Tax Credit: Building on the success of the Property Tax Cap, the legislation includes a new Property Tax Credit that will provide more than \$1.3 billion over four years in direct relief to struggling New York taxpayers. The program is progressively structured so that taxpayers with lower incomes receive a higher benefit.

In the first year, 2016, the program will be coupled with the existing Property Tax Freeze credit to provide a total average credit of \$350. Beginning in 2017, the program will provide property tax relief based on a percentage of a homeowner's STAR benefit, with lower incomes receiving a larger percentage. All homeowners with incomes below \$275,000 who live in school districts that comply with the property tax cap will be eligible to receive the credit. This year, 98 percent of school districts complied with the cap. When the program is fully phased-in for benefits provided in 2019, it will provide \$1.3 billion of property tax relief and an average credit of \$530.

Additionally, this agreement creates a program that will help communities that face decreased property tax revenue as a result of the loss or reduction in tax payments from power plants and other facilities that close in their community.

For New York City residents, the legislation extends by four years the \$85 million, progressively structured "Circuit Breaker" tax relief program. Qualifying homeowners and renters with incomes below \$200,000 are eligible to receive a refundable tax credit against the personal income tax when their property taxes or rent exceeds a certain percentage of their income.

III. Strengthening the Economy to Create Jobs

Working to strengthen our state's economy and create jobs for New Yorkers has been among Governor Cuomo's highest priorities. Since 2011, Empire State Development, New York's economic development agency, has awarded incentive packages totaling nearly \$1.8 billion and has secured pledges to create and retain approximately 291,000 jobs and to leverage nearly \$15.8 billion in other investments.

During Governor Cuomo's tenure in office, the state's economy has added more than 626,100 private sector jobs and experienced employment growth in 45 of the past 52 months. The state now has over 7.7 million private sector jobs. New York is number three in the nation in net new job creation since the end of the recession. Unemployment is down substantially in every region and the overall statewide rate, as of May 2015 stands at 5.7 percent, its lowest level in more than 6½ years.

Upstate Revitalization Initiative: Building upon four years of work by the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC) and the success of the Buffalo Billion Initiative, and relying upon the large number of State initiatives in place and proposed in the 2015-16 budget, Governor Cuomo proposed in January, and the legislature subsequently approved the Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI). The URI will make a \$1.5 billion available through Empire State Development to be allocated to three of the seven upstate REDCs at \$500 million each based upon a competitive process. URI funds will be allocated to the successful regions at approximately \$100 million per region over the next five years. The seven upstate regions that are eligible to compete are Capital, Central, Finger Lakes, Mid-Hudson, Mohawk Valley, North Country and the Southern Tier. Western New York is not included due to ongoing support for the Buffalo Billion Initiative. The seven eligible regions contain 50 of New York State's 62 counties, representing slightly less than seven million people.

Competition will be based on five-year plans, due this upcoming fall, prepared by each region to demonstrate its ability to create high paying permanent private sector jobs, to attract private sector investment at a ratio of at least 5 to 1 private to public, and to spread the benefits of growth throughout the community. Successful plans will make a convincing case that the region can make transformative and sustainable improvements to its economy through the receipt of the funds and the implementation of the URI plan.

Regional Economic Development Councils: The 2015-16 budget included a fifth round of funding for the REDCs, Governor Cuomo's model to replace the old "top-down" bureaucratic approach to economic development with locally-driven strategic planning guided by community leaders in the private, public, education, and non-profit sectors. In 2015, REDCs will compete for up to \$750 million in capital funds, tax credits, and other economic development resources for priority projects in their regions. The \$750 million includes \$150 million in Empire State Development capital grants, \$70 million in Excelsior Tax Credits, and \$530 million in program funds and capital grants from 12 New York State agencies. After four rounds of the program, nearly \$3 billion has been awarded to over 3,100 projects for job creation and community development ; this will result in the creation and retention of more than 150,000 jobs.

Support for Buffalo and Western New York: Governor Cuomo continued his commitment to Buffalo and Western New York through his Buffalo Billion Initiative. Major Buffalo Billion projects are already underway, with the development of several hubs to be anchored by major companies, including: the Buffalo High-Tech Manufacturing and Innovation Hub at Riverbend; the Buffalo Medical Innovation and Commercialization Hub for shared pharmaceutical research and development, anchored by AMRI; the Buffalo Information Technologies Innovation and Commercialization Hub, anchored by IBM; and the New York Genome Medicine Network at the State University at Buffalo. These new state-of-the-art hubs will bring thousands of new jobs to Western New York. Additional Buffalo Billion initiatives address workforce development, tourism plan development, waterfront development, and other strategic community revitalization projects within the city of Buffalo and surrounding areas.

Downstate Economic Development:

The 2015-16 budget includes \$550 million to support transformational economic development and infrastructure projects downstate. The State's investment will catalyze private investment, spurring significant economic development and job creation to help strengthen local communities and their economies. Grants may support manufacturing, agriculture, business parks, community anchor facilities, county and local fairgrounds, advanced technology, biotech and biomedical facilities, and main street revitalization.



Launching 76West Initiative in the Southern Tier: New York State is rapidly establishing itself as a national leader in homegrown clean energy innovation and investment. To advance and accelerate this progress, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will launch 76West, the first-of-its-kind \$20 million clean energy business competition and business support program to bring new jobs to the Southern Tier. The initiative includes a \$10 million clean energy business competition and \$10 million for business support services to the local clean energy market. 76West will be open to any early-stage clean energy technology business that builds on the indigenous strengths and assets of the Southern Tier. Individual prizes will range from \$100,000 to \$1 million.

START-UP NY: Governor Cuomo's game-changing initiative is transforming State University of New York (SUNY) campuses and other universities across the state into tax-free communities that can attract start-ups, venture capital, new business and investments from across the world. The program is enticing companies to bring their ventures to upstate New York or to start new companies within the state by offering new businesses the opportunity to operate completely tax-free – including no income tax for employees and no sales, property or business tax – while also partnering with the world-class higher education institutions in the SUNY system.

To date, a total of 71 colleges and universities have been approved for participation in the tax-free initiative, including 56 upstate and 15 downstate; 49 out of 66 SUNY schools, 18 private institutions and four City University of New York campuses. The program has established more than 395 Tax Free Areas representing over 4.4 million square feet of space for new or expanding businesses.

121 businesses are participating in the program, committing to creating nearly 3,340 new jobs and investing over \$197 million in communities across New York State. This session, Governor Cuomo continued to build on the START-UP NY program by making Republic and Stewart Airports tax-free areas. The expansion will induce economic development in and around these airports.

Venture Capital Funding: The New York State Innovation Venture Capital Fund will be expanded from \$50 million to \$100 million. The increased funding will target a portion of its investments in companies associated with START-UP NY and Hotspots.

Global NY in Cuba: As part of Governor Cuomo's Global NY initiative to create international trade and investment opportunities for New York State, he led the first state-led trade mission to Cuba since President Obama called for a normalization of ties. The trade mission is already generating results:



- Roswell Park Cancer Institute signed an agreement with Cuba's Center for Molecular Immunology to develop a lung cancer vaccine with a clinical trial in the United States.
- Infor Global Solutions, Inc. announced an agreement to sell healthcare management software to two Cuban companies and will also help train students at a local university.
- JetBlue Airways announced a direct charter flight from JFK airport to Havana, Cuba beginning on July 3rd.
- SUNY shared a framework for a memorandum of understanding with the University of Havana to increase study abroad programs to Cuba, increase scholarly exchanges, and provide study abroad students with internships and other applied learning opportunities.

Other companies and institutions that participated in the trip are continuing meaningful direct dialogue with the aim of producing future agreements.

Global NY Development Fund: The Global NY Development Fund will help small- and medium-sized New York companies tap into global markets to grow their exports and create new jobs in the state. The fund includes a \$25 million lending program, which is targeted to small businesses that have difficulty accessing credit markets and will provide loans to help companies develop capacity to enter new markets. It also includes a \$10 million grant fund to provide \$25,000 to small- and medium-sized firms to develop export capacity, including export marketing plans, website translation, product adaptation and market certification. New York will partner with the Federal Export-Import Bank to connect creditworthy small businesses to export financing.

Employee Training Incentive Program: Enacted as part of the 2015-16 budget, the Employee Training Incentive Program will provide \$5 million in tax credits to New York State employers for training investments that upgrade, retrain or improve the productivity of their employees. The Program may also provide tax credits for approved internship programs that provide training in advanced technologies.

Urban Youth Jobs Program: Governor Cuomo enacted the Urban Youth Jobs Program as an expansion of the highly successful New York Youth Works Program which helps at-risk youth ages 16 to 24 find job-readiness training, enter the workplace, and succeed in their jobs. The 2012 and 2014 New York Youth Works programs combined, helped 1,633 New York businesses hire 18,261 young participants across targeted urban communities with high youth unemployment.

The expanded program doubles the annual allocation from \$10 million to \$20 million for program years 2015 through 2017 to provide wage subsidies to businesses (as tax credits) for hiring youth participants in the targeted communities. Businesses that hire youth participants are eligible to receive wage subsidies of up to: \$5,000 for full-time employment, in increments of up to \$4,000 for the first year of employment and \$1,000 for the second year of employment; and \$2,500 for part-time employment and student hires, in increments of up to \$2,000 for the first year of employment and \$500 for the second.

Restore NY: Included in the 2015-16 budget was \$25 million for the Restore New York Communities Initiative. Restore encourages community development and neighborhood growth through the elimination and redevelopment of blighted structures.

New NY Broadband Program: In October 2014, Governor Cuomo announced the New NY Broadband Program, a \$500 million state investment program to be matched with private sector resources, to bring high speed Internet access to unserved and underserved areas of New York State by 2019. This program represents the largest and boldest State investment in broadband deployment in the country. The New NY Broadband Program builds on Governor Cuomo's record of success. From 2011 to date, \$70 million has been awarded for broadband projects in New York State. In June 2015, New York State held its third Broadband Summit. This year's Summit, which was expanded in scope and size, brought together nearly 400 broadband leaders to discuss broadband best practices, present strategies to address remaining barriers to broadband access and use, and network with other leaders from around the country.

For the second year, New York State broadband leaders were recognized during a special Awards Ceremony held during the Summit. The Broadband Champion Awards are awarded to individuals or teams who are making a significant difference in shaping the broadband landscape in New York State.



Promoting Recreation and Tourism: Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership the State has tripled support for the tourism industry with measures including a \$45 million tourism campaign. That unprecedented level will continue, sustained by a commitment of over \$25 million to supplement the existing I LOVE NY marketing campaign. The funding will continue to boost our tourism economy upstate and elsewhere with initiatives that include: another round of the Governor’s Challenges with winter and summer events in the Adirondacks; a fishing tournament in the Finger Lakes, and two wine cups—one in the Finger Lakes and one on Long Island.

In addition, the Governor announced a series of initiatives to build on the success of last year’s Tourism Summit, including: expansion of the

state’s global reach through increased representation and partnerships in key markets such as Australia and China; the launch of an I LOVE NEW YORK bus to bring visitors from New York City to New York State ski slopes, wineries, breweries and special events; activations at events across the state to acquire consumer data, bolster events as tourism draws, and promote tourism statewide; and a campaign to promote outdoor tourism, including camping discounts, and a partnership with the Campground Owners of NY to represent New York at RV shows nationwide.

Growing Global Tourism in New York State: In 2014, international visitors spent \$18.9 billion in New York State, supported by new I LOVE NEW YORK offices. I LOVE NEW YORK expanded with offices in four cities in China and an office in Australia. A successful China Sales Mission to Hong Kong, Shanghai and Guangzhou took place in March 2015, where New York State tourism representatives met with 500 travel agents, 60 Chinese tour operators and airline partners, and 30 media representatives. Australia Ready Workshops also took place this spring to prepare the state’s tourism industry for an increased Australia tourism market.

Market NY: Funding is again available through the fifth round of Governor Cuomo's REDC initiative for up to \$12 million in Market NY grants. The funds are available to support projects that will increase tourism and create job opportunities in New York State. Eligible applicants will include, businesses, municipalities, not-for-profits and other entities.

Investing in the New York State Fairgrounds: The Great New York State Fair is continuing to build on the success of its 2014 season, one that saw the largest one-year increase in attendance, the setting of two daily attendance records, and record gross sales and revenues paid to the Fair by its new Midway operator. The 2015-16 budget includes a \$50 million investment to reimagine the Fairgrounds, transforming it into a premier, year-round, multi-use facility to create a world-class entertainment and tourism destination. This investment will be aligned with the County's vision for redevelopment of the area and will completely integrate with plans for the Onondaga lakefront, including the opening of the Onondaga Lake Amphitheater. A master plan is currently under development to make the best use of the 375-acre campus.

Taste NY: The Taste NY program was launched in 2013 to highlight New York food and beverage products at special events, tourism destinations, and stores throughout the state. Over the past year, more than 60 Taste NY events were held and New York-made products can now be found in nine stores, including four major New York airports, along the New York State Thruway and Taconic State Parkway, and in Grand Central Terminal in New York City. To further promote our farm-based beverages, a

new Taste NY marketing and branding program is being created with New York liquor stores. New designation signage for Taste NY will also help promote agritourism and the state's farm beverage sector along the Thruway and major routes.



Supporting New York's Dairy Industry: New York State is a national leader in milk production and dairy processing. Governor Cuomo is committed to the success of the dairy industry across New York State and will ensure that farmers have the right tools to remain successful. The Dairy Acceleration Program, a joint venture between the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Department of Environmental Conservation, has made \$1.2 million available to help dairy farmers develop individualized business and environmental plans since the program's inception in 2013. Grants are aimed at efforts to increase the efficiency of dairy farms in New York and decrease operating costs, with an emphasis on small- to medium-size farms (under 300 cows). In addition, the program will enable farmers to tap into the expertise of the Cornell Cooperative Extension network and other agricultural programs to access available technical assistance tailored to dairy production. The Dairy Acceleration Program will build upon Governor Cuomo's "one stop shop" approach by providing a central point of access to technical assistance for those dairies looking to expand or improve productivity.

Supporting Clean Energy and Climate Adaption for Agriculture: The Clean Energy for Agriculture Task Force is a joint endeavor co-chaired by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the Department of Agriculture and Markets. The Task Force will develop a strategic plan to address the opportunities and challenges of widespread deployment of clean energy technologies on farms. The Clean Energy for Agriculture Task Force is composed of industry and State representatives and has met several times already.

Additionally, the 2015-16 budget included \$500,000 in Environmental Protection Funds to develop a pilot agricultural climate adaptation program to be incorporated into the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management Program. The Department of Agriculture and Markets is collaborating with Department of Environmental Conservation's Office of Climate Change and Cornell University to design the Climate Resilient Farm Program.

The 2015-16 budget also included funds for the creation of a commission on dairy risk management and the new USDA Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP-D). The Commission is chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets and was charged with developing any necessary educational and legislative recommendations regarding participation in MPP-D or other risk management programs to protect the industry. The Commission met several times over the course of the spring and delivered recommendations on how to strengthen this important risk management program for New York State dairy farmers. Recommendations included providing online tools to farmers to aid them in calculating costs of production; coordinating existing programs affiliated with the dairy industry to promote risk management education; and shoring up data collection by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) regarding dairy industry performance measures. Implementation of the recommendations is in planning stages.

Streamlining Regulations to Aid Farmers: Governor Cuomo has been leading the effort to break down barriers that farmers face with State government, creating the SILO Task Force (“Strategic Interagency Task Force on Lessening Obstacles to Agriculture”), a statewide programmatic and regulatory review committee consisting of State agencies and nine external business and advocacy organizations to evaluate impediments to production agriculture. The Task Force’s work included conducting an in-depth review of critical issues of concern to farmers, holding extensive dialogue with agencies, and making recommendations for action. Some topics of discussion included farmworker housing inspections; agricultural use value assessments; capital improvements to equine facilities at fairs; navigating the multitude of regulations and requirements placed on farmers; pesticide regulations and interference of utility lines with production practices.

In May, Governor Cuomo announced the first actions taken to streamline farming regulations. The SILO Task Force identified opportunities for the Department of Environmental Conservation to improve the regulations for pesticide registration and certification without compromising current environmental protections. Additional regulatory changes as a result of the Task Force’s analysis will be rolled out this summer.



Protecting and Enhancing Farmland

and Agribusiness: Building on historic levels of funding for farmland protection, a strategic initiative to protect farmland, agriculture and related businesses in the Hudson Valley was announced in 2015, and will make \$20 million dollars available to purchase farmland conservation easements to protect farming’s future in the region. This is the first-ever regional farmland protection initiative of its kind. In addition, Governor Cuomo announced in March 2015 that \$30 million will be available to 11 counties under the Southern Tier Agricultural Economic Development Initiative. The program will support growth in farms and agribusinesses throughout the area, with additional funding to assist targeted agricultural economic development projects. Under the initiative, a \$25 million investment would help farmers increase agricultural production on farms and improve profitability, as well as to better manage environmental resources. Of this funding, \$5 million will be allocated for targeted agricultural economic development projects such as farmers’ market expansions and forest productivity



projects and investments to spur agribusiness job creation in locations such as food processing plants in the Southern Tier.

Support for New and Beginning Farmers:

This spring, Governor Cuomo announced 19 recipients of the \$614,000 New Farmers Grant Fund. The grants will be used to assist early-stage farmers and encourage them to consider farming as a career, adding to the continued growth of New York's agricultural sector. The funds will

create opportunities throughout the state for expansion and increased production on commercial farm operations, as well as support innovative agricultural techniques. Grants range from \$15,000 to \$50,000, and will provide for up to 50 percent of total project costs. The 2015-16 budget included another \$1 million for the program.

Building Our Wine, Beer, Cider and Spirits Industries: New York is home to nearly 800 wineries, breweries, distilleries and cideries. Combined with distribution and retail, they account for more than \$27 billion in economic impact and support tens of thousands of jobs statewide. The state ranks third in the nation in wine and grape production, second in apple production, second in number of distilleries and is home to three of the 20 top-producing breweries in the country. Since the first quarter of 2011, State actions to support agricultural producers have contributed to a doubling in farm-based beverage licenses.

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the number of farm wineries in New York has increased nearly 60 percent, from 195 in 2010 to 311 today. This growth and accompanying increase in quality led Wine Enthusiast to name New York the Wine Region of 2014, beating out other regions like Sonoma County and Chianti, Italy. Wine Enthusiast also recognized the Finger Lakes as one of the top ten best wine travel destinations in the world for 2015. Additionally, the number of microbreweries has increased by 193 percent, from 40 in 2010 to 117, and the new farm brewery law, effective January 2013, has already resulted in 83 new licensees. The number of New York cideries in production has also seen growth -- today, there are 31 hard cider producers across the state, including 12 new farm cideries. Farm distilleries have grown from 10 to 68 during Governor Cuomo's tenure. Brooklyn has the second largest concentration of distilleries anywhere in the world, with 20 licensed distilleries operating throughout the borough.

Craft New York Act: A direct result of the Craft New York Act, an expansion of tax exemptions for tastings conducted by New York breweries went into effect on June 1, 2015, lowering costs for hundreds of craft producers and allowing them to better market their products and reinvest in their businesses. In November 2014, Governor Cuomo signed the Craft New York Act, further stimulating the development of small breweries by reducing costs and increasing the annual production cap for farm breweries and micro-breweries from 60,000 barrels to 75,000. Also in November 2014, Governor Cuomo launched the Craft Beverage Grant programs—a \$2 million Craft Beverage Marketing and Promotion Grant Program and a \$1 million Craft Beverage Industry Tourism Promotion Grant.

Strengthening our Film and Television Industry: New York State continued its commitment to becoming the leader in the film and television industry by enacting several enhancements and related credits under the New York State Film Tax Credit Program. Since 2011, the State has issued \$1.14 billion in tax credits to motion picture, television series, and television pilot production in New York, resulting in \$5.4 billion in film and television industry spending. In the first five months of 2015, the State issued \$134 million in tax credits for eligible projects, resulting in \$590 million of film and television industry spending in the state. New York State now ranks second in the nation behind California for feature film productions.

The expansion of the Post Production Tax Credit program also led to a record number of 92 applications for the program in 2014-2015. In the first five months of the 2015-16 fiscal year, 37 applications for the post-production tax credit have been submitted. Since July 2012, when the credit was increased from 10 percent to 30 percent, seven post-production companies have undertaken major expansions, including Harbor Sound, which received \$550,000 in Excelsior Tax Credits for retaining 30 jobs and creating another 35 jobs. Additionally, ten new post companies have begun operations in New York City and three have opened upstate - Crazy Horse VFX (New Paltz), Empire VFX (Buffalo), and Edgeworx Studios (Kingston).

The plans Governor Cuomo unveiled in March 2014 for a new Central New York Hub for Emerging Nano Industries in Onondaga County will come to fruition this summer with the completion of a state-of-the-art film studio that specializes in providing advanced visual production research and education to support upstate New York's rapidly growing film and television industry. The facility will use nanotechnology to drive innovations in the computer generation imagery, animation, and motion capture technology that is used in film and television production.

In April, SUNY Polytechnic Institute announced that Golden Globe Award winning television and movie actor Ron Perlman will locate his film production company, Wing and a Prayer Pictures at the facility, with a commitment to make at least five films in New York over the next several years. Also based at the facility will be The Film House, a California-based film and television company that is moving its headquarters, production, post-production and distribution operations to Syracuse. The project will create at least 400 new high tech jobs.

Continue to Expand Opportunities for Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Businesses:

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the State has made great strides in contracting for minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs). Exceeding the Governor's goal of 20 percent, State agencies increased MWBE contracts to 25.12 percent by the end of 2014, a significant jump from 10.3 percent, which was the level when the Governor took office. This translates into over \$1.96 billion in contracts for MWBEs, the largest of any State in the country. Governor Cuomo increased the statewide goal to 30 percent in October 2014 – the highest of any state.

The State's success is due to an aggressive multi-pronged strategy to remove barriers to increasing the utilization of MWBE firms in State contracting. The State was also able to significantly increase the pool of certified MWBEs, adding 2,123 firms between January 2011 and January 2014.

The Governor also addressed credit barriers to MWBE participation in State contracting. Small business and MWBE contractors leveraged over \$40 million in surety bonding capacity as a result of training, credit facilitation and surety bond collateral support. The Governor also launched the Bridge to Success Loan Program, which allows MWBE certified firms to receive working capital through a \$20 million fund to perform on State contracts.

Mentoring For Small Business: Small businesses comprise 98 percent of all businesses in New York and employ more than half of the state's private sector workforce. Access to hands-on business coaching from experienced professionals and successful entrepreneurs enables small businesses and MWBEs to secure the expert guidance that is critical for growth and success. In May 2014, Empire State Development launched Business Mentor NY. Through this online platform, entrepreneurs can access assistance from private industry professionals as well as successful entrepreneurs who volunteer their time to help small businesses overcome challenges and expand. Since the launch, over 2,400 mentors and entrepreneurs have signed up.

Immigrant Entrepreneurship Training: The Immigrant Entrepreneurship Training Series, launched in April, helps immigrants across the state start and grow businesses. More than 100 immigrant entrepreneurship seminars will be held throughout the state in the coming year.

Businesses Owned By Disabled Veterans: Governor Cuomo is committed to ensuring that New York is a national leader in providing the care and benefits that veterans and military families have earned. The state is home to more than 900,000 veterans, 72 percent of whom served in combat. However, veteran reintegration into the economy has lagged.

Recognizing this problem, Governor Cuomo proposed and signed the Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act, establishing a six percent goal, double the federal government's goal, for participation in State contracts by these businesses, in addition to other measures to support disabled veteran-owned companies. The legislation creates the Division of Service Disabled Veterans' Business Development within the Office of General Services, which will oversee the program and certify eligible businesses.

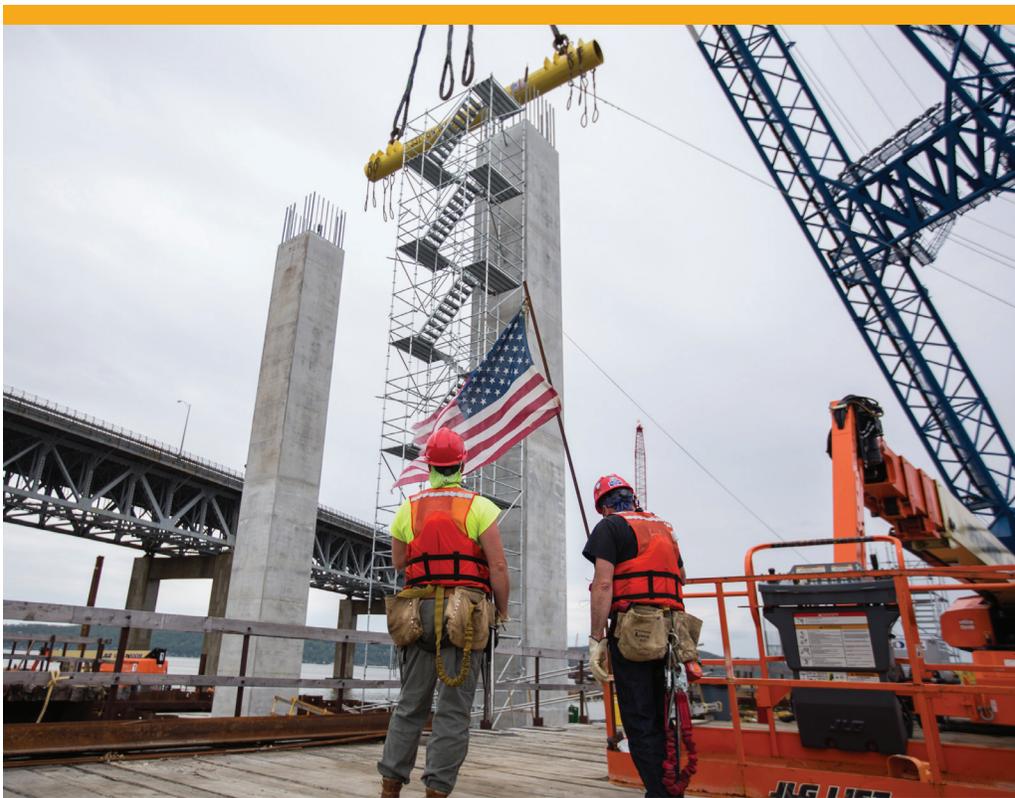
IV. Improving the State's Transportation Infrastructure

New NY Bridge Project Rising in the Hudson

The New NY Bridge project to replace the Tappan Zee Bridge continues to make remarkable progress on its way to completion in 2018. The economic impact of the project is being felt around the state and the region. There are more than 560 New York companies involved and more than 3,000 people have worked on this project so far this year. Construction on the \$3.9 billion design-build project championed by Governor Cuomo is now 40 percent complete. The New York State Thruway Authority's contractor, Tappan Zee Constructors, LLC has now driven 81 percent of the production piles that will form the new foundation of this 100-year Hudson River crossing between Westchester and Rockland Counties. After focusing on underwater work for nearly a year, more and more vertical pier columns are beginning to rise above the Hudson.

On April 24, 2015 the I Lift NY super crane made its inaugural lift on the project, hoisting a 900 ton pile cap into place. One of the world's largest floating cranes, the I Lift NY is helping save more than \$1

billion on the project compared to early cost estimates. The crane allows large sections of the new bridge to be pre-fabricated offsite in a safer, more efficient and cost effective manner. The 2015-16 budget includes a \$1.3 billion Thruway Stabilization Fund, to support Thruway capital projects, including the New NY Bridge, and ensure there will be no toll increase on the entire Thruway system this year. \$750 million will go directly to the New NY Bridge project this year as part of ongoing efforts to keep future Tappan Zee tolls as low as possible.



Building Smarter and Better

Completion of All 112 NY Works Accelerated Bridge Projects: Enacted as part of the 2012-13 budget, Governor Cuomo's NY Works program allotted \$1.1 billion in funding to strategically rehabilitate and modernize transportation infrastructure. To date, the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has successfully delivered the New York Works Program, including:

- The Accelerated Bridge Program, consisting of 110 Bridges (32 of which were design-build).
- The Accelerated Paving Program, delivering over 2,150 miles of improved pavement statewide.
- Signature Projects, which are unique longer-term highway and bridge projects. Seven of nine Signature Projects have been completed. The remaining two, the \$555 million Kosciuszko Bridge and the \$145 million Patroon Island Bridge, are under construction and on schedule.

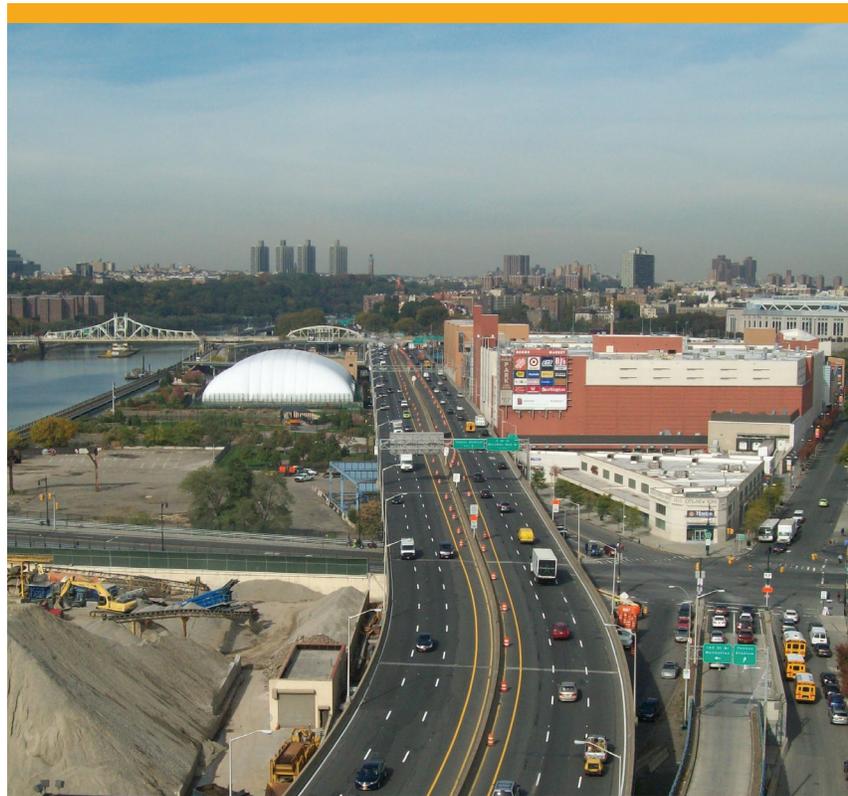
Goethals Bridge Replacement: In May 2014, Governor Cuomo announced the formal start of construction on the \$1.5 billion Goethals Bridge replacement project. This innovative public-private partnership is proceeding substantially on schedule and within budget, and is being constructed in compliance with Buy America provisions for steel and other materials. The project has a scheduled substantial completion date by the end of 2017.

Kosciuszko Bridge Replacement: In May 2014, a Design-Build Team was selected for this \$555 million dollar project, the largest single contract DOT has ever undertaken. The team will replace the eastbound Kosciuszko Bridge, which carries the Brooklyn-Queens expressway (Interstate 278) over Newtown Creek between Brooklyn and Queens. Construction proceeds on schedule and this construction season has seen delivery of the new pre-cast retaining wall as well as completion of necessary new street alignments.

Design Build Successes: Since being signed into law in 2011, DOT has awarded 14 Design-Build contracts valued in excess of \$836 million, including the DOT's largest ever single contract, the \$555 million Kosciuszko Bridge. These projects are underway throughout the state, and results are overwhelmingly positive: projects are being delivered sooner; on-budget; and jobs are being created. In addition to these 14 contracts, nine more are under procurement, totaling an additional \$222 million. Moreover, as part of the 2015-16 budget, the authorization to utilize design-build procurement was extended for another two years.

Innovative Construction Techniques:

DOT is utilizing innovative construction techniques, including use of pre-cast components, to speed construction of projects. Construction of the Major Deegan Expressway (Interstate 87) in the Bronx will be completed a full two years ahead of schedule since the construction plan now calls for using pre-cast concrete deck panels to rehabilitate the elevated portion of the highway deck. By utilizing pre-cast components, the decks will be manufactured off-site and DOT will save time on the pouring and curing of concrete. The new project completion date is 2017.



Progress at the World Trade Center:

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has continued to make significant progress in completing its commitments at the World Trade Center site and the revitalization of Lower Manhattan. This includes completion of the sale of the World Trade Center retail interests to the Westfield Group for a combined \$1.4 billion in proceeds; Conde Nast taking occupancy at One World Trade Center in late 2014; One World Observatory opening to the public in late May; and the anticipated opening of two platforms in the newly reconstructed PATH portion of the World Trade Center Hub transit center in 2015.

Increasing Mobility at Belmont Park: In anticipation of large crowds for the Triple Crown race at the Belmont this past June, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) worked closely with the New York Racing Association, spent more than \$4 million and reconfigured its service plan to successfully handle larger-than-average Belmont Stakes crowds. The Railroad built new high-level platforms to handle longer trains, configured a second track to accommodate faster arrival and departure of trains serving Belmont Park Station, and smoothly carried 28,947 customers home after the race. Almost one-third of the announced total crowd departed the track after the race via LIRR, without incidents or delays. LIRR staff and MTA Police officers ensured customers had a fast and efficient path from Penn and Jamaica stations to Belmont and back, with post-race crowds moving twice as fast as the year before.

Initiatives to Improve Freight Movement in the Region: In September 2014, the Port Authority authorized a project to modernize and improve the Cross-Harbor float barge system that moves cargo between New Jersey and Brooklyn, providing an efficient, environmentally friendly alternative to truck transport for cargo headed to East-of-Hudson markets in New York and Long Island. Additionally, in November, the Port Authority in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration,

published a draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analyzing long-term alternatives for addressing the challenge of expected growth in freight in the region. Public hearings on the draft Tier 1 EIS were completed in early 2015 and a Record of Decision is expected later this year.



Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) Funding:

The 2015-16 budget continues to provide record level funding to municipalities statewide to address local bridge and pavement needs. This includes \$438 million in core CHIPS funding; and an additional \$50 million appropriation for Extreme Winter Recovery Funding to address the impacts of the harsh winter weather. Funding under the CHIPS

program must be used for capital projects. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is working with municipalities to expedite the reimbursement of eligible expenses.

Response to Severe Weather Events: The 2015-16 budget includes \$50 million to enhance DOT’s capacity to respond to severe weather events. This funding will support new equipment, including additional snow plows, tandem tow plows and loaders. In addition, this new funding will support equipping the Department’s fleet with a state-of-the-art GPS system that will track assets in real time to aid with deployments. DOT is working with the Office of General Services on the procurement of this new equipment.

Positive Train Control: The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) was awarded a nearly one billion-dollar low-interest loan to facilitate the installation of “positive train control” on both the Long Island Railroad the MetroNorth Railroad. This train safety system is designed to remove the potential of human error as the cause for railroad accidents. The railroads had already commenced installation of the system, which is the newest development in train safety.

Port Authority Reform Act of 2015: In December of 2014, Governor Cuomo endorsed the Comprehensive Reform Plan recommended by the Bi-State Special Panel on the Future of the Port Authority. At its core, the Panel called for restructuring the agency’s overall operations, including a reorganization of the leadership of the Board of Commissioners and the executive management of the Port Authority through the creation of a single Chief Executive Officer and modification of the Chairperson’s role. The Panel also recommended that the Authority return to its original mission of developing and maintaining a world-class transportation system. In keeping with this recommendation, the Governor worked with the legislature to enact a series of reforms to strengthen the governance of the Authority and put in place stronger accountability measures for the Board and executive management.

Modernizing New York's Airports

In October 2014, the Governor called for a holistic master plan to revitalize JFK International, LaGuardia, Stewart, and Republic Airports. Together with the Port Authority, New York State launched an Airport Master Plan Design Competition for JFK and LaGuardia in December 2014. The Master Plan Competitions call for comprehensive modernization of both airports, including state-of-the-art facilities, customer service and amenities, transit and access improvements.

LaGuardia: In April, the Governor's Airport Master Plan Advisory Panel sent a series of preliminary recommendations to the Port Authority Board regarding the LaGuardia Airport. The preliminary recommendations call for the following:

- Unifying world class architectural appearance across all new elements of the New LaGuardia;
- A central arrival and departures portal that includes first-class retail, dining, and business amenities;
- Capacity for a future hotel on the airport grounds;
- Future rail connection, including plans for an AirTran connecting the airport to the subway for the first time;
- A people mover that gives passengers the ability to easily cross from one end of the airport to the other, as well as future connection to the Marine Air Terminal;
- A cell-phone lot waiting area and improved road configuration.

In late May, the Port Authority Board, embracing the preliminary recommendations of the Panel, acted on the first phase of comprehensive master plan for LaGuardia Airport by selecting a preferred developer to begin negotiations on a public private partnership to replace aging Terminal B and to develop a plan to construct a new entry portal at the airport. The new portal will link three terminals at the airport for the first time, and is consistent with the Advisory Panel's preliminary recommendations for LaGuardia.

In addition, earlier this year, the Governor also proposed a new AirTran connection to LaGuardia from Willets Point, Queens, connecting LaGuardia with the 7-line and Long Island Rail Road; the Port Authority and the MTA are coordinating planning for this project. LaGuardia Airport is the only major airport in the region that doesn't have access to rail transit; increased coordination would remedy this connectivity issue.

JFK: The Governor's Airport Master Plan Advisory Panel has initially focused its effort on LaGuardia Airport. The Panel anticipates making recommendations with respect to JFK in the coming months. In the interim, the Port Authority has taken a number of steps to revitalize JFK's air cargo business. The PANYNJ has finalized a 27-year lease with ARK Development to develop and operate a state-of-the-art animal handling cargo facility at JFK. This \$48 million public-private partnership is part of a larger long-term effort to revitalize JFK as a premier air cargo hub for the country. The airport is already experiencing a growth of international cargo.

Stewart: The Port Authority is developing a plan to attract additional business, including cargo, warehousing, and logistics, to Stewart Airport. The business attraction plan was released in December following the Governor's announcement. In addition, Stewart was designated as a tax free START-UP NY site during the 2015-16 budget – making the airport an even more attractive location for economic investment.

Republic: To encourage economic development around the airport, Republic was also designated as a tax-free site through the START-UP NY initiative as part of the 2015-16 budget. START-UP NY will play a critical role in boosting business and investment at Republic Airport; the program will help qualified companies start, expand or relocate their businesses near the airport to increase jobs and economic activity.

New York Aviation Jobs Act: A component of the 2015-16 budget, the New York Aviation Jobs Act exempts general aviation aircraft from the sales and use tax. This will encourage more purchases of such aircraft in the New York market, bringing increased jobs and activity at New York airports.

V. Improving and Reforming Education

Since taking office, one of the Governor's highest priorities has been to reform New York's education system by focusing on improving performance and encouraging innovation to effectively support New York's children from cradle to career. This year, the Governor increased funding for public education to its highest level ever, advocated for and achieved the largest and most far-reaching package of education reforms in the history of the state through the Education Transformation Act of 2015, and expanded support for higher education.



K-12 Education

Highest Level of School Aid in State History: In the last four years, the Governor has enacted budgets containing School Aid increases totaling \$4.3 billion. The 2015-16 budget includes an additional \$1.4 billion increase (6.1 percent), bringing School Aid funding to its highest level ever at \$23.5 billion.

Expanded High-Quality Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten: This year's budget builds on the Governor's historic \$1.5 billion commitment to providing pre-kindergarten access for 4-year olds with an additional \$30 million to expand high quality half-day and full-day prekindergarten programs to 3- and 4-year-old children in the highest-need school districts. Studies show that 3-year olds enrolled in high-quality programs make some of the largest gains in cognitive and behavioral skills.

Improved Teacher Preparation and Attraction: Preparing teachers to effectively instruct our students is one of the most critical components of our education system. As the State has increased the rigor of certification exams, and instituted a teacher "bar exam", these changes have exposed weaknesses at teacher preparation programs that are readying our next generation of teachers. To protect and support teacher candidates attending struggling teacher preparation programs, the Governor proposed and the legislature approved requirements for the State Education Department to enhance its review and approval of programs and reform those that fail to adequately prepare students to pass required exams and teach New York students. Additionally, all teacher preparation programs will now be required to institute more strenuous admissions requirements including a minimum GPA and an admissions exam to ensure that students entering these programs are strong teacher candidates. To further promote high quality teacher preparation programs, the Governor has also committed \$3 million to create teacher

residency programs in New York, promoting teacher apprenticeship programs similar to those seen in the medical profession. To attract high quality candidates to the profession, the Governor also created a \$3 million full scholarship program to SUNY and CUNY schools for top graduates who commit to teach in a New York public school for five years.

Teacher and Principal Performance Pay: To ensure that we have a fair and accurate teacher and principal evaluation system in place, several important changes to the evaluation framework were enacted that require the State Education Department to issue regulations implementing the new system by June 30, 2015. This new framework will standardize important aspects of the evaluation system, rate educators on student performance and observations, and help to identify high-performing educators as well as those who require additional assistance. Teachers will also be rewarded for effectiveness through a Teacher Excellence Fund which will provide up to \$20,000 in annual supplemental compensation for eligible teachers who are rated “highly effective” under the new system.

Professionalizing Teaching: Through the Education Transformation Act of 2015, the Governor has taken steps to professionalize teaching. The Act raises the bar for granting tenure to teachers by extending the tenure period from three to four years and requiring teachers to demonstrate consistent levels of effectiveness before receiving tenure. Additionally, to ensure our students’ safety and protect their access to high quality teaching, the State has streamlined the process for removing teachers who have demonstrated incompetence in teaching.

Transforming Failing Schools: There are currently 178 failing schools in New York that enroll approximately 109,000 students. The Education Transformation Act of 2015 provides the State with new options to turn these schools around and ensure that students are getting the opportunities they deserve. To drive progress at persistently failing schools, the Act sets clear benchmarks that districts must hit; otherwise they become eligible for appointment of an external receiver who will have the powers of the superintendent and local school board to restructure the school, overhaul curriculum, improve professional development, and make staffing changes necessary to implement a school transformation plan. These efforts will be supported by \$75 million in additional funding for programs and related activities.

Reforming Common Core Implementation and Reducing Testing: To build on previous efforts to reform the implementation of the Common Core and to respond to testing-related concerns from families and educators, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents was required to produce a Testing Reduction Report that outlines recommendations for reducing the amount of State and local testing, improve test quality and reduce test anxiety and stress. The legislature and the Governor also agreed to provide funding to the State Education Department to support additional disclosure of test questions and answers on a timely basis.

Smart Schools: The Governor’s proposed \$2 billion “Smart Schools Bond Act” investment in education technology was approved by New York State voters in November 2014; these funds will be targeted to support enhanced technology and internet connectivity in schools. In April 2015 the State launched the application process for school districts to submit investment plans for awarded funds to ensure that students have access to the technology and connectivity they need to succeed and compete in today’s global economy.



Supporting Parental Choice in Education: The Governor and the legislature agreed to increased funding for nonpublic schools and an amendment to the charter cap that allows additional charter schools to open in New York City. The agreement includes \$250 million in funding to reimburse nonpublic schools for the costs of performing State-mandated services. The agreement also amends the charter cap to allow for fifty charter schools to open in New York City under any authorizing entity.

Extending Mayoral Control: To support local control of the New York City mayor over the public school system, the legislature and the Governor agreed to a one-year extension of mayoral control to provide for increased oversight and accountability.

Public-Private P-Tech Partnerships: These partnerships expand the Governor’s commitment to NYS P-TECH schools that provide high school students with a private sector business mentor and an Associate degree at no cost, and puts them first in line for jobs at partnering businesses when they graduate. The 2015-16 budget includes \$3 million to add additional schools to the NYS P-TECH initiative. Seven new P-TECH partnerships will be awarded this year, bringing the total number to 33 schools.

Higher Education

Get on Your Feet Loan Forgiveness Program: New York residents who graduate from college and continue to live in New York will pay nothing on their federal student loans for the first two years of repayment if their income is not high enough to cover their student debt without posing a significant financial hardship. For students who attend colleges in New York State, continue to live in the State following graduation, participate in the new federal Pay As You Earn (PAYE) income-based loan repayment program and earn less than \$50,000 annually, New York State will cover 100 percent of their student loan payments for two years so eligible students are not overwhelmed with debt repayments while they are working to establish their careers.

Support Our Community College Students: The 2015-16 budget includes \$2.5 million that will allow five community colleges to participate in a community schools initiative. This program will bring healthcare services to campuses, assist students with transportation, provide additional resources for child/elder care, and augment existing academic and career development supports. Community colleges serve some of the state's most disadvantaged students and communities, and are more likely than four-year institutions to attract part-time and nontraditional students who are trying to balance, work, family, and other obligations with their education. Through the community schools initiative, students will have the tools and supports they need, both in and out of the classroom, to persist and graduate.

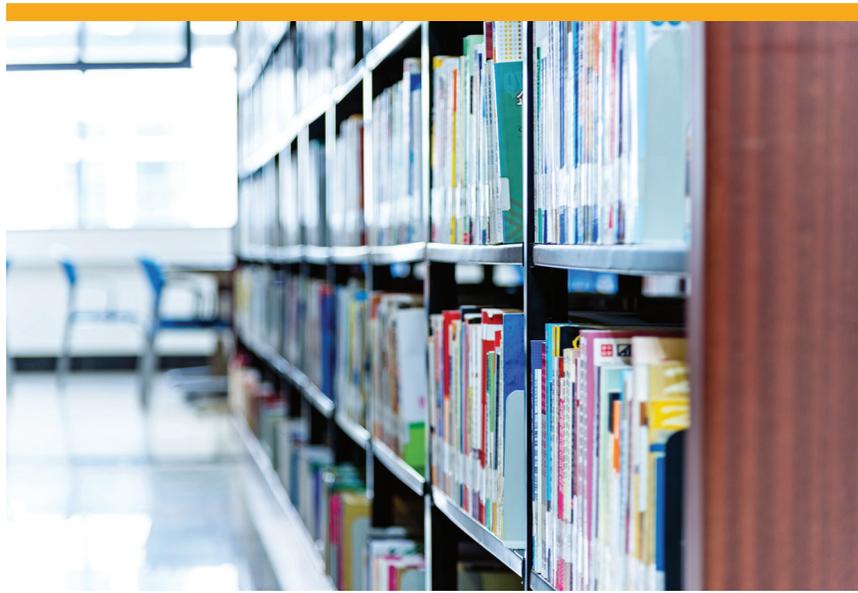
Align Community Colleges within Regions: SUNY will create regional planning councils ensuring that the 29 community colleges outside New York City cooperate with the other colleges within the regions of the State, and that the colleges in a region, along with stakeholders from other State agencies, local government and business and industry are working together. Under this structure, multiple colleges in one region will come together under a regionally assembled council. These councils will set program development, enrollment and transfer goals on a regional basis. This initiative will limit competition by colleges for students within a region, better align education and training program offerings to regional economic development goals and activities, and improve student outcomes.

Offer Experiential Learning at SUNY and CUNY: The Budget requires SUNY and CUNY to develop experiential or applied learning activities for students enrolled beginning in the 2016-17 academic year. Giving students the opportunity to apply classroom learning through undergraduate work experiences increases the chances that they will stay to live and work in New York following graduation.

Standardize Financial Aid Letters: Recognizing that the rising cost of college and sub-optimal student outcomes make college choice more critical than ever, New York will create a standard financial aid award letter for colleges and universities to use to provide data regarding institutional performance in the areas of student access, degree completion and post-graduation success. With this information, students and their families will know the total costs of an education, how much aid they will receive and how much needs to be repaid. They will also be able to see how well other students have done once they graduated from the college they are considering.

SUNY and CUNY Investment and Performance Funds:

To promote student success and institutional excellence, the State has begun the process of shifting support from an enrollment driven formula to one that bases a portion of State aid on performance. The 2015-16 budget includes \$30 million in new investment and performance funds allocated to SUNY and CUNY campuses that develop performance improvement plans. These plans will include goals to improve access, completion rates, academic and post-graduation success, research potential and community engagement.



VI. Providing Affordable Housing for New Yorkers

Protecting New York’s Tenants: The New York metropolitan region’s rent laws will be extended for four years, and will be made retroactive to June 15, 2015. Further, additional reforms will be made to strengthen these laws, including:

- Increasing and indexing the high rent threshold to the applicable rent guidelines board (rent guidelines boards apply different rents to different geographic areas). This will make it more difficult for units to be removed from rent regulation because it will allow for the high rent watermark to float based on the rent guidelines board increases.
- Vacancy decontrol limits will be increased, to \$2,700, and annual increases thereafter will be indexed to the Rent Guidelines Board.
- Increasing civil harassment penalties. These provisions increase monetary penalties imposed on landlords who harass tenants by approximately \$1,000 to \$3,000 for each offense and up to \$11,000 for each offense where the owner harassed a tenant to obtain a vacancy.
- Extends the Major Capital Improvement amortization period from 84 months to 108 for buildings over 35 units and 84 months to 96 for buildings under 35 units. The legislation limits the amount of rent that landlords can charge tenants in order to receive reimbursement for necessary improvements or installations.
- Limits the vacancy bonus provided to landlords on tenants who receive preferential rent as a way to stop the “churn” on these units.



Extending and Reforming 421-a:

This legislation extends the 421-a program for six months, with a provision that allows representatives of labor and industry groups to reach a memorandum of understanding regarding wage protections for construction workers. If such an agreement is reached, the program will automatically be extended and modified for four years. It also requires developers to provide a larger percentage of affordable units for a longer period of time to qualify for the abatement, offering four options that will require 25 percent to 35 percent of the units to be affordable

for 35 years, up from 20 percent for 25 years. Additionally, it permits condos and coops outside Manhattan to qualify for the abatement, provided they reserve 25 percent of the units for affordable homeownership, and prohibits “poor doors” for low income tenants, requiring affordable housing units are completely integrated into the new apartment buildings.

Maintaining and Growing Investments in Affordable Housing Development: Governor Cuomo's five year, \$1 billion House New York program represents the largest investment in affordable housing in at least 15 years. In 2014, the State continued progress toward the preservation and creation of nearly 14,300 affordable housing units. This includes the preservation of 8,600 middle-income Mitchell-Lama units that will remain affordable for the next 40 years. New York State created or preserved a record 9,407 affordable housing units in 2014. The Unified Funding awards announced in May provided more than \$141 million in awards for affordable housing developments across the state. The low-interest loans, grants and tax credits will build or preserve 2,160 affordable apartments and are expected to leverage more than \$469 million in grants, loans, and private resources.

This investment is continued in the 2015-16 budget with the provision of more than \$229 million for affordable housing capital programs including \$42 million to support the ongoing preservation of Mitchell-Lama units to ensure they remain affordable for the next 40 years. It provides funding increases for the Low Income Housing Trust Fund Program, the Homes for Working Families program, the Affordable Homeownership Program and the Rural and Urban Communities Investment Fund (CIF) Program, which supports mixed-use affordable housing development with commercial, retail, or community facilities. The 2015-16 budget also includes \$63 million in capital funding to the Office of Temporary Disability

Promoting Mixed-Use Housing in Rural and Urban Communities: The Rural and Urban Communities Investment Fund (CIF) program supports mixed-use affordable housing development with commercial, retail or community facilities to strengthen the financing and viability of affordable housing projects. More than \$2.5 million in CIF awards have been made since January and millions in additional funding requests are under review.

Tenant Protection Unit: Created in 2012, Governor Cuomo's Tenant Protection Unit (TPU) continued to proactively protect tenants in the nearly one million units in the rent stabilization system. The TPU has pursued landlords who failed to register their rent-regulated units and audited owners who had filed for rent increases for apartment improvements they had claimed to make. These actions have resulted in the re-stabilization of over 40,000 units to date and the return of over \$1.3 million dollars to tenants who were unknowingly overcharged. TPU Accomplishments- January 2015 to present:

- As a result of a TPU audit and investigation in January 2015, an Upper West Side landlord who was receiving a J-51 tax abatement and not treating tenants as rent-regulated agreed to complete a review of the rents for his building, voluntarily adjusted their rents and provided all tenants with rent stabilized leases going forward.



- The TPU was the primary conduit for the Brooklyn DA's Office on the April 2015 criminal indictment of landlords, who were indicted for destroying their tenants' apartments in Brooklyn, NY. TPU's investigation and information about the defendants' egregious acts and violations of rent regulation laws served as the basis of the District Attorney's criminal indictment.
- Building upon the successes of the Governor's TPU, in February 2015 the unit collaborated with various City agencies and the New York State Attorney General's Office to form the Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force - a joint task force to address the deregulation and destruction of rent-regulated apartments throughout New York City.
- In 2015 TPU assisted the Division of Housing and Community Renewal in the eligibility determination of owner/developers for State loans, grants and tax credits, by investigating and vetting owners for financial soundness and their mortgage holdings for signs of overleveraging within their portfolios or allegations of increased tenant turnover through harassment.

Promoting Home Ownership

Affordable Homeownership Development Program: Since January, the Division of Housing and Community Renewal has awarded an additional \$34.8 million in Local Program awards, creating or preserving over 2,100 units of affordable housing. Of this amount, the Affordable Homeownership Development program will invest over \$20 million to acquire and rehabilitate over 1,000 units; and \$10 million in Community Development Block Grant Program funds to assist 421 low to moderate income New Yorkers purchase or rehabilitate a home. Additionally this year, the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) has accepted applications from 944 first time homebuyers totaling approximately \$162 million in mortgage financing statewide. Of these applications, 58 percent are from low-income homebuyers (80 percent of area median income or less), and 30 percent of the loan applications are from minority households.

Investing in Low and Middle-income Housing: The State programmed \$248 million from the JP Morgan settlement proceeds to support various affordable housing and community development programs, including \$100 million for critical repairs and improvements at NYCHA developments, \$50 million for a new middle income housing production program and renovations to additional existing Mitchell Lama developments.

Investing in Homeless Housing and Services: The 2015-16 budget invests an unprecedented additional \$432 million in homeless services statewide over the next several years. This includes a \$15 million rental subsidy program for New York City, a \$2.5 million increase to enhance homeless services programs; a \$2.2 million increase for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; a \$220 million reinvestment of youth facility billing savings to support rental assistance in New York City; and the remaining \$191.5 million, funded with JP Morgan Settlement proceeds to support several initiatives including a new NY/NY IV supportive housing agreement; rate enhancements to preserve existing supportive housing units; New York City's Living In Communities (LINC) I program to move working families out of shelter; and to continue State support the HIV/AIDS rent cap in New York City.

VII. Investigating Corruption and Reforming Government

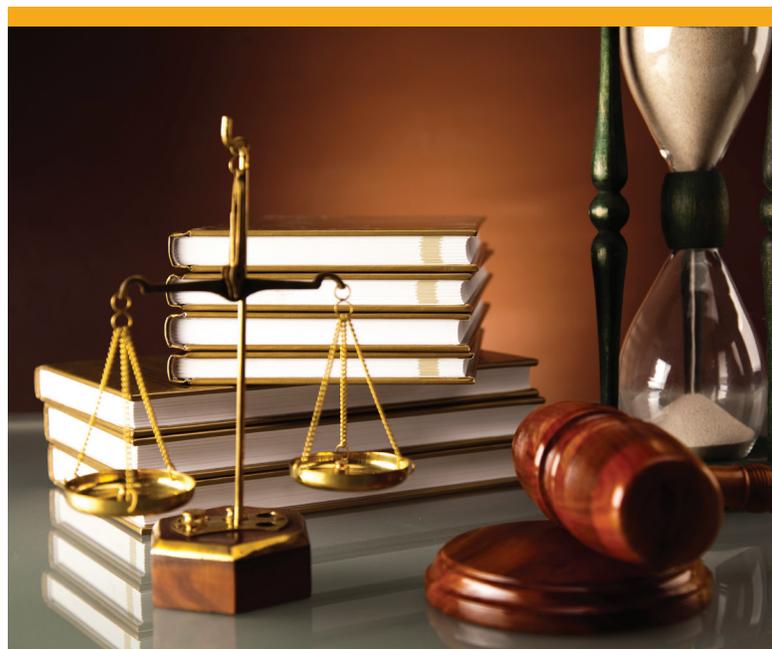
Ethics in government and conflicts of interest in the legislature have been among the most persistent issues facing New York State for generations. Multiple administrations have grappled with ethics reform over the years, but achieved limited or no success. This year, however, we are finally addressing this longstanding problem – implementing the strongest outside income disclosure laws in the nation, along with other measures to deter, detect and punish breaches of the public trust.

New Disclosure Requirements: Public officials will be required to disclose all outside earned income they receive, from whom they receive it, the actual services performed to receive the income, and whether there is any connection to the State government or the office that they hold or their public duties. Specifically:

- All public officials must disclose the nature of each source of outside compensation in excess of \$1,000.
- No legislator, legislative employee or state officer may receive any kind of compensation, directly or indirectly, in connection with a pending bill or resolution.
- All public officials who personally provide services whether they work individually or as a member or employee of a business or firm, such as lawyers and real estate brokers, and receives compensation from a client/customer in excess of \$5,000 must disclose the name of the client/customer, the services rendered, the amount of compensation and whether the services were related to governmental action. Certain sensitive activities will be exempted from client disclosure such as child custody cases, preparation of wills, matrimonial proceedings, cases involving minors, bankruptcies, criminal proceedings and residential home closings.

Expansion of the Lobbying Law:

The Lobbying Law was extended to cover lobbying of municipalities that have a population of 5,000 or more. Previously, it was applicable only to municipalities with populations of 50,000 or more.



Per Diem Reform: A new set of verification requirements for per diems were established this legislative session, including:

- To ensure an official is where they claim to be, the legislature will install an electronic system that verifies personal attendance of legislators at an official event.
- The Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the Senate will develop and implement policies to verify attendance at official events and establish standards and limits for reimbursable events.
- Reimbursements will be governed by federal regulations.
- Legislature will create a publicly accessible website showing members' reimbursement and travel.

Prohibition of Personal Use of Campaign Funds: Campaign contributions for personal use have been banned; such personal use will be defined as expenditures that are exclusively for personal benefit of the candidate or any other individual, not in connection with a political campaign or holding of a public office or party position. The law will include an illustrative list of prohibited uses including using campaign contributions for expenses unrelated to a campaign or the holding of public office such as residential home purchases, mortgage payments, rent, clothing, tuition payments, salaries for individuals not performing campaign work, admissions to sporting events, fines and penalties and dues for country clubs and health clubs.

Campaign Finance Disclosure: The requirement for disclosing independent expenditures has been expanded to include communications made within 60 days before a general or special election, and 30 days before a primary election that reference a clearly identified client.

Additional Funding for Enforcement; Review of JCOPE to Ensure Performance: The 2015-16 budget also provides an additional \$1.2 million for enforcement activities at the Joint Commission on Public Ethics, amounting to a 27 percent increase in the Commission's operating budget. The budget also includes additional funding to support modernizing technology systems at the Commission. Further, to ensure that the Commission is operating effectively and efficiently to enforce the ethics rules, the Governor and the Legislature must appoint a commission of eight people within 30 days to review and evaluate the activities and performance of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics and the Legislative Ethics Commission.

VIII. A Safer New York

Enough is Enough: Sexual violence affects thousands of college students in New York State and across the nation, and Governor Cuomo has responded by sending a clear message that “Enough is Enough.” The Governor has been a national leader on preventing and responding to campus sexual assaults, first urging the State University of New York to adopt groundbreaking new policies and then proposing legislation to expand these initiatives to all public and private institutions in the State. The “Enough is Enough” legislation, passed by the Legislature in June 2015, includes a new statewide definition of affirmative consent to sexual activity, requires campus amnesty for victims and bystanders reporting sexual violence, establishes a new “Students’ Bill of Rights,” standardizes procedures and options for victim reporting, confidential disclosure, and access to services, and institutes new training and assessment requirements. The bill also establishes a new victims’ right to privacy in legal challenges, establishes and funds a new Sexual Assault Victims Unit within the Division of State Police, and provides new appropriations of \$4.5 in additional funding for rape crisis centers across the state and \$1 million for college campuses.

Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE): More than \$13.2 million was awarded to law enforcement agencies in 17 counties that account for approximately 87 percent of the violent crime reported outside of New York City. The grants will allow those agencies to continue implementing programs and community efforts focused on reducing gun violence, shootings, and firearm-related homicides. The GIVE initiative builds upon the important work done over the 10 years of Operation IMPACT. The program expands the use of crime analysis and evidence-based strategies among 20 police departments and their county law enforcement partners: district attorneys, sheriffs and probation departments. For the first time, the State also hosted a two-day evidence-based policing symposium, at which nationally recognized experts detailed strategies proven to reduce shootings and firearm-related homicides. The training, attended by more than 270 law enforcement professionals, was part of an ongoing effort by the State to provide GIVE participants with free technical assistance to help them implement strategies and programs to reduce gun violence in their communities and save lives.

SNUG Initiative: The State has awarded grants with an annual value of approximately \$3.3 million to 11 communities across New York to fund neighborhood-based violence reduction programs that promote street-level outreach and intervention to steer young people away from using guns and gun violence to solve problems. These projects focus on the implementation of a coordinated, community-based strategy for reducing violence in a specified neighborhood or neighborhoods, precinct(s) or similarly defined area. Funding is currently provided to programs in Albany, Bronx, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mt. Vernon, Rochester, Syracuse, Troy, Wyandanch, Yonkers and Rockland County.



State Police Academy Class: In March, 2015, the State Police Academy began training the next generation of New York State Troopers. The class of 202 troopers is scheduled to graduate the Academy and start their field training in September 2015. The graduating class will be fully trained and prepared to enforce the law, prevent crime, and make our roads safer with a focus on the most dangerous driving behaviors, including distracted driving and DWI.

Distracted Driving: Distracted driving continues to be a major contributor to motor vehicle collisions across the State and Governor Cuomo has made combating distracted driving a high priority. During the first quarter of 2015, Troopers issued 9,806 tickets for distracted driving

violations, 3,228 of which were for texting while driving and 6,578 of which were for talking on a hand held phone. In addition, during the “Operation Hang Up” enforcement blitz, on April 10-15, 2015, Troopers issued an additional 2,690 tickets for distracted driving violations, including 1,046 for texting and 1,644 for talking on phones.

Collective Bargaining Agreement for PBA Officers and State Troopers: Governor Cuomo advanced two program bills to implement the provisions of the collective bargaining agreements between the State of New York and two bargaining units within the Division of State Police – the Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers and the Troopers. With these settlements, the Governor has settled collective bargaining agreements with 99 percent of the State workforce subject to direct Executive control for the contract period that commenced in FY 2012. These two seven-year labor contracts, covering the period from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2018, continue several existing benefits as well as increase general salaries by 7 percent over the next 4 years. Employees in both units will receive a 2 percent salary increase effective April 1, 2014; a 2 percent increase, effective April 1, 2015; a 1.5 percent increase, effective April 1, 2016; and a 1.5 percent increase effective April 1, 2017. These fiscally responsible agreements continue the Governor’s record of achieving health benefit savings through increases to employee/retiree premium shares, copays, out-of-network deductibles and coinsurance.

A More Efficient and Effective Justice System

Raise the Age: In April 2014, the Governor established the Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice to make recommendations on how best to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18, improve outcomes for youth, and promote community safety. New York is one of only two states that sets its age of juvenile jurisdiction at 16 years of age meaning that all 16- and 17- year olds are processed in the criminal justice system, and not through the family courts, no matter their offense. The Commission issued its report in January 2015 setting forth its recommendations for reforming the juvenile justice system. Governor Cuomo will take an interim step towards raising the age of criminal responsibility by initiating a plan to move 16-and 17-year olds out of adult State prisons into separate facilities.

Special Prosecutor for Crimes Involving Public Servants: To restore faith to our justice system in perception and in reality, the Governor will use existing law to appoint the Attorney General as a special prosecutor for a period of one year by executive order. The Governor and Legislature agreed to continue to pursue a more permanent legislative solution during the course of that year.

Reentry Council: In July 2014, the Governor announced the formation of the New York State Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration to identify and alleviate barriers faced by people with criminal convictions as they seek to reintegrate into society. The Council's first year accomplishments include: amending State licensing and employment regulations that have created higher barriers for people with convictions than called for by statute, such as for paramedics and as appearance enhancement specialists; evaluating qualified applicants for occupational licenses with a presumption towards granting a license, unless an individualized consideration or a specific statutory ban weighs against it; streamlining the process of applying for documents that create a presumption of rehabilitation for people with criminal histories; and providing a path to DMV- issued ID, including driver's licenses and learner's permits, where eligible, for people exiting State prison facilities. A number of additional administrative changes are in the final stages of implementation and will be announced at the year anniversary of the Council in July 2015.

Protecting Victims

Counseling for Grandchildren of Homicide Victims: The Governor proposed and the legislature enacted a program bill that will require the Office of Victim Services to reimburse the expense of counseling services for the grandchildren of homicide victims. This proposed bill would amend existing law to add grandchildren to the list of the family members who may receive an award for counseling expenses. Current law authorizes the Office of Victim Services to provide reimbursement to grandparents who have lost their grandchild as the result of a homicide. The law also recognizes the eligibility of spouses, parents, stepparents, guardians, brothers, sisters, stepbrothers, stepsisters, children and stepchildren of the victim. The law does not, however, extend to grandchildren. This bill would correct this apparent oversight and ensure that grandchildren are treated equally with other family members.

Shielding New York State New Americans from Fraud Victimization: In April 2015, the White House Task Force on New Americans cited New York's efforts as a model for the nation. In May 2015, the State Office for New Americans and leading Spanish-language media outlets (Univision TV, El Diario and WADO radio) held a consumer and immigrant fraud week to provide information to the community about avoiding fraud. The Protect Immigrant New Yorkers Task Force will launch a public education campaign later this year to further inform immigrants about their right to complaint about immigration assistance fraud. Since January, the Task Force has been successful in helping the Queens and Nassau District Attorney's offices create a staffed immigrant affairs focus in their respective offices.

IX. Strengthening Our State's Healthcare System



New York State of Health:

The New York State of Health, the State's official health plan marketplace, was created to assist New Yorkers with gaining access to quality affordable healthcare coverage. The approved rates for 2014 and 2015 are more than 50 percent lower than what individuals would have paid before creation of the marketplace in October 2013. At the end of the second open enrollment period, more than 2.1 million New Yorkers enrolled in coverage; 89 percent of those who have enrolled to date report being uninsured at the time of application.

Medical Marijuana: Governor Cuomo worked with the legislature to enact the Compassionate Care Act, establishing a medical marijuana program for New York State. The legislation includes provisions to ensure medical marijuana is reserved only for patients with serious conditions and is dispensed and administered in a manner that protects public health and safety. Additionally, the legislation establishes tough penalties for individuals and health care practitioners who abuse the program. Consistent with the legislation, the program is scheduled to become operational by early 2016. The State plans to allow as many as five manufacturers to grow the drug, and each manufacturer will be allowed to operate up to four dispensaries. Applications have been submitted and the Department of Health (DOH) will issue licenses in summer 2015.

Ending the AIDS Epidemic in New York State: In June 2014, Governor Cuomo announced a three-point plan to end AIDS as an epidemic in New York State with a goal to decrease new HIV infections to 750 per year by end of 2020.

The Governor's Ending the Epidemic Task Force, made up of key stakeholders representing public and private industry and community leaders who are experts in the field of HIV/AIDS, released its report in April 2015. The recommendations include continuing New York State's highly successful existing HIV prevention and care providing access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) efforts to identify undiagnosed persons and retaining infected individuals in care; utilizing biomedical interventions such as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent infections among persons who engage in high-risk behaviors to keep them HIV negative; addressing stigma and discrimination to reduce associated health disparities. This blueprint has begun to be implemented. Additionally, a statewide "Ending the Epidemic" awareness campaign launched in March 2015.

Preventing Unnecessary Medicaid Costs Saves Taxpayers Hundreds of Millions: The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General's (OMIG) proactive cost-containment measures are delivering savings for New Yorkers. In the first three months of 2015, preliminary figures show that OMIG actions prevented \$439 million in unnecessary Medicaid expenditures. OMIG cost-containment measures totaled approximately \$1.8 billion in 2014.

Strengthening Integrity in Social Adult Day Care: To further enhance program integrity in services for the elderly, in May, DOH, the State Office for the Aging, and OMIG launched a new online certification requirement for providers of Social Adult Day Care (SADC) services. Through this first-in-the-nation effort, more than 214 SADC certifications were submitted by Social Adult Day Care providers in the first few weeks alone.

State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP): In December 2014, New York was awarded a four year, nearly \$100 million State Innovations Model Testing grant by the federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. This funding will support the Governor's State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP), an ambitious five-year strategic blueprint that works to give New Yorkers access to high quality, coordinated care. The SHIP Council convened for the first time in May 2015 and workgroups on advance primary care and health information technology have also met. The SHIP will increase access to high quality primary care in every region of the state, within five years.

Promoting Use of Telehealth: Governor Cuomo signed into law a bill to require commercial insurers and the Medicaid program to reimburse for services delivered via telehealth, if the same service were to be covered if provided in person. The Department of Health is in the process of developing regulations to support implementation of the new law; provide guidelines for Medicaid coverage; address potential for fraud, abuse, and overutilization; and protect patient privacy and confidentiality.

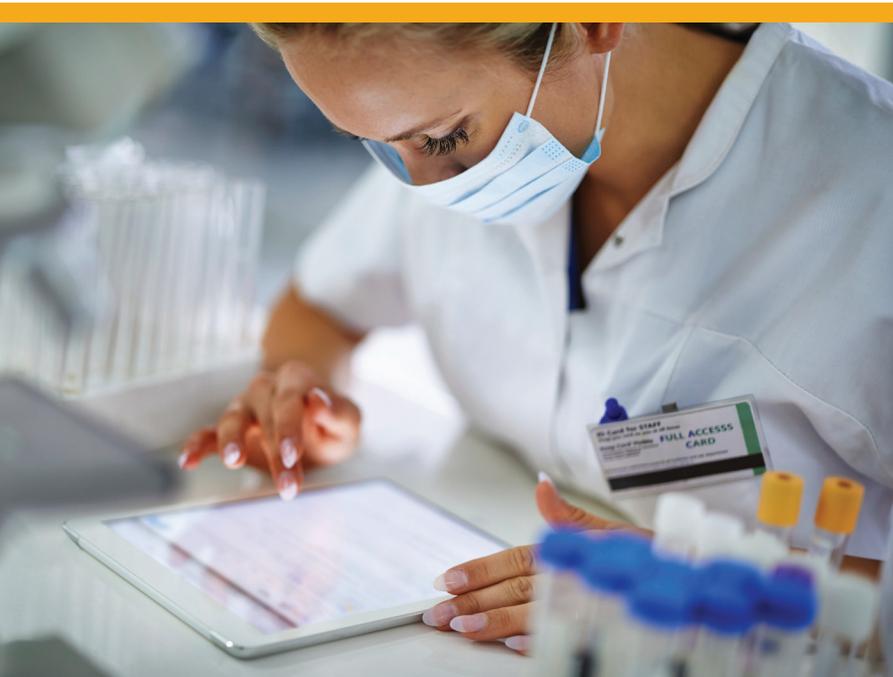


Improving Rates of Organ Donation: To address the serious need to improve organ donation and consent rates in New York, the 2015-16 budget included authorization for the Department of Health to enter into a public/private partnership to more effectively promote organ/tissue donation by contracting out the operation and marketing of the New York Donate Life Organ and Tissue Donor Registry to a not-for-profit organization. The Department expects to announce the contractor this summer. Additionally, the Organ Donation Program

has partnered with the New York City Municipal ID program, which functions as a new portal into the New York State Donate for Life Registry. The Registry, through file transfer, has collected 26,000 additional enrollees since the January 2015 roll-out of this initiative.

Updating the Physician Profile:

The 2015-16 budget amended the requirement for DOH to make available physician profiles on a website maintained by DOH. The amendment increases the utility of the profiles by providing for more prompt updating of profile information.



Naloxone Trainings: In April 2015, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the State Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Albany Medical Center and the Harm Reduction Coalition collaborated in an initiative to roll out trainings of law enforcement personnel on the use of intranasal naloxone, a drug that saves lives by reversing the effects of overdoses caused by heroin or other opioids. The State, through programs registered with DOH, provides naloxone at no cost to the officers being trained under a curriculum that was specifically designed for them. In the initial State-sponsored regional trainings, 1,353 law enforcement officers were trained, including 457 instructors who were qualified to train others in a sustainable train-the-trainer approach. Since those initial trainings, an additional 3,910 officers have been trained. Officers trained by the State have administered naloxone 421 times, resulting in 355 lives saved. In addition to law enforcement training, DOH and OASAS offer naloxone training to community members through DOH-registered programs, which now number in excess of 215 and include all 12 of OASAS' Addiction Treatment Centers. Since 2006, the registered programs have trained more than 65,000 people and report more than 1,600 lives saved.

Expanding Doctors Across New

York Program: The Doctors Across New York Physician Loan Repayment Program provides up to \$150,000 toward the repayment of educational debt on behalf of physicians who agree to serve for a period of 5 years in New York's medically underserved areas. The 2015-16 budget authorized an additional \$2 million for the program, which will allow up to 57 additional awards above what is generally supported by the program's funding.



Supporting Informal Caregivers:

The Governor committed \$45 million over two years to support persons with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. There are millions of generous New Yorkers who spend countless hours caring for aging and disabled friends, family, or neighbors. But family members who care for aging, mentally ill, or impaired relatives tend to encounter more stress than other kinds of caregivers. We need to better support these caregivers. The enacted budget significantly increased funding for respite care services so family caregivers can continue tireless efforts. In addition, the budget increased funding for Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Centers and the Alzheimer's Disease Community Assistance Program. DOH recently released the first of two funding opportunities to help caregivers.

DSRIP Regulatory Waivers: DOH has granted regulatory waivers in connection with project plans submitted under the Delivery System and Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP). These waivers will reduce duplication of requirements and allow the efficient implementation of proposed DSRIP projects. DOH, OMH, and OASAS have established parameters for approval of regulatory waivers specifically for the purpose of delivering integrated primary and behavioral health care services. Providers will only need to submit a single licensure application instead of separate applications to each agency.

Community Health Care Revolving Capital Fund: The Community Health Care Revolving Capital Fund was created as part of the 2015-16 budget and authorized \$19.5 million for this purpose. The fund will provide access to capital for community-based clinics that will directly support projects and help these providers leverage additional third party loans and investments. The Fund will be administered by a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) under the joint oversight of the Department of Health and Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. CDFIs are private financial institutions certified by the United States Department of Treasury that provide affordable lending to help ensure low-income communities have essential facilities and services.

X. Helping All New Yorkers

Nail Salons: In May, the Governor announced and launched a multi-pronged Nail Salon Industry Enforcement Task Force to establish new protections for nail salon workers, the majority of whom are immigrant women, and ensure that all rules and regulations are strictly adhered to in the industry. The Task Force is developing comprehensive strategies to protect vulnerable workers and support small-business owners, working to educate workers of their rights, salon owners of their responsibilities and consumers so they can make informed decisions on how and where to spend their money. In partnership with community organizations and local officials, members of the Governor's administration have held multiple information sessions across the state to help workers in the nail salon industry understand their rights and ensure that business owners live up to their responsibilities and obligations under the law.

- The Governor introduced and the legislature passed emergency regulations designed to protect workers from labor and health violations. One piece of the legislation authorizes the Department of State to shut down a business that is not following the law. Another establishes new opportunities for unlicensed nail practitioners to register with the state as trainees, instead of relying on often prohibitively high cost education programs, so they may continue to work while studying for their licensing exam.
- New regulations for nail salons include bond and insurance requirements, improved personal protective equipment and ventilation requirements, a review of chemical agents and required postings of cease and desist notices and a new Bill of Rights, available in 10 languages. Administrative changes now in effect include license exams being provided in additional languages, clarifying to applicants what is and is not legally required to obtain a license, expanding access to free English classes and providing free training materials through the Department of State's website.
- The public outreach initiative includes a new website, hotline, social media campaign and information cards distributed in person and online with assistance from community and business groups.



Increases for Tipped Workers: In July 2014, the Governor directed the Department of Labor to convene a Wage Board to review and recommend any changes to the relevant regulations for food service workers and service employees (tipped workers) in New York State. Earlier this year, the Wage Board recommended and the Acting Commissioner of Labor accepted the recommendations of the wage board. As a result of that Wage Board, the tipped cash wage amounts for tipped workers will increase from their current rates of \$4.90, \$5.00 and \$5.65 – rates which have not increased since 2011 – to \$7.50 per hour on December 31, 2015– among the highest in the nation.

Fast Food Wage Board: Citing a severe pay inequity in the fast food industry, Governor Cuomo instructed the Department of Labor to empanel a Fast Food Wage Board to investigate and make recommendations on an increase in the minimum wage in the fast food industry. Despite being a well-established and thriving multi-billion dollar industry, the fast food sector employs tens of thousands of minimum wage workers in New York State – the vast majority of whom are women, primary breadwinners for their households and recipients of welfare or other forms of public assistance benefits.

The Fast Food Wage Board has already held hearings in Buffalo, New York City, on Long Island, and in Albany. Hundreds of workers, advocates, businesses and other stakeholders have given testimony to the board in person and in writing. Those board recommendations on how high and how quickly to raise the minimum wage for fast food workers are expected by July and do not require legislative approval to become enacted.

Expanding Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities: In September 2014, Governor Cuomo established the Employment First Commission, tasked with creating an Employment First policy for New York State and making competitive, integrated employment the first option when considering supports and services for people with disabilities. The initiative aims to increase the employment rate and decrease the poverty rate for New Yorkers who are receiving services from the State, as well as register 100 businesses as having formal policies to hire people with disabilities as part of their workforce strategy. In March the Employment First Commission released a report that includes recommendations that build on the economic development investments Governor Cuomo has made to ensure that individuals with disabilities equally benefit from the improved economy.

Helping Families Obtain Child Support: On September 29, 2014, President Obama signed Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, requiring all states to enact amendments to Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. Governor Cuomo introduced legislation which ensures preservation of federal funds and puts into place mechanisms to assist New York children in obtaining financial support from noncustodial parents living in other countries that are a part of an international treaty known as *The Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance*.

Combating Hunger: Governor Cuomo has made alleviating hunger and increasing access to healthy food important priorities for New York. Efforts include: launching FreshConnect, which brings fresh, locally-grown farm products into communities with limited access to them; eliminating fingerprinting as an eligibility requirement for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and energizing an aggressive outreach program to enroll people who are eligible; encouraging school districts to provide free school meals to all students through the Community Eligibility Option, and creating New York’s “Farm to School” program, which brings healthy, locally-grown food to school cafeterias; and taking bold steps to support emergency food providers and protect approximately 300,000 New York families who would have lost SNAP benefits under the federal Farm Bill.

The Governor established the Anti-Hunger Task Force to build on these efforts and identify additional steps the State can take to confront food insecurity and improve access to locally grown and produced fresh foods. In response to the recommendations outlined by the Anti-Hunger Task Force, which completed its work with a final report in June 2015, the 2015-16 budget includes an additional:

- \$4.5 million to bolster the State’s emergency food system which will help 2,600 emergency food providers support the more than 3 million New Yorkers who access emergency food programs each year.
- \$250,000 for a new initiative for the New York State Office and Family Services to increase participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP is a federally funded program administered by the Department of Health that provides reimbursement for summer and afterschool meals and snacks when certain conditions are met. This will build on OCFS’ relationships with day care and afterschool providers.
- \$250,000 for programs to help connect schools with New York farmers to ensure that schools have the best access to healthy, locally-grown food.

In addition, \$5 million in Social Services Block Grant funding has been allocated through the Governor’s New York Rising Program to support emergency food organizations in the areas impacted by Superstorm Sandy.

Farm-to-School Program: The 2015-16 budget includes \$250,000 for the Farm to School program, which promotes the purchasing of food from local farmers by school districts, while expanding access to healthy foods for students.

Unemployment Strikeforce: In May 2014, Governor Cuomo announced the Unemployment Strikeforce to boost employment in areas of the state with the highest unemployment rates. As part of his 2015 Opportunity Agenda, the Governor expanded the Unemployment Strikeforce – a partnership of Empire State Development and the Department of Labor – into the ten areas in the state with the highest unemployment rates after it was successfully piloted in the Bronx. Strikeforce staff work with the local economic development players and businesses to package available incentives with State tax incentives, workforce development and other business services offered by the partner agencies.

The Strikeforce is ramping up, bringing targeted job recruitment, career and business services to Bronx, Jefferson, Lewis, Kings, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Orleans, Montgomery, Franklin and Steuben counties. As of May 2015, more than 11,200 new job placements were achieved through the efforts of the Unemployment Strikeforce.

Rochester Anti-Poverty Task Force: In response to a local effort to end poverty in Rochester, Governor Cuomo appointed a multi-agency Anti-Poverty Task Force to provide focused resources in the City of Rochester and Monroe County. More than 20 State agencies and offices are represented on the Task Force and are actively working in collaboration with a local leadership team that includes foundations, community nonprofits and elected officials. The State Interagency Task Force and local leadership are distinctive and highly cooperative. They worked together to reduce poverty in Rochester by better coordinating existing resources, creating integrated services, utilizing information technology and more flexible funding arrangements, and evaluating services based on outcomes.

AmeriCorps: As part of a major new effort by New York State to work with the City of Rochester and Monroe County to address and alleviate poverty, the New York State Commission on National and Community Service – New Yorkers Volunteer – is reviewing applications to establish and administer new AmeriCorps programs, and will award one to three grants of no less than \$135,000 and no more than \$438,000. Awards will be announced in late summer 2015 following approval by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Excelsior Conservation Corps (ECC): As announced in Governor Cuomo’s 2015 Opportunity Agenda address, ECC will be a 10-month long service program funded by \$850,000 in federal AmeriCorps funding. There will be 50 members between the ages of 18-25 who will serve to promote environmental health, education and community service. The program will provide members with an integrated and well-developed transition program, aimed at directing members from service to employment and education opportunities in the State of New York.

Nonprofit Capital Infrastructure Program: In his 2015 Opportunity Agenda, Governor Cuomo announced the creation of the Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program. The program will provide \$50 million in grants for projects to improve quality, efficiency, and accessibility of eligible nonprofit human services organizations that serve New Yorkers. Eligible projects include:

- Technology upgrades that improve electronic records, data analysis or confidentiality;
- Renovations or expansions of space used for direct program services;
- Modifications to make spaces more sustainable and energy efficient; and
- Accessibility renovations.



Health Care Facilities Transformation Programs (Brooklyn and Oneida): The Department of Health will announce a Request for Grant Applications for two health care facilities transformation programs. The programs target two specific communities in New York State, Brooklyn and the Utica area in Oneida County. The State will invest \$1 billion – including \$700 million in health care facility construction projects that preserve – expand and improve the quality of services in Brooklyn communities with the greatest health needs.

Essential Health Care Provider Support Program: The 2015-16 budget authorized \$355 million in grant funds for geographically isolated community providers to support debt retirement and other projects that facilitate health care transformation, including mergers, consolidations and restructuring activities intended to create financially sustainable systems of care.

Expansion of HOPEline to Include Texting Services: In May 2015, the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and the Mental Health Association of New York City officially launched HOPENY. This new text line service which will provide free 24/7 confidential support via text message to New Yorkers who seek information on the risks associated with alcohol and opioid abuse, how to recognize signs of addiction, and how to connect to additional resources and information.

XI. Building a Clean, Resilient, and Affordable Energy System

In April 2014, Governor Cuomo unveiled the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy to fundamentally transform the state's energy system through a shift in utility regulation, new program strategies, and public investment in clean energy. Motivated by the recognition of high energy costs, aging power infrastructure, shifting technology and consumer trends, and extreme weather events, REV places the customer at the center of its policy changes. Since launching, the effort has initiated a public process to examine changes aimed at increasing customer choice, improving system efficiency, and promoting increased use of clean energy technologies.

Ensuring a Clean and Renewable Energy Future

Enabling Deployment of Clean Distributed Resources: In February 2015, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued the first of two REV orders. The first defines the role and responsibilities of retail distribution utilities in enabling deployment of distributed energy resources, such as roof-top solar, small-scale wind, fuel cells, and microgrids. Providing for continued development of these resources will enable customers to have a choice about where they get their electricity while improving overall system efficiency. The second will examine changes in current regulatory, tariff, and market designs and incentive structures to better align utility interests with achieving Governor Cuomo's policy objectives.

Clean Energy Fund: While REV will reform utility regulations, some market gaps will persist. To address these gaps and meet Governor Cuomo's ambitious energy goals, New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) is evolving its programs and forming the comprehensive \$5 billion Clean Energy Fund (CEF). Proposed to the PSC in September, 2014, the CEF includes the NY Green Bank, NY Sun, market development, and business and technology innovation programs. If approved by the PSC, starting in 2016 the CEF will work to increase the amount of private sector money invested relative to NYSERDA from 2.5:1 to 6:1. New strategies will work to stimulate and enable subsidy-free markets able to deploy clean energy solutions at scale and allow for reductions in ratepayer collections over the coming decade.

NY Prize: In February, Governor Cuomo launched the \$40 million NY Prize competition, a first-in-the-nation initiative to help communities create microgrids — standalone energy systems that can operate independently in the event of a power outage. In May, the program announced the first of three rounds of funding; this round is supporting communities in conducting microgrid feasibility studies.



Clean Vehicles: Governor Cuomo created the Charge NY initiative last year, announcing a statewide goal of installing 3,000 new electric vehicle charging stations by 2018. There are now more than 1,100 electric vehicle charging stations across the state, with contracts in place to bring the total to nearly 1,500. New York is working with partner states California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont to reach a collective target of 3.3 million zero emission vehicles by 2025, which will improve air quality, protect consumers against volatile fuel prices, and promote job growth in the clean energy economy.

Protecting Consumers

Advocating for Consumers: At Governor Cuomo's recommendation, in January 2015, the Department of Public Service (DPS) created the Chief Consumer Advocate to strengthen the voice of the consumer for all activities overseen by the Public Service Commission. DPS also created a Consumer Advisory Council, consisting of consumer advocate organizations, to work with the Consumer Advocate to ensure that all consumer concerns regarding matters in front of the Commission are heard and addressed.

Protecting Low Income Customers: PSC issued an Order in February to require that energy service companies (ESCOs) only sell products to participants in utility low income assistance programs which guarantee savings over what would have been charged by the utility, or include other attributes designed to reduce a customer's bill. This will ensure that low income customers who obtain energy from an ESCO will not pay more than they would if they received their energy from their local utility.

Tapping Energy for Economic Development

Western New York: The Western New York Economic Development Fund uses revenue from the Niagara Power Project to invest in projects that support business growth in the area. Since May 2013, nearly \$21 million in grants have been awarded to 29 enterprises in the region, resulting in the retention or creation of more than 3,300 jobs.

XII. Preserving our Environment and Open Spaces

Prohibiting Hydrofracking in New York State: High-volume hydraulic fracturing is now prohibited in New York State. Governor Cuomo accepted the decision by the Commissioners of the Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner and Department of Health to prohibit this activity. DOH Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker completed his public health review and determined there are significant red flags and risks to public health from the activity. In June, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens issued a legally binding Findings Statement officially prohibiting high-volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State.

Brownfield Cleanup Program and State Superfund: Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the 2015-16 budget extends the Brownfields Cleanup Program for 10 years, and includes important reforms to protect taxpayers and promote brownfield redevelopment, particularly in upstate New York. The 2015-16 budget also reauthorizes the State Superfund cleanup program for 10 years and provides a new \$100 million appropriation for the program. The Superfund is instrumental in identifying, investigating and cleaning up hazardous waste sites throughout the state. The appropriation includes funding for the Environmental Restoration Program to address municipally owned brownfields.

Transforming New York State Parks and Historic Sites:

Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York State is making an historic commitment to improving and expanding access to outdoor recreation. Earlier this year, Governor Cuomo launched the NY Parks 2020 program, which is a multi-year commitment to leverage \$900 million in private and public funding for State Parks from 2011 to 2020. The first three rounds of the New York Works funds leveraged a \$421 million investment in the park system, making improvements

at 109 State parks and sites. The 2015-16 budget allocates an additional \$110 million toward this initiative. The State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation has recorded the best attendance rates in over a decade.



I Love My Park Day: In May, Governor Cuomo once again sponsored I Love My Park Day. Volunteers turned out in record numbers with 6,500 volunteers contributing 16,000 hours to complete more than 200 cleanup, improvement, beautification and stewardship projects at 95 State parks and historic sites.

Increasing the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF): Underscoring Governor Cuomo's commitment to protecting open spaces, conservation and wildlife preservation, the 2015-16 budget includes \$177 million for the EPF, an increase of \$15 million from the previous year and a 32 percent increase since the Governor took office. The EPF is the State's core funding source for projects such as: purchasing land for the New York State Forest Preserve; restoring historic sites; conserving farmland; restoring habitats; cleaning up waterfront property; recycling programs; supporting stewardship of public lands; managing trails and lands; protecting natural resources; preserving wildlife habitats; and making critical capital improvements at parks and campgrounds. Within the \$177 million, \$15 million will go to support statewide farmland protection activities; this represents a \$1 million dollar increase in funding over last year. Further, in continued support of farmland protection efforts adjoining Fort Drum, an additional \$1 million was provided to Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust.

Promoting Hunting and Fishing Recreational Activities: Under Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Hunting and Fishing Initiative, the 2015-16 budget provides \$8 million for State land access projects and \$4 million for the state's hatcheries. The 2015-16 budget also creates a new capital account which along with federal Pittman-Robertson funds will be used to manage, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat, and to improve and develop public access for fish and wildlife-related recreation. This year's commitment builds on last year's \$6 million in funding for 50 new projects to provide access to approximately 380,000 acres of existing State lands for recreation, including boat launches, bird-watching areas, trails and hunting blinds, and last year's \$4 million for upgrades and improvements to fish hatcheries statewide.

"New York Works" for Environmental Resources: Since 2011, Governor Cuomo has provided more than \$550 million for direct environmental projects such as dam repairs, coastal resiliency, wastewater upgrades, and park investments. These funds have also provided recreational infrastructure; e-Business and plugging of abandoned oil and gas wells; and grants for municipal brownfield cleanups; and water quality improvement projects for wastewater treatment systems.

Financing Support for Clean Water Infrastructure Projects: New York State consistently leads the nation in financing water-quality infrastructure. Working closely with local governments, New York annually commits double the investment in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure than any other state and is on track to surpass last year's record-breaking investment of \$2.3 billion in clean water infrastructure. This year, Governor Cuomo committed to providing an additional \$200 million in grants over three years to municipalities for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. The funding will help municipalities undertake projects to benefit water quality. Also this year, New York State changed its hardship filing requirements, making it easier for more communities to receive interest-free loans.

Increasing Resiliency and Improving Water Quality on Long Island:

Last year Governor Cuomo initiated a series of actions to bolster coastal resiliency against future storms on Long Island by improving local water quality and reducing harmful nitrogen pollution. He identified \$383 million in funding for proposed sewer projects in Suffolk County and advanced \$97 million to Nassau County for upgrades to the Bay Park sewage treatment plant. The 2015-16 budget continues a matching \$3 million grant to Suffolk County to enable a partnership between the County and SUNY Stony Brook to reduce the effects of nitrogen from home septic systems and adds \$5 million for two studies to develop watershed-specific nitrogen standards to increase resiliency and improve water quality.



Improving the Safety of Transporting Crude Oil: Under Governor Cuomo’s direction, New York State leads the nation in implementing reforms to better protect communities and the environment from the risks associated with crude oil transport. As a result of Executive Order 125, State agencies implemented 66 actions to strengthen standards, regulations and procedures to make the transport of crude oil by rail and water in New York safer, and to improve spill preparedness and response. Consistent with Executive Order 125, the 2015-16 budget provides funding for additional staff dedicated to oil spill planning, training and response. The 2015-16 budget also provides the necessary funding for planning and preparedness costs and ensures the solvency of the Oil Spill Fund by increasing the cap on the fund as well as fees for oil transported through New York. Additionally, Governor Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation have taken steps to ensure that the potential environmental impacts of the expansion of rail transportation of crude oil are fully reviewed. Since Governor Cuomo began the State’s targeted rail inspection campaign in February 2014, New York State DOT and its federal partners have inspected 9,846 rail cars (including 7,838 crude oil tank cars) and 3,234 miles of track, uncovering 1,217 defects, and issuing 20 hazardous materials violations.

Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency: In the 2015 Opportunity Agenda, Governor Cuomo announced the Climate Smart NY Initiative under which, the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of State are laying the foundation to implement the Community Risk and Resiliency Act by seeking input from key stakeholders and supporting the interagency effort already underway. The 2015-16 budget provides \$500,000 for the Department of Agriculture and Markets to implement the Climate Resilient Farms Program by developing strategies and support for New York farmers to improve resiliency, integrated pest management and to incorporate carbon management. This initiative builds upon New York's leadership of a multi-state effort to reduce the carbon emission cap established under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) by 45 percent. Under New York's leadership, nine Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states agreed to set an 89 million ton emissions cap in 2015, declining 2.5 percent a year through 2020. Governor Cuomo's reinvestment of \$400 million in the initiative's auction proceeds is expected to reduce carbon pollution by 2.9 million tons, while promoting greater energy efficiency, ultimately providing \$1.3 billion energy bill savings and creating thousands of jobs across the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative partner states.

XIII. Storm Recovery and Rebuilding

Governor Cuomo continues to address the long-term needs of victims of Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee while increasing our safety from future natural disasters. The Governor’s efforts are focused in three primary areas: assisting in recovery and rebuilding for individuals, businesses and communities; improving the State’s emergency preparedness and response systems; and upgrading the State’s infrastructure to better withstand major weather incidents.

Building Back Better: Homes, Businesses and Communities

NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program: Through its Community Reconstruction Program, the State is setting a new standard for community participation in recovery and resiliency planning. More than 650 New Yorkers have worked together on 66 NYRCR Planning Committees to address their communities’ specific needs in the aftermath of Sandy, Irene, and Lee and in anticipation of other extreme weather events. They’ve shared more than 700 proposed project concepts at over 250 Public Engagement Events, during which thousands more community members have been able to provide feedback. Each NYRCR Planning Committee produced a robust NYRCR Plan, available on the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) website—GOSR is now working with local partners to implement recovery and resiliency projects proposed in these NYRCR Plans. In most cases, projects will be implemented by local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations, with support and technical assistance provided by GOSR.

NY Rising Housing Recovery

Program: The NY Rising Housing Recovery Program facilitates home repairs, rehabilitation, mitigation and elevation for the owners of single-family homes. Thus far, the State has issued more than \$433 million to help 10,744 homeowners rebuild residences damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The rental properties program has also paid out over \$8.5 million to 260 applicants. Since April 2015, eligible property owners have additionally been able to take advantage of “Interim Payments”

to bridge financing needs for up to 75 percent of total project costs as work progresses. So far, 977 homeowners have received approximately \$4.5 million in grant disbursements. Through the Interim Mortgage Assistance program, the State has provided mortgage assistance to 656 displaced homeowners at a cost over \$12 million.



NY Rising Home Buyout and Acquisitions Program, Staten Island: Operating an Enhanced Buyout Program in the Ocean Breeze, Oakwood Beach and Graham Beach neighborhoods of Staten Island, the State has offered impacted homeowners the pre-storm value of their homes, plus a 10 percent enhanced buyout bonus. The State has closed on 351 substantially-damaged properties totaling \$142.4 million.

Nassau and Suffolk Counties: On Long Island, through the Acquisition Initiative, the State has closed on 237 properties at a total value of \$93.8 million. This includes 122 properties in Nassau County valued at more than \$48 million and 115 properties in Suffolk County valued at \$45.7 million. Through the Long Island Buyout Program, the State has closed on 95 properties at a value of \$36.1 million

A critical milestone of the administration's investment and commitment to economic resiliency was met by the successful auction sale of 150 properties primarily on Long Island's South Shore through NY Rising's Acquisition Program in May. Substantially damaged houses that were purchased by State for \$38 million were collectively resold for \$22 million. Properties will be redeveloped, benefitting communities and the local tax base.

NY Rising Small Business Recovery Program: As of May 2015, the NY Rising Small Business Recovery Program has awarded more than \$33 million in disaster recovery grants to more than 800 applicants. Of the total funds awarded to date, the program has disbursed more than \$28.9 million to more than 770 applicants. In May the program stopped accepting new applications. The Small Business Recovery Program provides up to \$250,000 in grant assistance to small businesses impacted by Superstorm Sandy, Tropical Storm Lee or Hurricane Irene.

Improving Readiness, Emergency Preparedness, and Response Capabilities

Under Governor Cuomo, New York is building a world-class emergency management and response network. The Governor has invested in an array of emergency preparedness initiatives. These include establishing a state-of-the-art weather detection system, equipping gas stations with back-up power, expanding the State's strategic fuel reserve, preparing citizens for emergencies and developing interoperable public safety communications. In addition, under the Governor's direction, the 2014-15 budget created a new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity within SUNY.

State Participation in the Intrastate Mutual Aid Program (IMAP): This session, legislation was passed allowing New York State to participate in the intrastate mutual aid program (IMAP). The program allows local governments, schools, and now the State, to respond to emergencies more efficiently by expediting the deployment and acceptance of publically owned resources across multiple local jurisdictions. This inclusion in the intrastate mutual aid program improves disaster response by allowing New York State to accept assistance from local governments, including local assets and personnel, to supplement the State's response.

New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps (CPC): This ongoing program provides New York State residents, businesses, and institutions with tools and knowledge to prepare for any type of disaster. Working with a training program prepared by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the Division of Military and Naval Affairs created a joint task force of New York Army and Air National Guard personnel to provide two-hour training seminars to audiences across the state.

Creating the SUNY College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity: New York State will soon be home to the nation's first college dedicated solely to the study of emergency preparedness. The school will grant advanced degrees in both the academic and professional aspects of law enforcement, security, public and international affairs, counterterrorism, emergency management, cybersecurity and forensics. The college will be funded initially with \$15 million in State capital resources. SUNY Albany will be the home of the new college with additional training programs at the New York State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, NY. The mission of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity is to provide high quality academic programs and practical, real world/hands-on scenario-based experiential training for undergraduate and graduate students. The combination of practical and theoretical education will produce a new knowledge base for future Emergency Managers and Public Safety Leaders.

Emergency Management Certification and Training: The Emergency Management Certification and Training (EMC & T) program has been developed to support Governor Cuomo's strategy of creating unified emergency management training, education, communication, and response protocols. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has developed on-line refresher training for those County Executives and Emergency Managers that have previously attended the certification program.

