THE 241ST NEW YORK STATE
LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO
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Foreward

In these challenging times, New York once again stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity for the entire nation. In 2018, under the leadership of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New York continued to invest in the State’s upward economic trajectory, took action to shield New Yorkers from the federal assault on our state, and passed groundbreaking legislation to uphold our progressive values and set an example for the nation.

Under the Governor’s leadership, New York State remains laser focused on driving economic growth and attracting jobs. This year, New York continued the successful Regional Economic Development Councils, launched a third round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and continued the phase-in of middle class tax cuts to their lowest levels in more than 70 years.

The State also continued its historic commitment to rebuilding our infrastructure program to drive the next century of growth. Under the Governor’s nation-leading $100 billion infrastructure plan, New York is rebuilding airports across the state, investing in public transit, and building historic new bridges like the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. And this year, Governor Cuomo announced a new $150 billion infrastructure plan for the next five years. In New York City, the State budget secured full funding for the Subway Action Plan—recognizing that the subway is the lifeblood of the city—and enacted a surcharge on for-hire vehicles to establish a long-term funding stream for the MTA and reduce motor vehicle congestion.

The current federal government has repeatedly advanced policies that work against New Yorkers. The elimination of full state and local deductibility, for instance, targets New York and will cost New Yorkers more than $14 billion. To keep the State economically competitive, Governor Cuomo championed legislation to restructure its tax code and protect New Yorkers from this attack.

This year, New York also led the way on some of the greatest challenges of our time. As women across the nation speak out against the scourge of sexual harassment, New York State is listening. Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, the State passed the nation’s most aggressive anti-sexual assault agenda and is advancing the landmark Women’s Agenda to protect and strengthen the rights of women in New York. As part of the Women’s Agenda, New York passed legislation to remove guns from domestic abusers—building on the State’s nation-leading gun safety laws.

New York has also continued to demonstrate a commitment to protecting the most vulnerable and lifting up all New Yorkers. This year, the Governor advanced record investments in education while taking action to ensure funding equity in education spending. The 2019 budget also included a $250 million commitment to the New York City Housing Authority to improve the quality of living conditions for tenants and address the dire public housing crisis in New York City. And while the federal government turns its back on immigrants and our American values, New York is stepping up to deliver for immigrant communities and protect the rights of all New Yorkers.

In the face of great adversity, New York has continued to advance historic progress for all New Yorkers and shine a light for other states to follow. The following report highlights New York State’s accomplishments from the 2018 Legislative Session.
New York State End of Session Report 2018 Agency Acronym Reference Sheet

1. CUNY - City University of New York
2. DAM (Ag and Markets) - Department of Agriculture and Markets
3. DASNY - Dormitory Authority
4. DCS - Department of Civil Service
5. DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation
6. DFS - Department of Financial Services
7. Division of State Police
8. DMV - Department of Motor Vehicles
9. DOCCS - Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
10. DOH - Department of Health
11. DOL - Department of Labor
12. DOS - Department of State
13. DOT - Department of Transportation
14. DPS - Department of Public Service (Public Service Commission)
15. DTF - Department of Taxation and Finance
16. DVA - Division of Veterans’ Affairs
17. ESD - Empire State Development
18. Gaming Commission
19. HCR - Homes and Community Renewal
20. ITS - Office of Information Technology Services
21. MTA - Metropolitan Transportation Authority
22. NYSERDA - Energy Research and Development Authority
23. OASAS - Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
24. OCFS - Office of Children and Family Services
25. Office for the Aging
26. OMH - Office of Mental Health
27. OPWDD - Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
28. OTDA - Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
29. OVS - Office of Victim Services
30. PANYNJ - Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
31. Parks - Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
32. SLA - Liquor Authority
33. SONYMA - State of New York Mortgage Agency
34. SUNY - State University of New York
35. Thruway Authority
36. WCB - Workers’ Compensation Board
I: Upholding the New York Promise
FY 2019 Budget: Blueprint for Progressive Action

The FY 2019 State Budget builds on Governor Cuomo’s record of delivering for New Yorkers by making the highest ever investment in K-12 education, enacting a nation-leading women’s agenda, advancing 21st century transportation solutions, protecting taxpayers against federal tax changes, strengthening the middle class, and making strategic investments in New York’s future to drive growth and create opportunity for all. For the eighth consecutive year, the State Budget is balanced and holds spending growth to 2 percent.

The Budget increases education aid by approximately $1 billion (3.9 percent), to a record total of $26.7 billion for the 2018-19 school year, a 36 percent increase since 2012. Further, Budget language increases transparency by requiring school districts to provide information on how they allocate funding to individual schools.

In support of higher education, the Budget provides $7.6 billion – an increase of $1.5 billion or 25 percent since FY 2012. This includes a $118 million investment to continue the successful Excelsior Scholarship program that makes college tuition free for thousands of middle class New Yorkers.

The phase-in of the $4.2 billion Middle Class Tax Cut is continued in the FY 2019 Budget. The new rates are delivering an average of $250 in savings this year and, when fully effective, six million New York households will save $700 annually.

The FY 2019 Enacted Budget supports the Governor’s $100 billion infrastructure plan that is rebuilding and reimagining the State’s capital assets, with investments in roads and bridges, mass transit, affordable housing, State colleges and universities, clean water infrastructure, health care infrastructure, State Parks and other projects that support the future of communities across New York. It also supports the Subway Action Plan, which will provide $836 million to make immediate repairs to improve subway performance and maintenance. To improve living conditions for residents of the New York City Housing Authority, the Budget provides an historic new $250 million investment to deliver quality living conditions to tenants, and implements new oversight measures.

The Enacted Budget establishes a first-in-the-nation opioid stewardship payment from manufacturers and distributors of opioids to fund the fight against the opioid epidemic.

Advancing the Women’s Agenda

Targeted Maternal Mortality and Racial Disparities in Outcomes

Governor Cuomo launched a multi-pronged approach to reduce maternal mortality in New York State, establishing the Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes to provide recommendations to improve maternal outcomes, address racial and economic disparities and reduce the frequency of maternal mortality and morbidity in New York. The taskforce will include diverse multi-disciplinary providers and stakeholders. Additionally, a Maternal Mortality Review Board will review each maternal death in New York State and make policy recommendations to the Department of Health. A Best Practice Summit will be held with hospitals and OB-GYNs with the goal of implementing immediate measures and identifying future actions to improve maternal care and management; a pilot program will expand Medicaid coverage for doulas and centering pregnancy; the State Board of Medicine will address continuing medical education and curriculum development; the New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative will expand its obstetric project
to reduce hemorrhages in pregnancy and delivery; and listening sessions will be conducted with stakeholders and pregnant women across the state to explore barriers that women face.

**Made Significant Strides in Addressing Maternal Depression**

As many as one in seven women experience some form of depression during pregnancy or within 12 months after giving birth. Maternal depression is highly treatable and initiatives included in Governor Cuomo’s 2018 Women’s Agenda for New York provide the tools to make progress on this critical issue. Governor Cuomo signed legislation (Chapter 62 of the Laws of 2018) to create a strategic awareness campaign to reduce the stigma of maternal depression and increase awareness of treatment options.

The Department of Financial Services is now requiring all health insurance policies to include coverage for maternal depression screening and referral to treatment, as appropriate. The Office of Mental Health began to integrate maternal depression into Project TEACH, which will include consultation, education and training on the symptoms and treatment of maternal depression to pediatric primary care providers, obstetricians and gynecologists. The Office of Mental Health assisted clinic treatment providers to integrate tele-psychiatry to support the treatment of maternal depression, targeting providers who are developing specialty maternal depression-intensive outpatient services; is working to identify an interested provider to develop maternal depression inpatient services; and also opened the first State-operated outpatient clinic for maternal depression in Syracuse. Finally, WIC agencies began screening pregnant and post-partum women for depression.

**Extended the Storage Timeline for Sexual Offense Forensic Evidence to 20 Years**

New enacted law extends the length of time sexual offense forensic evidence is preserved to 20 years. Previous law only required hospitals to store evidence for a minimum of 30 days before discarding. This mandate was the shortest in the nation and limited the ability of survivors to make decisions about their cases. In addition, statutory changes were made to clarify and ensure that hospitals are prohibited from billing sexual assault survivors for a sexual offense forensic exam. These changes protect the rights of sexual assault survivors while maintaining their right to choose when to report the crime to law enforcement. Funds have been made available to support a sexual assault forensic exam telehealth and training program to improve forensic evidence collection.

**Piloted eWIC technology in the Capital Region**

On April 30, 2018 New York State unveiled eWIC, a new way for families in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program to shop for WIC foods. WIC offers nutritious foods as well as education on nutrition, healthy living, breastfeeding support, and health care referrals to more than 400,000 eligible New York women, infants, and children. The eWIC technology allows families to shop for WIC foods using an eWIC card, instead of paper checks and allows vendors to be reimbursed faster. This will make transactions more discreet for WIC families and more efficient for WIC vendors. In addition to eWIC, New York has launched a new mobile application (app), called WIC2Go to make shopping for WIC foods easier and more efficient. The eWIC rollout throughout the State will continue in the fall of 2018, with full statewide implementation at 400 clinics and 3,000 authorized WIC stores by spring of 2019.
Ensured Equal Access to Diaper Changing Stations in Public Restrooms and Provide Access to Lactation Rooms

The FY 2019 Budget amends New York’s Uniform Building Code to require all new or substantially renovated buildings with publicly accessible restrooms to provide safe and compliant changing tables. A changing table will be available to every gender on all publicly-accessible floors. In addition, the Budget requires lactation rooms in certain state buildings and authorizes a study of adult changing facilities.

Ensured Access to Menstrual Products in Public Schools

The FY 2019 Budget includes legislation requiring all publicly operated schools to provide free feminine hygiene products in restrooms, for students in grades 6 through 12. Feminine hygiene products are as necessary as toilet paper and soap, but hardly ever as available or free. At $7 to $10 per package, a month’s supply of something as simple as a box of pads or tampons can be one expense too many for struggling families. This Budget legislation makes New York State a leader in addressing this issue of inequality and stigma.

Added Experts in Women’s Health and Health Disparities to the State Board of Medicine

Legislation in the FY 2019 Budget requires that one of the doctors on the State Board of Medicine be an expert on women’s health and one of the doctors be an expert in health disparities.

Made Progress in Closing the Gender Gap by Giving the Youngest Learners Access to Computer Science Education

The FY 2019 Budget establishes a working group to review existing computer science education standards and create draft model computer science standards for kindergarten through grade 12.

Provided for Computer Science

The FY 2019 Budget provides $6 Million to create the Smart Start Computer Science and Engineering program. Grants will be awarded to districts based on a computer science and engineering program, and will be awarded to districts based on a competitive Request for Proposals process. The grants will support teachers in grades K-8 with resources and professional development opportunities, and will further expose students to valuable curricula.

Worked to End Sextortion

The 2019 Budget includes legislation increasing the existing penalties for compelling another person to engage in sexual conduct by threatening their health, safety, business, career, financial condition, reputation or personal relationships.

Welcoming All

Committed to Protections for Immigrant Youth

New York State is committed to being a beacon of light in the harbor for all new Americans, no matter what their age or national identity. Gang violence threatens to extinguish that light for some of New York State’s youngest new arrivals on Long Island. The 2019 Budget created a new $3 Million program administered through the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to protect vulnerable recently-arrived immigrant youth who may be targets of this violence. Working through Catholic Charities of Rockville Center, youth will receive help with obtaining social
services, legal assistance, education and work opportunities, and integrating into the community so they can fast track their way to a better life. This program will also create a new “mobile unit” of the Catholic Charities office, so that the services can reach the community faster and more personal attention can be given to each youth served.

Provided Critical Legal Services to Immigrants in Need

Governor Cuomo launched the Liberty Defense Project (LDP) in 2017, the first-in-the-nation state-led public-private project to provide free legal services to any immigrant in need regardless of status, and particularly for those at risk of deportation. The FY 2018 Budget included $10 million for the LDP, which is administered by the Office for New Americans (ONA). Through its statewide network of legal service providers and community-based organizations, the LDP has provided over 15,000 services between July 2017 and May 2018, including legal consultations & screenings, direct representation in removal proceedings, Know Your Rights trainings, and other legal assistance. The FY 2019 Budget continues the important work of the LDP through another allocation of $10 million for the program.

Supported Immigrants to Become Naturalized Citizens

The third round of NaturalizeNY was launched by Governor Cuomo in April 2018. Because of NaturalizeNY, hundreds of immigrants have been able to naturalize and become citizens that otherwise would not have been able to do so. Under NaturalizeNY, immigrants are provided with assistance to apply for citizenship and prepare for the U.S. Civics Exam. Applicants living in poverty are assisted in applying to the federal government for a waiver from the application fee, which is $725 per person. In 2017, NaturalizeNY served 3,200 individuals in their pursuit to become U.S. citizens. Of these, 2,257 immigrants were informed about their eligibility for the federal application fee waiver. In addition, 920 low-income individuals eligible for U.S. citizenship were provided with application fee assistance through NaturalizeNY’s public-private partnership—all of whom had applications submitted on their behalf through ONA’s Opportunity Centers and ONA Legal Counsels. The 2018 NaturalizeNY campaign is on track to assist hundreds more new Americans in New York State on their path to citizenship.

Continued Expansion of Innovative Cell-Ed English Language Training Program

In 2018, ONA significantly extended the reach of its Cell-Ed program throughout the State. Cell-Ed was established in 2015 to ensure that any New Yorker who wants to learn English can do so. It is a first-in-the-nation mobile English-learning program provides free English-language training via mobile phones to learners who may lack regular access to a classroom, computer, the Internet, smart-phone, or other such resources. In the first two years of operation, through its Opportunity Center network, ONA has had over 500 graduates of the Cell-Ed program and has over 1,500 active users. In May 2017, The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at recognized at Harvard University’s Kennedy School Cell-Ed as one of top 25 Programs for Innovations in American Government. In 2018, ONA is expanding the delivery of Cell-Ed throughout New York State by increasing outreach to under-served areas and development of the Cell-Ed advanced job training platform.
Created Parent Support Program for Families Caring for Unaccompanied and/or Undocumented Immigrant Children

In 2017, ONA launched the first-in-the-nation parent support pilot program for families caring for unaccompanied and/or undocumented immigrant children. In 2018, this program was extended due to its success. The parent support program works through a partnership between ONA, The Hempstead Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN), and the Children’s Village connecting them to under-utilized supportive public and private organizations, existing resources and services including mental health counseling, and thus, generating opportunity to create real benefits for these families. The parent support program provides a cost-efficient support system and equips these caregivers with the confidence to protect their children, prevent their isolation, improve their own lives and, in turn, enrich New York’s communities. This program is unique in that no other state or organization offers this type of service specifically tailored to meet the needs of the caretakers of unaccompanied children.

Implemented Community Navigator Program to Assist Low-Income Immigrants

In 2017, ONA launched the “Workforce Community Education, Community Navigator and Welcoming Communities Program”, which addresses the chronic lack of accessible information about publicly available services and programs in low-income immigrant communities throughout New York State. Through this Navigator program, in 2018, ONA has been coordinating and conducting outreach in support of available services by working with grassroots organizations, community leaders, community-based organizations (including ONA Opportunity Centers and Community Action Agencies (CAAs)), Regional Economic Development Council’s Opportunity Agenda workgroups, faith-based organizations, and local governments. These leaders have been conducting regular roundtable meetings, organizing and conducting workforce development events, and serving as a source of support to low-income immigrant and refugee communities throughout the State.

Began Construction on the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center

Construction began during the winter of 2018 on the $10 Million New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center located in Auburn, NY. The Center will highlight the important role New York has played in the struggle for Women’s Rights, Abolition, Civil Rights and LGBTQ Equality.

Housing

Made an Historic Commitment to Building and Preserving Affordable Housing

Since the start of Governor Cuomo’s first term, Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) has created or preserved more than 98,000 homes across the State. This includes more than 69,000 affordable multifamily homes totaling more than $27 billion in economic activity, the establishment of 11,200 SONYMA mortgages for first-time homeowners totaling more than $2 billion, and approximately 18,250 homes improved and repaired through grant programs totaling approximately $388 million. The agency has created or preserved more than 9,700 units of affordable housing in the first four months of 2018 alone, including more than 8,000 units of multifamily housing.
Declared NYCHA State of Emergency and has Committed $550 million in State Resources to Address the Problem

In April 2018 Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), and allocated an additional $250 Million in State funding to address the ongoing health and public safety crises faced by 400,000 New York City Housing Authority tenants. This funding which brings the total State commitment over the past several years to $550 million, comes with additional oversight of the Authority to ensure that the repairs, upgrades, and construction, necessary to remediate the widespread inhumane and unlivable conditions of NYCHA buildings in all five boroughs are expedited in a timely and effective manner.

Provided Design-Build Authorizations to NYC for NYCHA, the BQE and Rikers

Design-build helps control cost and expedite the completion of a project by bundling many aspects of a construction project into a single contract awarded to the firm offering the State the best value. The selected firm works with stakeholders on design and expedites the construction process while committing to the costs outlined in the contract, assuming risk and covering the cost of delays. Utilizing design-build in NYC for NYCHA, the Brooklyn Queens Expressway and Rikers Island projects will lead to faster completion times and significantly control project costs.

Preserved Middle Income Housing

Between the start of Governor Cuomo’s first term and April 2018, the State has preserved more than 19,200 Mitchell Lama apartments for middle-income residents, including more than 6,600 that were from the $1 billion House New York program that were badly in need of repair, and 5,881 in Starrett City.

Helped New Homeowners Purchase and Renovate Zombie Properties

In 2016 Governor Cuomo announced the $22 million Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) to finance the purchase and renovation of up to 500 foreclosed and abandoned properties for low- and middle-income New Yorkers. NRP home purchases allow qualified low- and middle-income buyers to receive up to $20,000 in additional funds for home improvements with zero interest and no increase in mortgage payments through SONYMA. The NRP has been implemented in communities throughout the State like Troy and Greater Rochester where a strong partnership with experienced nonprofit housing agencies provide homeownership counseling and additional sources of gap funding. In 2018 the program expanded into Buffalo.

Fought Housing Discrimination

In 2018 Governor Cuomo announced actions to continue New York State’s leadership in enforcing the Fair Housing Act as New York State celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Act’s passage. The Governor announced legislation to outlaw housing discrimination based on the lawful source of a person’s income, which too often is used by landlords as a proxy to discriminate against potential tenants who often are single mothers, survivors of domestic violence, veterans, minorities, elderly or individuals with disabilities.
Continued the NYS Home Local Small Rental Development Initiative

In 2017 and 2018, HCR awarded more than $22 million in HOME Investment Partnership funds to 21 organizations for the new Small Rental Development Initiative. Awardees will acquire, rehabilitate, or construct rental housing with 2 to 25 units. Awarded projects will provide 193 safe, decent affordable housing for families earning less than 80% of area median income.

Homelessness

Upheld the New York Promise – Homeless Services Plans in Every County

The reduction of homelessness requires a concerted effort among federal, state, and local governments, as well as with not-for-profit and/or faith-based agencies. Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State required each social service district to submit and implement an approved Homeless Services Plan and submit outcome reports consistent with requirements promulgated by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). Each district’s plan will identify all of the resources within the district to address homelessness, and facilitate local coordination among these entities. The goal of having a Homeless Services Plan is to reduce homelessness, both by preventing it in the first place, and by moving those who become homeless into permanent housing as quickly as possible, while providing the supports necessary to maintain housing stability. Outcomes for each component of the plan must be identified and tracked with an overall goal of homeless reduction. The 2019 Budget included language indicating that public assistance reimbursement otherwise due to districts may be withheld or denied if a district fails to develop, submit or implement an approved Homeless Services Plan or to develop or submit homeless services outcome reports.

OTDA, with technical assistance from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, has developed a statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to document and track homelessness in NYS. Currently, only local-level data is available on the demographics of homeless individuals and families in the State. Moving forward, HMIS will aggregate this local data to show the size and scope of homelessness in NYS, provide OTDA the ability to measure performance of homeless service providers in the State, and ensure compliance with federal regulations and continued receipt of federal Emergency Solutions Grant funding. Additionally, a system was created to allow for automated tracking of shelter inspections completed and issued, the transfer of shelter metadata with violations and the transfer of the required corrective action plans and images to OTDA’s web based application reporting system. By integrating these systems, the NYS Office of information Technology Services (ITS) is enabling a more complete oversight of shelter maintenance and compliance statewide, and making it possible for New York State to better understand and serve the homeless population as envisioned by Governor Cuomo.

Increased Mental Health Services in Emergency Shelters

New York State leads the nation in providing effective treatment and services for individuals who are diagnosed with severe mental illness. Throughout the State, the Office of Mental Health (OMH) has established Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams to implement evidence-based practices to support community-based recovery for individuals with severe mental illness. Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State promised to build on the success of these ACT teams and integrate them with emergency shelters for homeless individuals so that they can access needed treatment and services. Through the NYS Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) worked with OMH to deploy ACT teams to
serve homeless individuals in emergency shelters in New York City. OTDA and OMH have also replicated this successful evidence-based practice model in upstate regions and established six additional ACT teams for high-risk individuals. These ACT teams are composed of multi-disciplinary mental health treatment staff who provide continuity of care for homeless individuals with severe mental illness and help them become stably housed.

**Increased Access to Substance Use Treatment in Emergency Shelters**

To increase access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment services for the homeless population, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) is working with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to build partnerships between OASAS-certified treatment programs and targeted emergency shelters for homeless persons in districts outside of NYC (NYC has a separate project). OASAS treatment programs can utilize “in community” and peer services to provide outreach and treatment services to the shelter population in the same way as within the clinic setting. The shelter program and treatment program work as a team to identify the services that are appropriate for the current resident population and the logistics of the service provision (e.g., day, time, staffing, space provision). Teams are encouraged to develop services that are person-centered and meet each person where they are literally and in terms of their individual treatment goals. The pilot currently includes the following counties: Oneida, Onondaga, Monroe, Erie and Broome, with Suffolk and Nassau potentially joining as well.

**Helped Vulnerable New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS with Housing Affordability**

To help combat HIV/AIDS and end the epidemic, the 2019 Budget authorizes counties to provide an Enhanced Shelter Allowance (ESA) up to the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for individuals on public assistance living with medically diagnosed HIV/AIDS. The Budget also includes legislation that allows counties outside of New York City to establish programs to limit the amount of income that such individuals must contribute towards their rental costs to 30% of their income. In FY 2015, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to provide this benefit to New York City residents; the FY 2019 Budget expands on this beneficial program by allowing all counties to provide the same benefit. Where medical savings are realized, counties will be required to participate and the savings will be used to reimburse 100% of the costs of the additional rental payments.

**Enhanced Support for Existing Residential Programs**

The 2019 Budget provides an additional $10 million for supported housing and single room occupancy programs. This investment will help preserve access and maintain current housing capacity as the State brings new housing units online through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative. Since FY 2015, funding to enhance support for the Office of Mental Health’s existing housing programs has increased by over $40 million annually.

**Expanded Community-Based Services**

The 2019 Budget supports the expansion of community-based mental health programs serving individuals in less-restrictive settings that are closer to family and other natural supports by efficiencies in operating inpatient mental health programs. New investments in FY 2019, offset by equivalent spending efficiencies in inpatient and other services, include 200 additional supported housing community beds and other community-based services in areas where 100 unnecessary, vacant inpatient beds are closed. This will bring the full annual investment since FY 2015, to more than $100 million.
Developed Residential and Crisis Capacity
The 2019 Budget supports additional residential capacity, including additional homeless residential beds which will open in FY 2019 via the longstanding New York/New York III program. The Budget also authorizes $50 million in new local capital spending to enable the expansion of crisis respite capacity in the community to avoid unnecessary emergency room visits and inpatient hospitalizations.

Supported High-Need Individuals
The 2019 Budget provides $5 million for specialized supports, including peer support and in-reach, to engage individuals with mental illness who require a higher level of care to transition and live successfully in the community from impacted adult homes.

First responders will be provided training materials regarding appropriate recognition and response techniques for handling emergency situations involving individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder.

Secured Rent Subsidies Pilot Program in Rochester and New York City Aimed at Increasing Housing Affordability and Preventing Eviction
The FY 2019 Budget includes $15 million in funding for a pilot program to provide more than 200 individuals and families on public assistance with a rent subsidy for the next four years in the City of Rochester and in New York City to prevent eviction and address homelessness. The NYC Human Resources Administration and the Monroe County Department of Social Services will determine the recipients of the program.

Workers’ Rights
Stood with Labor Unions Facing Uncertainty
Governor Cuomo signed landmark legislation in April 2018 to increase access to and protect union membership in New York’s public-sector workplaces in anticipation of an adverse ruling in the then-pending Supreme Court case Janus v. AFSCME. The legislation makes it clear that members who pay union dues will receive certain benefits and services, and unions – while they serve the interests of all workers in bargaining units they represent – cannot be forced to provide full benefits of membership to those who do not pay for them. The new law strengthens unions by requiring public employers to notify the relevant union within 30 days of a new employee being hired, rehired or promoted into a bargaining unit represented by that union; provide the new employee’s contact information; and permit union representatives to meet with new employees promptly and for a reasonable amount of time, without charge to leave credits. Since 2011, Governor Cuomo has championed efforts to support working New Yorkers, including combatting the exploitation of workers, supporting project labor agreements, and allowing full union dues to be deducted from State taxes.

Led the Nation on Protections Against Sexual Harassment
The 2019 Budget includes nation-leading legislation to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. The new law:

- Requires all State contractors to submit an affirmation that they have a sexual harassment prevention policy and that they have trained all of their employees on this policy;
• Prohibits employers from using a mandatory arbitration provision in an employment contract in relation to sexual harassment;

• Requires officers and employees of the State or of any public entity to reimburse the State for any State or public payment made upon a judgement of intentional wrongdoing related to sexual harassment;

• Ensures that nondisclosure agreements can be used only when the condition of confidentiality is the explicit preference of the victim;

• Establishes a model sexual harassment prevention policy for employers to adopt or use to establish a similar policy that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the model policy; and,

• Amends the law to protect contractors, subcontractors, vendors, consultants or others providing services in the workplace from sexual harassment in the workplace.

Held Hearings on Eliminating the Subminimum Wage for Tipped Workers
One of Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State proposals directed the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) to evaluate the possibility of ending minimum wage tip credits in New York State. In some workplaces, such as car washes and restaurants, where wages and tips are generally both low, a worker’s income can rely entirely upon tips. These tips, meant as a reward for good service, instead serve as a critical wage subsidy that brings workers’ wages up to just the legally mandated minimum wage. This system disproportionally impacts women and minorities and prevents some workers from coming forward to voice concerns, fearing retaliation. DOL held seven hearings across the State, totaling more than 30 hours, with more than 500 individuals testifying. The hearings focused on how the subminimum wage impacts workers’ ability to earn a fair wage as it relates to tips, raising a family, and how it impacts business operators and their interactions with workers. The Department is now reviewing testimony, comments submitted and additional research to ensure that findings are unassailable, based on data and fact and that any actions are done right, in a fair and well-thought-out manner.

Released Gender Pay Gap Study
On Equal Pay Day 2018, the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) issued a report titled “Closing the Gender Wage Gap in New York State,” outlining the state of the gender pay gap in New York. The study, co-chaired by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and State Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, included hearings in New York City, Syracuse, Long Island and Buffalo to solicit testimony identifying specific causes of the gender wage gap and suggestions on ways in which the wage gap can be closed. The report proposes a series of policy recommendations to close the wage gap, including launching statewide public education campaigns on the breadth of career opportunities, salary negotiation and financial literacy, expanding access to child care and family leave, increasing career mentoring for young women and improving data and transparency on job titles, pay and benefits. In addition, the report recommends instituting employee scheduling regulations and eliminating the subminimum wage for tipped workers, two initiatives the Governor has already directed DOL to explore.

Led the Nation with Efforts to Combat Worker Exploitation
Under Governor Cuomo, New York has been a national leader in wage theft case processing and fund recovery. Since 2011, New York has recovered more than any other state - a quarter of a
billion dollars - and returned that money to more than 215,000 workers victimized by wage theft. With a staff of 110 investigators, one of the nation’s largest, DOL has led the way in protecting workers. The FY 2019 Budget invests an additional $1 million to allow additional investigators to be hired, ensuring that money is put back into the pockets of workers as quickly as possible.

**Implementing Strongest Paid Family Leave Policy in the Country**

In 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law the nation’s strongest and most comprehensive Paid Family Leave policy so that working families would no longer have to choose between caring for their loved ones and risking their economic security. As of January 1, 2018, New York State Paid Family Leave provides New Yorkers with job-protected, paid leave to bond with a new child, care for a loved one with a serious health condition or to help relieve family pressures when someone is called to active military service abroad. ITS worked closely with the Workers’ Compensation Board to support this transformational initiative, from gathering and validating the new requirements, to testing and implementing cases prior to the successful launch of the program and associated technologies.

**Provided Greater Flexibility for Injured Workers to Attend Hearings**

To provide injured workers greater flexibility to attend their hearings in New York State, the Workers Compensation Board worked in collaboration with ITS to develop a virtual hearing environment for workers’ compensation hearings, using cutting edge tools and technology. As a result of this initiative, which is being rolled out in a phased approach, hearings are more accessible to the public and to the businesses involved in workers’ compensation hearings, regardless of geographic location. Lauded by many participants, the pilot program was launched in 14 sites in Fiscal 2018 with 12 sites left to be completed this fiscal year.

**Veterans**

**Funded Justice Equality for Veterans through $250,000 Grants to Law School Partners**

As a part of the FY 2019 State Budget, Governor Cuomo committed $250,000 in funding to law schools assisting veterans and their families. In recognition of the important work that law schools have already conducted through the Law School Consortium, New York State provided five grants of $50,000 apiece to law schools helping veterans and their families resolve unmet legal needs. This funding allowed recipient schools to increase and augment the important legal work that many Veterans and their families benefit from throughout the state. Practice areas range from health law to consumer protection to criminal defense work to discharge upgrades.

**Increased Funding to $1 Million for Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Programs to Veterans in New York**

As a part of the FY 2019 State Budget, Governor Cuomo dedicated $500,000 for funding for the Veteran-to-Veteran mentor programs for Veterans Treatment Courts and $500,000 for non-profits across New York State. This funding guaranteed that the peer-to-peer mentor programs, several of which were struggling to recruit new mentors because of the substantial out-of-pocket costs involved, continued to provide empathetic guides for veterans on their pathways to recovery. The Division of Veterans’ Affairs continues to connect with these veterans to ensure that they are receiving all their benefits they are entitled to because of their service. The Division also collaborates with other agencies to help maintain and increase the impact that Veteran Treatment Courts have on the lives of New York’s Veterans.
Initiated Reimbursement for Veterans Service Organization Providing Burial for Indigent Veterans

As a part of the FY 2019 State Budget, Governor Cuomo announced reimbursements of up to $2,000 to a Veterans Service Organization that provides interment services for an indigent veteran. This reimbursement will help defray the costs to Veterans Service Organizations and ensure that all veterans, regardless of their income, receive a final resting place. Previously, when a Veteran passed away in New York State without any means of funding funeral and interment expenses, veterans Service Organizations often wound up paying the total cost out of their organization’s resources.

Allocated $120,000 in Fresh Connect Checks to Veterans and their Families

In the FY 2019 State Budget, Governor Cuomo allocated $120,000 to the “Fresh Connect” program. The program gives booklets of “Fresh Connect” checks to veterans, service members ($20 total), redeemable for fresh food products at New York’s farmer’s markets. This is the fifth consecutive year the State Division of Veteran Affairs, has participated in the Fresh Connect for Veterans partnership with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Improved Services for New York Veterans

Veterans risk their lives to defend the principles that this nation was founded upon and it is our duty to do everything we can to support them when they return home. To further support New York Veterans, Governor Cuomo worked with the legislature to pass a bold legislative package to remove barriers to employment, improve access to healthcare services, and memorialize veterans throughout the state. As part of this landmark legislation, New York State will waive the application fee required to take a civil service examination for honorably discharged veterans and added a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a qualifying condition to access the state’s medical marijuana program.

Increased Sick Leave for Combat Veterans Employed by the State

During the 2018 Legislative Session, Governor Cuomo signed legislation authorizing five additional days of paid leave for certain employees of the State of New York with military combat experience. Governor Cuomo has already ensured that public employees who served in our Nation’s military are provided with paid leave for the greater of 30 calendar days or 22 working days in any calendar year, regardless of the type of military service. This policy will be effective starting April 1, 2019, and prior to this, regulations will be drafted to ensure that confidentiality of all military and medical records submitted by Veterans who wish to participate in this program are secured.
II: Expanding Opportunity for All
Early Education

Historic Investment in Education
Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, State funding for K-12 education has increased 36 percent since 2012. This year, New York State increased education aid by approximately $1 billion (3.9 percent), to a record total of $26.7 billion. New York’s per-pupil investment is not only the highest in State history, but it is the highest in the nation—90% above the national average.

Invested in our Youngest Learners
The FY 2019 Budget includes an additional $15 million investment for prekindergarten to expand high-quality half-day and full-day prekindergarten instruction for 3,000 three- and four-year-old children. The Governor has doubled the State’s commitment to pre-kindergarten since creating the State’s first full-day pre-kindergarten seats in 2013.

Increased Transparency in Education Spending
New York State spends more money per pupil than any other state. The FY 2019 Budget includes new provisions to supply additional funding transparency. Under the Budget agreement, for the 2018-19 school year, 76 large school districts that receive significant state aid shall report school level funding allocations to the state, and will be made publicly available. This will ensure that funds are allocated to the schools where it is most needed in the districts.

Expanded Community Schools
The FY 2019 Budget includes $200 million, a $50 million increase, to expand funding for community schools. The new funding is targeted to districts with failing schools or those districts with significant growth in homeless pupils or English language learners. In addition, the Budget increases the minimum community schools funding amount from $10,000 to $75,000.

Expanded the Empire State After-School Program
To grow the popular Empire State After-School program an additional $10 million is funding a second round of Empire State After-School awards. These funds will provide 6,250 additional students with public after-school care in high-need communities across the State. Funding will be targeted to districts with high rates of childhood homelessness, and $2 million in funds will be targeted specifically to high-need communities on Long Island.

Continued to Grow Early College High Schools
To build upon the success of existing programs, the State committed an additional $9 million to create at least 15 new early college high school programs. This expansion will target communities with low graduation or college access rates, and will align new schools with in-demand industries. This will give NYS over almost 100 Early College High Schools. In addition, this year that State allocated $4 million to help pay for the advanced placement or international baccalaureate examination fees for students in poverty.

Ensured No Student Goes Hungry
The Governor proposed and secured funding and legislative changes to launch a comprehensive policy program to provide students of all ages, backgrounds and financial situations access to healthy, locally-sourced meals to address child hunger. These changes include banning meal
shaming, expanding farm to school programs, supporting breakfast after the bell to make breakfast accessible for students after the school day has begun, and incentivizing the use of farm-fresh, locally grown foods in schools.

**The First 1,000 Days**

The First 1,000 Days on Medicaid initiative was a 2018 State of the State and Executive Budget Proposal. The initiative was the result of a work group convened by DOH under Governor Cuomo’s direction in August 2017 brought together health care, early childhood and education stakeholders to work cross-system and identify opportunities to improve outcomes for this population. The work group identified a ten-point agenda to support children in their earliest years covered by Medicaid and their families. Full annual investment into the initiatives is $11.6 million, and 5 of the 10 initiatives include pilot interventions. Funding for FY 2019 begins in January 2019.

Each initiative has been assigned a project lead and project team from DOH and other State agencies. Pilot design is underway, with project teams researching similar efforts and developing a financing, contracting and evaluation strategy. The First 1,000 Days on Medicaid work group was briefed on June 4 on implementation progress to date. More information on the ten-point agenda is available at https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/first_1000.htm.

**Increased State Funding to Provide Families with Affordable Child Care**

Child care subsidies help parents and caretakers pay for some or all of the cost of child care. Families are eligible for financial assistance if they meet the State’s low-income guidelines and need child care to work, look for work or attend employment training. The FY 2019 Budget increases State support for child care subsidies by $7 million above FY 2018 Budget funding levels and programs new federal funds to make an additional $10 million dollars available for child care subsidies, restoring recent cuts and sustaining a record level of funding.

**Enhanced Child Care Tax Credit for Middle Class Families**

The 2017 Enhanced Middle Class Child Care Tax Credit reduces childcare costs for working families. This expansion more than doubled the benefit for 200,000 families. The 2019 Budget reflects the first year of the Enhanced Child Care Tax Credit for working families to continue to alleviate costs for families and support the needs of working parents.

**Expanded and Improved the Child Care Availability Task Force**

Chapter 33 of the Laws of 2018 significantly expanded the membership and topics to be examined by the Child Care Availability Task Force. The information gathered and examined by the task force will help guide policy and budgeting decisions to better meet the needs of working families across the State.

**Higher Education**

**Invested in Higher Education**

This year, New York State is providing $7.6 billion in State support for higher education - an increase of $1.5 billion or 25 percent since FY 2012. This investment supports $1.2 billion to make college more affordable and encourage the best and brightest students to build their future in New York.
Launched Phase Two of the First-in-the-Nation Excelsior Free Tuition Program

The Excelsior Scholarship income eligibility threshold will increase, allowing New Yorkers with household incomes up to $110,000 to be eligible. With the expanded eligibility, the Excelsior Scholarship program will support an estimated 27,000 students. Along with other sources of tuition assistance, including the generous New York State Tuition Assistance Program, the Excelsior Scholarship will allow approximately 53 percent of full-time SUNY and CUNY in-state students, or more than 210,000 New York residents, to attend college tuition.

Supported our Public Colleges and Universities

This year NYS provided SUNY and CUNY with more than $200 million in new resources to support the operations of the university systems while maintaining low predictable tuition to ensure access to a quality education for all.

Expanded STEM Scholarships to Private Colleges

The New York State Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Program was expanded to include students attending private colleges in New York. This includes $1 million annually for the next 4 years.

Invested in on our Private College Facilities

Provided $30 million in competitive grants to support capital investments at independent colleges that improve academic programs, enhance student life, and provide economic development benefits to the college community.

Supporting Students At New York’s Private Colleges

The State invested in year two of the Enhanced Tuition Award to provide up to $6,000 per student in financial assistance including match funds and a tuition freeze to make college more affordable for residents attending private colleges in New York. To leverage greater participation, the program was modified to provide more flexibility in the matching requirement for colleges.

Created the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

The Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, which was established in collaboration with New York City labor unions in 1984 to meet the higher education needs of working adults, now serves more than 1,200 adult and traditional-aged students across the CUNY system in undergraduate and graduate degree, and certificate programs focused on labor-related issues. The Institute provides higher education programs in three general categories including labor, urban studies, and worker education/workforce development. This year we provided a $3 million investment to expand the institute into the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, a recognition of the invaluable role the Institute plays in the CUNY community and as a center of labor discourse.

Prohibited State Agencies from Suspending the Professional Licenses of Individuals Behind or in Default on their Student Loans

New York State is expressly prohibiting the suspension of professional licenses of individuals behind or in default on their student loans. This practice severely limits the ability of people to support themselves and their families, and to ultimately pay back their student loans, creating a further financial death spiral. By expressly prohibiting the practice, we ensure that current and future New Yorkers are protected.
Provided Open Educational Resource Funding to Cut the High Cost of College Textbooks

The State provided $8 million for the Open Educational Resources Initiative at SUNY and CUNY, cutting the high cost of textbooks for students. Book costs totaling as much as $1,200 a year can be prohibitive for students. OER offers freely available, high-quality books and other materials that can be downloaded, edited and shared.

Continued to Evolve and Improve Online Applications for College Affordability Initiatives

In 2017, Governor Cuomo announced two major initiatives to eliminate and reduce the cost of tuition for New York State families. The Excelsior Scholarship program makes State universities tuition-free for qualified residents, and the Enhanced Tuition Awards (ETA) program provide tuition assistance to qualified residents attending private colleges in the State. In partnership with the Higher Education Services Corporation, ITS has already launched online applications that make it possible for students to apply for these programs electronically. As a part of the FY2019 Budget, both programs saw eligibility requirements change for the 2018-19 academic year, with the eligible family adjusted gross income threshold increasing to $110,000. In addition, this year the Budget opened the ETA program to all New York State private colleges, including for-profit institutions. This year, ITS made improvements to both online applications by adding a progress bar, enhancing input validation, and creating more user-friendly messages.
III: Keeping New York Working
State Economy

Maintained Fiscal Responsibility

Governor Cuomo’s fiscal policies, which have ended the era of high spending growth and tax increases, are maintained in the FY 2019 Budget. For the eighth consecutive year, the State Budget is balanced and limits spending growth to no more than 2 percent – a record of spending restraint unparalleled in State history.

The 2 percent cap, self-imposed by Governor Cuomo and the Legislature, has been made possible by fundamental reforms to reduce State costs. Unsustainable inflators in major State programs have been eliminated, pension costs lowered for all levels of government, and agencies are capturing efficiencies and improving delivery of core services by transferring back office functions to the enterprise level.

Reduced spending growth has also resulted in a lower debt burden for future generations. At the end of FY 2018, State debt outstanding remained less than when the Governor took office, and New York’s debt to personal income ratio is at its most favorable level since the 1960s.

New York’s financial resurgence has instilled confidence in the bond market. The State now has the second highest investment-grade credit rating possible from all three major rating agencies on its general obligation bonds, and S&P rates the State’s Personal Income Tax Bonds and Sales Tax Bonds at AAA, the highest rating possible.

Fought to Keep New York Economically Competitive

On December 22, 2017, President Donald J. Trump and the Congress enacted sweeping changes to the federal tax system for both businesses and individuals. This new federal law will have a disproportionate and negative impact on the tax system and economy of the State of New York. Absent changes to New York’s tax code, the law’s limitations on the deductibility of state and local taxes would cost New York’s taxpayers an additional $14.3 billion this year and risk undermining the progressivity of New York’s tax system, the investments and services that the State provides for its residents, and the competitiveness of New York’s economy over the long term.

In response to the federal tax legislation, the FY 2019 Budget enacted a series of reforms to the New York State tax code designed to protect New York residents from the adverse impacts of the law. Specifically, the Budget:

• **Authorizes State Charitable Contributions to Benefit New Yorkers**

The FY 2019 Budget creates a new State-operated Charitable Gifts Trust Fund to accept donations for the purposes of improving health care and public education in New York State. Taxpayers who itemize deductions may claim these charitable contributions as deductions on their federal and State tax returns. Any donating taxpayer may also claim a State tax credit equal to 85 percent of the donation amount for the tax year after the donation is made. Taxpayers may also make qualified contributions to certain not-for-profit organizations for specified purposes.
• **Authorizes Local Governments and School Districts to Establish Local Charitable Funds**

The FY 2019 Budget authorizes counties, cities, towns, villages and school districts to establish charitable gift reserve funds and to offer real property tax credits to incentivize contributions to those funds. Such funds may receive unrestricted charitable contributions for the purposes of addressing public educational and charitable purposes.

• **Established the Alternative Employer Compensation Expense Program (ECEP)**

While the new federal tax law eliminated full state and local tax deductibility for individuals, businesses were spared from these limitations. Under the FY 2019 Budget, employers will be able to opt-in to a new ECEP structure. Employers that opt-in will be subject to a 5 percent tax on all annual payroll expenses in excess of $40,000 per employee, phased in over three years beginning on January 1, 2019. The progressive personal income tax system will remain in place, and a new tax credit corresponding in value to the ECEP would cut the personal income tax on wages and ensure that State filers subject to the ECEP would not experience a decline in take-home pay.

**Decoupled from the Federal Tax Code**

The FY 2019 Budget decoupled the State tax code from the federal tax code, where necessary, to avoid more than $1.5 billion in State tax increases that would have been brought solely by changes to the federal tax code. These changes include:

• **Decoupled from the Federal State and Local Tax Deduction Cap**

The federal law caps the aggregate itemized deduction for state and local taxes, including property taxes, at $10,000. Because New York requires state itemized deduction calculations to start with the deductions claimed on the companion federal return, the new federal cap on state and local tax deductions has the potential to limit itemized deductions at the state level for real property taxes paid to $10,000. The FY2019 State Budget decoupled from Federal law to restore the full real property tax deduction, protecting taxpayers from a $441 million State tax increase.

• **Maintained the Standard Deduction for Single Filers**

Under prior State law, the federal suspension of personal exemptions would have reduced the amount of the state standard deduction for single filers from $8,000 to $3,100 in 2018. The Enacted FY2019 Budget maintains the $8,000 state standard deduction for single filers, protecting taxpayers from a $840 million State tax increase.

• **Decoupled from Other Itemized Deduction Limitations**

The new federal tax law eliminated many other income tax deductions utilized by thousands of New York taxpayers, such as those for unreimbursed business expenses and moving expenses. In addition, New York State tax law has historically required taxpayers who claim the standard deduction on their federal income tax return to also claim the standard deduction on their State return. However, the higher federal standard deduction under the new law will lead fewer taxpayers to claim itemized deductions on their federal returns; thus, maintaining this limitation would result in fewer New Yorkers being able to itemize deductions on their State returns. The Enacted Budget restores the availability of these deductions and eliminates this restriction on itemized deductions. These provisions are expected to save New Yorkers $269 million annually.
Extended and Strengthened the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

The 2019 Budget reauthorizes the State Commercial and Homeowner Rehabilitation Tax Credit programs through 2025 and allows the State commercial credit to be used independently of the federal credit.

Took Next Steps of the Middle Class Tax Cut

The 2019 Budget supports the phase-in of the middle class tax cuts. In 2018, average savings will total $250 and, when fully effective, six million New Yorkers will save an average of $700 annually. Once fully phased in, the new rates will be the lowest in more than 70 years - dropping from 6.45 to 5.5 percent for incomes ranging from $40,000 - $150,000 and 6.65 to 6 percent for incomes ranging from $150,000 - $300,000. The new lower tax rates will save middle class New Yorkers $4.2 billion, annually, by 2025.

Created a Voluntary Retirement Savings Program

The 2019 Budget authorizes the New York State Secure Choice Savings Program - a voluntary-enrollment payroll deduction IRA for employees of private employers that do not already offer retirement savings plans. This program will give millions of New Yorkers who currently have no access to an employer-provided retirement plan the opportunity to save for retirement, all while alleviating the burdens on participating New York employers of creating and sponsoring a retirement plan on their own. Participation is voluntary for businesses and employees.

Continued the Local Property Tax Relief Credit

The Local Property Tax Credit, enacted in 2015, will provide an average reduction of $380 in local property taxes to about 2.5 million homeowners this year alone. In 2019, the program will provide an additional $1.3 billion in property tax relief and an average credit of $530.

Transfer of Payroll Mobility Tax Revenue (PMT) Directly to the MTA

The State previously collected and disbursed the Payroll Mobility Tax (PMT) to the MTA. The FY 2019 State Budget amended the law so the revenue is now provided directly to the Authority, eliminating this unnecessary step. This amendment will benefit the MTA because PMT revenue pledged to bondholders under any related credit will have no risk of non-appropriation and PMT receipts will be received by the MTA in a timelier manner.

Supported Real Property Services Modernization Tech Applications

To support the modernization of processing local real property taxes, ITS is working closely with the Department of Tax and Finance to remediate and improve the application that supports the processing of local taxes for Real Property. The solution includes migrating to a Web-based platform (browser based application with relational database). NYS has approximately 1,000 assessing units or municipalities each of which determines its own level of assessment and reassessment cycle. The project replaces the existing legacy system that supports this $60 billion revenue stream, and began in May of 2017.

Continued to Grow New York State’s Craft Beverage Industry

Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, New York has charted a new path for the State’s craft beverage industry by implementing a myriad of legislative and policy proposals to grow New York’s craft beverage industry, including lowering taxes and fees, creating new licenses for farm
breweries and cideries, rolling back restrictive regulations, cutting the time it takes to obtain a license and overhauling the State’s antiquated Alcoholic Beverage Control law. New York State is now home to 400 breweries, surpassing the previous record of 393 breweries set in 1876. The number of breweries has skyrocketed in New York since Governor Cuomo hosted the State’s first Wine, Beer and Spirits Summit in 2012, with 243 new breweries obtaining licenses, and beer being brewed in 57 of the state’s 62 counties. Additionally, 202 new farm brewery licenses have been issued since the Governor’s farm brewery law went into effect on January 1, 2013.

**Promoted New York’s Food and Beverage Industry though Taste NY**

Since its launch in 2013, Governor Cuomo’s Taste NY initiative has helped more than 1,000 New York food and beverage companies reach consumers across the globe. In 2017, total gross sales of New York products from Taste NY stores, cafés, bars, concessions and events topped $16.1 million, achieving Taste NY’s highest annual sales in the program’s history and an increase of $3 million from last year’s totals. In 2017, Governor Cuomo expanded Taste NY to several travel hubs, 10 State parks and historic sites, and opened five new welcome centers. In 2018, Budget funding allowed for the opening of the Finger Lakes welcome center and five more are scheduled to open by Fall 2018.

**Supported Small Business Growth with New York Business Express Website Consolidation**

Continuing Governor Cuomo’s efforts to leverage technology to reduce regulatory burden and streamline small business formation, NYS businesses have successfully completed over 12,000 transactions related to business formation using New York Business Express (https://www.businessexpress.ny.gov/). By consolidating information from over 30 agency websites to one easy-to-navigate portal, businesses in New York now access information, including incentives and tax credits, specific to their unique business, in a single place. Using dynamic forms, similar to Turbo Tax, business owners are led through a quick, user-friendly questionnaire asking about what their business will do, and their answers result in a personalized Custom Business Checklist that seamlessly connects them to a list of necessary forms and applications. Business owners can build a Business Profile to complete a single transaction and their information can be reused to complete future transactions. New York Business Express contains modern tools to help users access the correct information, including system-generated email communications, access to a 24/7 dashboard with personal statuses, downloadable copies of application materials, and the ability to contact the NY Business Information Call Center, which contains specially trained business formation agents who can answer questions and utilize co-browse to assist users. Through incremental enhancements, additional transactions will be added to the system. New York Business Express is also a useful tool to promote other top NYS initiatives such as Paid Family Leave.

**Workforce Investment**

**Set Record Private Sector Job Growth**

New York State continues to see record-high job growth with the State’s private sector job count topping 8,166,300 in May, bringing the total number of private sector jobs created since Governor Cuomo took office to 1,072,200. New York State remains third in net job growth since the recession, while some states have still not recovered all jobs lost. Unemployment remains lower across the State since the Governor took office and in May of 2018 the overall unemployment rate reached 4.5%, the lowest rate, and the lowest number of unemployed since June 2007.
Supported a New Consolidated Funding Application for Workforce Investments

The 2019 Budget provides $150 million in new, flexible resources and $25 million in existing streams of workforce funding to support a new Consolidated Funding Application for workforce investments in strategic regional efforts that meet businesses’ short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, expand apprenticeships, and address the long-term needs of expanding industries—with a particular focus on emerging fields with growing demand for jobs like clean energy and technology.

Created a New Office of Workforce Development

The 2019 Budget provides for a new Office of Workforce Development to serve as a focal point of accountability and coordination for all workforce training programs for the state, including the new CFA program. Headed by a new Director of Workforce Development, the Office will establish standards for program performance and ensure alignment with the economic development goals of the state and the individual regions.

Encouraged Youth Employment

Governor Cuomo has prioritized connecting young people to jobs as a vital piece of improving New York State’s economic landscape and preparing the next generation of leaders. Since 2012, the unemployment rate for youth has fallen from 18% to 12%. Part of that success is due to the New York Youth Jobs Program, which incentivizes the hiring of at-risk youth, age 16 to 24, through business tax credits. Since 2012, the program has connected more than 85,000 youth to stable, good-paying jobs. To build on the success of the Youth Jobs Program, the 2019 Budget increases the maximum tax credit available to certified New York employers by 50 percent—raising the maximum tax credit from $5,000 to $7,500 for certified youth employed full-time and from $2,500 to $3,750 for those employed part-time. Governor Cuomo also has earmarked $10 million through the Empire State Apprenticeship Tax Credit to increase the number of Registered Apprenticeship Program participants—beginning at $2,000 per apprentice and $5,000 if the apprentice is a disadvantaged youth, with additional tax credits for those participating in a mentorship program.

Honored the Achievements of New York’s Public Servants

The Empire Star Public Service Award was established to recognize the outstanding service and accomplishments of State employees across New York. The 2019 Budget extends the program to honor an additional 60 of the state’s most exemplary public servants who have distinguished themselves through their dedication to serving the public with a high level of performance, integrity, and pride. Individuals are nominated for exemplary job performance, with final selection to be determined by an Awards Selection Committee. Recipients of the Empire Star Public Service Award will receive a $5,000 professional development award to support continued learning and professional development, including advanced training via classroom or online courses and admission in college or community classes that will benefit them in their current public employment.

Reauthorized MWBE Program Legislation

The 2019 Budget extends the State’s Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise Program, which was due to expire this year. This action builds on Governor Cuomo’s work to support women and minorities in achieving representative participation in the economy. In 2014, the Governor increased the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise goal for State contracting from 20 to 30 percent—the highest in the nation. The rate of MWBEs participating on State contracts...
reached 27.2 percent for FY 2017. Since 2011, state-certified MWBEs have won more than $10.4 billion in State contracts and the State has newly certified more than 6,600 MWBEs and re-certified more than 4,700 MWBEs.

Launched an Annual Workforce Development Funding Database

To continuously prepare the workforce, Chapter 458 of 2017 required the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) to annually publish, and post on its website, a catalogue listing and describing various state and federal funding programs and/or tax credits available for workforce development and preparation, adult education, and skills training.

DOL will be collecting the data and preparing it to post on the Department’s website by October 1, 2018.

Regional Economic Investments

Extended the Successful Regional Economic Development Council Program

In 2011, the State established 10 Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs) to develop long-term regional strategic economic development plans. The 2019 Budget includes core capital and tax-credit funding that will be combined with a wide range of existing agency programs for an eighth round of REDC awards totaling $750 million. After seven rounds of the REDC process, more than $5.4 billion has been awarded to more than 6,300 job creation and community development projects consistent with each region’s strategic plans, projected to create and retain more than 220,000 jobs.

Launched Next Round of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative

The Downtown Revitalization Initiative is transforming downtown neighborhoods into vibrant communities where the next generation of New Yorkers will want to live, work and raise families. The 2019 Budget provides $100 million for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Round III, adding 10 new locations to the 20 downtown areas awarded revitalization grants thus far.

Advanced the Transformation of Rochester’s Waterfront

On February 8, 2018 Governor Cuomo was in Rochester to announce the $50 million “ROC The Riverway” initiative to transform the Genesee River and unlock the potential of Rochester’s waterfront. The Genesee River has long served as an economic engine, but for decades has been underutilized. Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, and in partnership with the City of Rochester, the waterfront is poised for rebirth as a vibrant attraction for commerce, recreation and tourism. This transformation builds off the demonstrated success of Buffalo’s waterfront and will reestablish the Genesee River as the centerpiece of downtown Rochester.

Launched the Empire Discovery Institute

In May 2018, Governor Cuomo announced the formation of the Empire Discovery Institute, EDI, - a groundbreaking partnership formed by the University at Buffalo, University of Rochester, and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center to leverage academic and industry resources and expertise to accelerate life science research through early-phase drug development. EDI, supported through the Governor’s Life Sciences Initiative, will expedite the pathway toward successful licensing and commercialization of early drug discovery research, creating new revenue, new companies and new jobs, while capitalizing on New York’s leadership as a vibrant life science cluster and hub for early-stage discovery.
Expanded Craft Beverage Industries in the Hudson Valley

In April, New York welcomed world-renowned premium sake maker Asahi Shuzo International Co. in establishing the Hudson Valley’s first sake brewery and the largest in New York. Asahi Shuzo will invest more than $28 million in the facility and create 32 new jobs. To encourage the company’s growth in New York, Empire State Development offered the Japan-based brewery up to $588,235 in performance-based tax credits through the Excelsior Jobs Program. In June, Governor Cuomo announced that the Alexandrion Group, Romania’s largest spirits producer, will establish its first United States distillery in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The Alexandrion Group will invest more than $40 million to renovate the new distillery in Putnam County, creating 102 new jobs over five years. Upon completion in 2020, the new distillery will produce premium spirits tailored for the U.S. market such as whiskey, bourbon, gin, brandy and vodka.

Created Photonics Attraction Fund

New York State will dedicate $30 million to a Photonics Attraction Fund, administered through the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council, to attract integrated photonics companies to set up their manufacturing operations in the greater Rochester area. Thanks to the world-renowned AIM Photonics consortium, the Finger Lakes is already a leader in photonics research and development, and this additional State funding will help leverage this unique asset to bring the businesses and the jobs of tomorrow to New York State.

Continued Growth of the Drones Industry in Central New York and Mohawk Valley

In 2018 through the announcement of critical partnerships, New York State advanced its flourishing Drone industry. The result of these partnerships will be projects that involve system planning, design, implementation, commissioning, and operational support of a state-of-the-art Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) research, development, test and evaluation infrastructure. These projects will further establish Central New York and Mohawk Valley regions as the nation’s premiere destination for drones. Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership New York invested $30 million to develop the world’s first 50-mile “drone highway” between Rome and Syracuse, committed nearly $5 million to support the growth of companies leading the drone industry, and launched GENIUS NY the world’s largest drone business accelerator program.

Strengthened the Long Island Research Corridor

In May, Governor Cuomo announced a $72 million state investment to support three transformative, economic development projects that will create new jobs across Long Island. The State will invest $30 million to establish the Neuroscience Research Complex at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Suffolk County. An additional $30 million will support the Center for Bioelectronic Medicine at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, Nassau County. By attracting private sector investments and partners to efforts in groundbreaking scientific research, these investments help propel forward the Long Island Research Corridor and will expand the potential for more partnerships across the region. The Governor also announced a $12 million commitment to help build the College of Veterinary Medicine at LIU Post in Brookville, Nassau County. There are currently only 30 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States, and only three in the northeast - none in the New York metropolitan area.

Advanced Industrial Hemp Production

The State will continue the investment in Hemp research, production, and processing made in FY 2018 through a broad, multi-pronged program. The 2019 Budget provides $650,000 for a brand-
new $3.2 million industrial hemp processing facility in the Southern Tier. New York State will import thousands of pounds of industrial hemp seed, ensuring that farmers have access to a high-quality product and easing the administrative burden on farmers. Further, New York State will invest an additional $2 million in a seed certification and breeding program, to begin producing unique New York seed. Finally, New York hosted an Industrial Hemp Research Forum, bringing together researchers and academics with businesses and processors to develop ways to further boost industry research in New York. More than 60 new farms and businesses have received research permits under the State’s Industrial Hemp Agricultural Research Pilot program, with approximately 3,500 acres of New York farmland approved for industrial hemp research trials in 2018.

Invested in the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA)
The 2019 Budget includes $62.5 million in new capital funding for ORDA, including $50 million for a strategic upgrade and modernization plan to support improvements to the Olympic facilities and ski resorts, $10 million for critical maintenance and energy efficiency upgrades, and $2.5 million appropriated for the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Budget as part of the New York Works initiative.

Created a Launch Pad for Biotech in New York City
In June, Governor Cuomo announced the grand opening of JLABS @ NYC, a new 30,000-square-foot life sciences incubator for innovative biotech, pharmaceutical, medical device and consumer health companies. Located at the New York Genome Center in Manhattan and operated by Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS is the state-of-the-art facility that will provide laboratory space, equipment and technology for up to 30 early-stage companies focused on biotech, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and consumer health, part of a wider effort by the Governor to spur growth of a world-class life science research cluster in New York and expand the State’s ability to commercialize this research and grow the economy. New York was selected as the location to build the new facility over a number of other states and sites around the globe. The new home for JLABS @ NYC was secured by the resources available through the New York Genome Center along with a $17 million investment through the New York State Life Sciences Initiative, launched by Governor Cuomo to significantly increase New York’s share of industry-funded research and development, support the commercialization of existing academic research, usher in the next generation of advanced technologies, and position New York as a magnet for emerging manufacturing-based enterprises and job growth.

Enhanced Development in the North Country
The State will provide the North Country region with tools and resources to bolster tourism in and catalyze private investment in lodging. Empire State Development will commission a study to identify lodging development opportunities in the Adirondacks and Thousand Island regions, and provide $13 million in capital funding through the REDCs and Upstate Revitalization Initiative to spur development activity. In April, Governor Cuomo announced the groundbreaking of the Frontier Town Campground, Equestrian and Day Use Area and a new brewing facility for Paradox Brewery. The new, public campground facility, located at the site of the former Frontier Town theme park in the town of North Hudson, is a signature project of the Governor’s “Gateway to the Adirondacks” tourism hub and part of the State’s Adventure NY initiative to enhance access to state lands and connect New Yorkers to nature and the outdoors. An estimated $25 million in public/private resources have been committed to the project to date.
Broke Ground on Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (ETEC) in the Capital Region

In April, Governor Cuomo announced that the University at Albany broke ground on its Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex at the Harriman State Office Campus - paving the way for a new interdisciplinary hub for STEM research, public policy development and entrepreneurship. The $180 million ETEC complex, funded in part by the NYSUNY 2020 program, will include classroom and office space; research labs; specialty instrumentation facilities; an emergency preparedness situation room, weather research and instruction map rooms and observation facilities; business and technology transfer services offices; conference facilities; and will be the future home of University at Albany’s first-in-the-nation College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity.

Airport Transformation and Waterfront Development in Ithaca

Governor Cuomo in May announced a $22 million project to transform the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport as part of the Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition. Also, the New York State Department of Transportation will relocate its maintenance facility from its current location on Cayuga Inlet to the Airport, freeing up 7.6 acres of prime waterfront property for development in Ithaca, resulting in new private investment in the city to generate business and tourism opportunities to stimulate economic activity.

Held the Concord Grape Summit

Governor Cuomo hosted the first-ever Concord Grape Summit at the Grape Discover Center in Chautauqua County in April 2018. Farmers, researchers, and industry leaders met with State officials to discuss industry growth challenges and explore new opportunities for Concord grape growers in New York. Several initiatives were announced to help strengthen the industry, including expanding research, investing in new product and new market development, and expanding marketing and promotional programs to encourage increased growth in this sector.

Infrastructure

Introduced a $150 Billion Infrastructure Plan

Building on Governor Cuomo’s historic $100 billion investment in New York capital assets, the Governor announced a new $150 billion infrastructure plan which will be invested over a five year period starting in 2020. The capital projects supported with this investment will rebuild transportation and mass transit systems, construct safe and secure affordable housing, drive economic and community development, build new and better school buildings for 21st century learning, create new environmental and park facilities, support our sustainable energy future, and generate 675,000 new jobs and expand opportunity for all New Yorkers.

Advanced the Construction of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge

In 2018 construction of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge reached several major milestones. In June the final steel-blue girder was placed bringing major steel operations to a close. Tappan Zee Constructors began placing the new twin-span bridge’s structural steel and have since installed more than 220 million pounds of all-American steel on the 3.1-mile crossing. In May the work to remove the 2,415-foot main span of the old Tappan Zee Bridge began, and will be complete by late Fall. The construction project to build the bridge and ancillary facilities is one of the largest in the United States and the biggest in the history of the New York State Thruway Authority.
Completed the New Goethals Bridge
Governor Cuomo and Governor Phil Murphy of New Jersey announced in May of 2018 the completion of construction on the new Goethals Bridge, with the westbound span opening to traffic on May 21, 2018. The new $1.5 billion twin span, cable-stayed bridge crossing over the Arthur Kill between Staten Island and Elizabeth, NJ will serve as a key thoroughfare for the transport of billions of dollars of goods and millions of travelers throughout the region. This critical infrastructure project represents the first new bridge built by the Port Authority since 1931. The eastbound span opened in June 2017 and has been used to accommodate two lanes of traffic in each direction while the westbound span was under construction.

Enacted the $836 Million MTA Subway Action Plan
The comprehensive $836 million MTA Subway Action Plan addresses failures, breakdowns, delays and deteriorating customer service of the New York City Subway system, and positions the system for future modernization. The FY 2019 Budget fully funds the Subway Action Plan to move forward on these critically needed repairs, with the City required to contribute half of the funding for the plan. The MTA began receiving the funding in April of 2018 and will receive the full funding by the end of 2018.

Advanced the Airtrain to LaGuardia Airport
In June, the long-awaited mass-transit link between Midtown Manhattan and LaGuardia took another step toward reality when the Governor signed legislation to advance the AirTrain connection to LaGuardia Airport. The new law allows multiple potential alignments to be considered during environmental review of the proposed project to connect the airport to the Long Island Rail Road Station and the 7 subway train at Mets-Willets Point in Flushing, Queens. AirTrain LGA will establish a reliable, convenient means of travel, with less-than 30-minute trips between the airport and New York Penn Station or Grand Central Terminal. It will also help reduce vehicular congestion and delays for passengers who have long desired a greater sense of time certainty when embarking on travel to and from New York City’s primary airport for domestic travel.

Maintained Record Commitment to Local Highways and Bridges and Public Transportation
In the FY 2019 State Budget, funding for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and the Marchiselli program was maintained at $477.8 million, and the Local PAVE NY and BRIDGE NY programs were each maintained at $100 million. The Budget also included, in addition to previously planned amounts, $65 million for extreme winter recovery roadway repairs, as well as $20 million in capital funding and $5 million in operating funding for transit systems statewide other than the MTA.

Advanced the Long Island Rail Road Double Track Project
The $387 Million Long Island Rail Road Double Track project reached a major milestone with the final five miles of rail being laid in 2018. The project utilizes Design-Build construction and a specialized new track construction machine that lays rail more than 10 times faster than ever before, saving more than $7 million in construction costs and allowing for an expected project completion of August 2018 - 16 months ahead of schedule. Once complete, the Double Track, extending 13 miles from Farmingdale to Ronkonkoma, will dramatically reduce delays on the LIRR and enable more off-peak service in both directions.
Initiated Environmental Reviews and Preliminary Design for the Amherst-Buffalo Light Rail Extension

The Amherst-Buffalo Metro Rail Extension Project, which is supported by $5 million in Buffalo Billion Phase 2 funding, completes NFTA-Metro Rail’s connection to the University at Buffalo’s (UB) North Campus, providing a direct link between all three UB campuses, Canisius and Medaille Colleges, the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Downtown Buffalo, and Canalside, as well as a significant portion of the region’s households, office, retail, and redevelopment opportunities. In February of 2018 the NFTA Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to WSP, Inc. for environmental review and preliminary design services on February 22, 2018 with the project kicking off in April 2018. As a result of the project, approximately $1.7 billion in development and 1.3 million square feet of retail space is expected to be added to the Amherst-Buffalo corridor resulting in $19 million in new tax revenue each year for Erie County and New York State.

Constructing the Schenectady Rail Station

Demolition of the Schenectady existing rail station was completed and construction of the new facility is well underway. The new $23 million modern and accessible rail station will connect travelers to New York City, Niagara Falls and beyond. The project is supported by $19 million in State funding for engineering and construction. The project complements an additional $181 million in key rail improvement projects completed along the Empire Corridor in the Capital Region, easing congestion, modernizing service, and shortening travel times.

Launched the NFTA-Metro DL&W Station Project

The NFTA-Metro DL&W Station Project will construct a new Metro Rail station in the historic DL&W Terminal along the Buffalo River, providing enhanced access to some of the region’s most popular entertainment and recreation destinations including the KeyBank Center, HarborCenter, and Canalside. $20 million in Buffalo Billion Phase 2 funding, $1 million in Empire State Development Grant funding, and $5 million in New York State Department of Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program (MEP) funding support this project. This past year, environmental reviews for the project were completed and overall project design was commenced with construction anticipated to begin in early 2019. When completed, this project will build off over $600 million in public and private investment in the nearby Canalside/Cobblestone Districts to catalyze an additional $165 million in transit-oriented development at the Terminal and surrounding properties.

Authorized at Least 50 New Bus Lane Enforcement Cameras

The FY 2019 State Budget authorized the implementation of traffic congestion reduction measures in Manhattan’s Central Business District by directing the MTA to equip New York City Transit Select Bus Service buses operating below 96th Street with at least 50 new traffic monitoring cameras to enforce bus lane violations. Drivers and delivery trucks blocking dedicated bus lanes are significant contributors to bus delays and traffic congestion.

Enhanced Lead Paint Protections for New York City Transit

Chapter 18 of the Laws of 2018 requires the New York City transit authority to create and submit a report that identifies all current or planned capital projects that will involve the removal of existing lead-based paint from, and the repainting of above ground stations, elevated trestles, or elevated subway tracks operated by the Authority.
Advanced redevelopment of upstate airports

With the installation of the first of six arches for a new Terminal Canopy, the construction of the $79.4 million Greater Rochester International Airport redevelopment project reached a major milestone in April. In May, the Governor announced a $22 million project to transform the Ithaca Tompkins Regional airport. Progress continued on major expansions at the Syracuse, Elmira and Plattsburgh airports. These projects are supported through Governor Cuomo’s $200 million Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition.

Rebranded Stewart Airport

New York Stewart International Airport formally adopted a new name that builds on the airport’s remarkable growth, making it more attractive and identifiable to travelers around the globe. Since Norwegian’s commencement of international service to the airport just one year ago, passenger volume has increased more than 60% making it the fastest growing airport in the United States of America. The rebranding initiative is part of a $30 million investment to build a permanent new 20,000 square foot U.S. Customs federal inspection station, replacing a temporary station and increasing the airport’s potential to grow flight activity and passenger volume. The expansion will also better enable the airport to simultaneously handle domestic flights. The new U.S. Customs facility will offer the capacity to screen up to 400 international passengers hourly.

Contract Awarded for the Nassau Expressway

In the Spring of 2018 the contract was awarded for the $130 million design-build project to reconstruct a section of State Route 878 (Nassau Expressway) between Rockaway Turnpike and Burnside Avenue in the town of Hempstead, Nassau County. More than 400,000 people rely on Nassau Expressway as an emergency evacuation route, which was utilized during Hurricane Sandy. Infrastructure and safety improvements are needed to raise the road, which is approximately two-and-a-half feet below the 100-year floodplain, and improve an aging drainage system and soil underneath. The project will be completed in December 2019.

Increasing E-ZPass Sales as Part of the Transition to Cashless Tolling

As announced in the Governor’s 2018 State of the State address, the entire 570-mile Thruway will convert to cashless tolling by the end of 2020. As part of that effort, the Thruway Authority is expanding its outreach to increase E-ZPass sales for its customers. Cashless tolling has already gone live at the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and at the Grand Island Bridges in Western New York. Before the end of 2018 all toll barriers will convert to cashless tolling. As part of this transition, the Authority is focused on expanding the use of E-ZPass by its customers and improving the programs efficiency. Increased market penetration of E-ZPass translates into lower costs and increased revenue. In late February, the Thruway Authority began selling E-ZPass tags in select cash toll lanes. More than 10,000 tags have sold to date and sales this year are almost double what they were at this point last year.

Construction Began for Cashless Tolling at the Harriman Toll Barrier

Construction began in February of 2018 on Cashless Tolling conversion of the Harriman Toll Plaza in the Hudson Valley. Over the next couple of months, the gantries and associated equipment will be installed and tested, and the system is expected to be operational in September. Shortly after, the toll plaza removal and roadway restoration work will begin and be completed by the
end of the year. The Thruway Authority, the New York State Department of Transportation, and its contractors are collaborating on the adjacent $150 million Woodbury Transit and Economic Development Hub project to ensure both projects proceed smoothly.

**Modernizing and Reimagining the Service Areas Along the Thruway**

In support of Governor Cuomo’s State of the State initiative to modernize and reimagine the Thruway Authority’s Service Areas, a customer survey was released on March 29th to gather feedback from patrons on current offerings at the service areas and services they would like to see expanded or implemented. More than 2,200 surveys have been completed to date. A Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) was issued on April 18th seeking input from industry experts, including: hospitality, tourism, real estate, equity and developers. The 26 responses received encouraged better use of technology to promote Thruway services and suggest innovative ways to expand services to commercial operators. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released later this year.

**Reconstruction progresses of the State Route 17/Route 32 Interchange**

Work on this $150 million transformative design-build project is well underway. The project will improve access to Woodbury Commons Premium Outlets; replace the Route 32 bridge over Route 17; reconstruct and expand park and ride facilities; reconfigure the Route 17, Exit 131 eastbound ramp leading to the Thruway; and install of new interconnected and adaptive traffic signal system along Route 32 to minimize delays and enhance access to local businesses and schools.

**Instituted a $2.75 Surcharge on For-Hire Vehicles**

To establish a long-term funding stream for the MTA and to reduce motor vehicle congestion, the FY 2019 Budget authorized a surcharge on for-hire vehicles in Manhattan below 96th Street. The surcharge is $2.75 for for-hire vehicles, $2.50 for yellow cabs, and $0.75 for pooled trips. The revenue generated from this surcharge will go into an MTA “lock box,” and will provide long-term funding for the Subway Action Plan, outer borough transit improvements, and other MTA needs.

**New York Upgraded Technology Infrastructure for DMV**

The DMV Modernization program will transform existing systems into a state-of-the-art customer-centric transaction system. DMV is working with ITS and has issued a comprehensive modernization RFP to migrate core processes and data to a new software solution. The implementation will significantly impact nearly 200 existing systems.

**Expanded Autonomous Vehicle Testing Opportunities**

The FY 2019 State Budget extends through April 2019 the testing of self-driving vehicles in New York State. The Budget also expands the role of the State Police Superintendent in overseeing these tests and requires a law enforcement interaction plan be submitted with any application, including information regarding how law enforcement and emergency personnel should interact with an autonomous vehicle in the case of an emergency.

**Secured $24 Million in Additional Funding for Power Plant Closure Fund**

The FY 2019 Enacted Budget increases the New York State Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Fund by $24 million, from $45 million to $69 million. The fund, administered by the Empire State Development Corporation, provides financial assistance to municipalities and school districts impacted by a power plant closure. Awards from the program are over seven years,
starting at 80 percent of the tax loss in the first year and declining by 10 percent every year over
the seven-year period. The next power plant scheduled to close in New York State that will trigger
host community assistance under this program is Indian Point in 2021.

Assisted Communities Plan for Indian Point’s Closure

On May 9, 2018 the Indian Point Closure Task Force released two key studies regarding the
pending closure of the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, Westchester County. The studies
included an annual report on Task Force activities and a study detailing possible reuses for the
facility upon closure. The Task Force has provided foundational information and support that will
help mitigate the impacts to the communities affected by the plant’s closure. The Task Force
was created by Governor Cuomo to provide guidance and support to the communities, taxing
jurisdictions, and employees affected by the planned closure of Indian Point.

Secured $40 million in NY Works Capital Funding in This Year’s Budget

The New York Works Program is a vital source of funding for improving Department of
Environmental Conservation (DEC) facilities and infrastructure statewide. The FY 2019 Budget
provides $40 million for NY Works that will go towards projects including but not limited to: air
monitoring, dam safety and flood control projects, water quality improvement projects, public
access and environmental and recreation infrastructure projects, fish and wildlife infrastructure,
vehicles and equipment, DEC facilities rehabilitation and improvement, and a new state of the art
marine lab on Long Island.

Tourism

Major Milestone Reached in the Construction of the New York State Fair Exposition Center

In May of 2018 the final piece of structural steel to be installed on the Exposition Center at the New
York State Fair Grounds was placed in the roof of the building. When the Expo Center opens for
the 2018 Great New York State Fair, the 136,000-square-foot structure will be the largest indoor
event space north of New York City between Boston and Cleveland. The Expo Center, with 110,000
square feet of clear-span event space, will have the capacity to hold more than 500 10’-by-10’
trade show booths and 4,000 retractable seats. This flexible event space will attract major shows
and special events, including car, boat, and RV shows, pet expos, consumer and trade shows,
home and garden shows, tech expos and other events that were previously unable to come to
upstate New York due to lack of suitable space. The building will join the Fairgrounds’ existing
portfolio of event space, increasing the amount of available indoor space on the grounds to more
than 450,000 square feet.

Since the beginning of renovations, State Fair attendance has grown by more than 28 percent and
non-Fair event estimated attendance has grown 57 percent from 2016 to 2017.

Supported Critical Renovations to New York’s County Fairs

The 2018 Budget extends the $5 million county and youth Fairgrounds Infrastructure Improvement
Program which helps offset the cost of improvements and renovation projects, including new
construction, that support New York’s agricultural industry. Governor Cuomo first announced the
program in 2016 to help local fairs offset the cost of agricultural improvement and renovation
projects, including new construction.
**Advanced Belmont Park Redevelopment**

The State will issue a Request for Proposals to develop a new home for the New York Islanders. The comprehensive $1 billion plan will include a 18,000-seat, year-round arena that will host the Islanders as well as a new 435,000-square-foot retail and entertainment complex, a new hotel, and other community amenities. The draft environmental impact statement is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

**Opened Resorts World Catskills**

Resorts World Catskills opened in February 2018. The $1.2 billion facility in the town of Thompson will create more than 1,500 permanent jobs, with another 600 expected once ancillary facilities open next year. The facility is the fourth commercial casino to open in New York since Governor Cuomo signed the Upstate New York Gaming Economic Development Act in July 2013, and voters approved the New York Casino Gambling Amendment in November of 2013.

**Implemented Charitable Gaming Act of 2017**

Chapter 464 of the Laws of 2017 established the Charitable Gaming Act of 2017, which authorized the sale of raffle tickets over the Internet or by mobile application, and provided for additional payment methods for games of chance such as credit and debit cards and checks. In 2018 the State Gaming Commission approved draft regulations to implement the new law. Provisions include: geolocation, age and identity security verification requirements prior to all internet and mobile application raffle ticket sales, increased games of chance and bingo prize limits, and easing restrictions on where raffle drawings may be conducted.
IV: Wellness Agenda
Combating Substance Abuse

Established the Nation’s First Opioid Stewardship Program

The 2019 Budget included several initiatives that build on existing efforts to combat the heroin and opioid crisis affecting communities throughout the state, and notably enacted the Governor’s proposal to create an opioid stewardship program. This program will require payments by the entities that sell and distribute opioids in New York, proportional to the amounts that they sell and distribute, ensuring that the industry helps bear the costs related to opioid addiction. The enacted Budget authorized the State to allocate monies from this new $100 million fund to help support the ongoing and growing costs of opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. Another measure enacted in the Budget is a prohibition on prescribing opioids for more than three months unless the practitioner develops a written treatment plan that meets generally accepted standards, with exceptions for patients who are in hospice care, receiving palliative care for pain, or have cancer that is not in remission. These initiatives, coupled with an additional $30 million included in the Budget for addiction treatment and prevention programs, are part of a multi-year, comprehensive approach to reduce the prevalence of substance use.

Created the Office of the Independent Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Ombudsman

The 2019 Budget established the Office of the Independent Substance Abuse Disorder and Mental Health Ombudsman to assist individuals with a substance use disorder and/or mental illness to ensure that they receive appropriate health insurance coverage. The Office will be operated and the Ombudsman selected by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), in consultation with the Office of Mental Health (OMH). The Ombudsman will: identify, investigate, refer and resolve complaints that are made by, or on behalf of, consumers relative to health insurance coverage and access to initial and continuing substance use disorder care and mental health care; accept, investigate, refer and help to resolve complaints that are made by treatment providers relative to health insurance coverage of and reimbursement for initial or continuing substance use disorder and mental health care; and accept, investigate, refer and help to resolve complaints that are made by or on behalf of consumers or by providers relative to network adequacy for access to and continuing substance use disorder and mental health care.

Eliminated Prior Authorization for Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Services

NYS Insurance Law was amended to eliminate prior authorization for outpatient Substance Use Disorder services. Coverage cannot be subject to a concurrent review during the first two weeks of continuous treatment, not to exceed 14 visits, when the provider notifies the insurer of the start of treatment and the initial treatment plan within 48 hours.

Established the Children and Recovering Mothers Program

A Children and Recovering Mothers Program was created in the 2019 Budget. This program is aimed at providing health care providers, hospitals and midwifery birth centers with guidance, education and assistance when providing care to expectant mothers with a substance use disorder. The program will: provide information to both health care providers as well as expectant mothers regarding use of medication assisted treatment for pregnant women, which shall include information regarding buprenorphine training, tools for providers on effective management of women with a substance use disorder during pregnancy, and a referral list of providers in the area; provide guidance and referral information for substance use disorder services, home visiting services and other benefits and services that they may be eligible for while expecting and after
birth; develop a system for rapid consultation and referral linkage services for obstetricians and primary care providers statewide who provide care for expectant mothers with substance use disorders; and provide guidance on the identification of signs and symptoms of substance use disorder in expectant mothers.

**Set Up New Infant Recovery Centers**

The 2019 Budget authorized the creation of up to four new Infant Recovery Centers to care for infants with prenatal substance exposure and to provide services and supports to parents for bringing these infants home.

**Authorized Telehealth for Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors**

The 2019 Budget required regulatory modernization to authorize payments for services delivered by Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors in OASAS approved settings via telehealth. The Public Health Law was amended to include credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse service counselors as telehealth providers and early intervention providers. This also expanded telehealth reimbursement to permit payment for services delivered wherever the patient was located.

**Expanded Recovery High Schools to “Big 5” Districts”**

The FY 2019 Budget permitted the Big 5 City School Districts (Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Yonkers and NYC), to enter into agreements with Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) to participate in Recovery High School (RHS) Programs. Program costs will be reimbursed by the State through School Aid. A Recovery High School is an alternative, multi-service high school program for adolescents with a diagnosed substance use disorder. These programs provide a safe, sober and supportive environment where a young person in recovery can develop the necessary skills and strengths needed for personal, academic, vocational and community success.

**Defined the Certified Peer Recovery Advocate (CPRA) Services Program**

The 2019 Budget established a new Certified Peer Recovery Advocate (CPRA) Services Program and defined the program and services to be provided by CPRAs. Certified Peer Recovery Advocate services may include activities such as: developing recovery plans; assisting with applying for benefits; accompanying clients to medical appointments; providing non-clinical crisis support, especially after periods of hospitalization or incarceration; accompanying clients to court appearances and other appointments; linking participants to formal recovery supports such as medication assisted treatment; or coordinating with hospital emergency services to assist any patient that has been administered an opioid antagonist by a medical provider to establish connections to treatment.

**Amended Public Health Law to Combat Synthetic Marijuana**

The 2019 Budget contained an amendment to schedule various compounds of synthetic marijuana as a controlled substance thereby criminalizing the sales of synthetic marijuana across NYS. The legislation adds 36 different chemical compositions to the State’s controlled substances list.

**Amended Public Health Law to Combat Fentanyl**

Legislation accompanying the 2019 Budget amended the Public Health Law to add two types of fentanyl to the State’s schedule of controlled substances, thereby criminalizing the sale of these compounds under NYS law, as part of the Governor’s agenda to combat the fentanyl crisis.
Amended Public Health Law to Combat Deadly Synthetic Drugs
Legislation accompanying the 2019 Budget amended the Public Health Law to add three types of hallucinogenic substances to the State’s schedule of controlled substances, thereby criminalizing the sale of these drugs under NYS law, as part of the Governor’s agenda to combat the proliferation of deadly synthetic drugs.

Continued the Expansion of Treatment and Implementation of Innovative New Services
The FY 2019 Budget continued funding to support expanded programs and initiatives, including new Residential Treatment Beds, new Opioid Treatment Slots, Regional Addiction Resource Centers, Family Support Navigators, Peer Engagement Programs, Recovery Community and Outreach Centers, Youth Clubhouses, Peer Advocate Scholarships, and 24/7 Open Access Centers.

Funded Jail-based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Services
Jail-based substance use disorder treatment and transition services were supported with a $3.75 million appropriation in the 2019 Budget.

Implemented Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program
The Naloxone Co-payment Assistance Program (N-CAP) was implemented in August of 2017 to expand access to naloxone by subsidizing the cost of co-payments for individuals with prescription coverage as part of their health insurance plan. Co-payments for naloxone in an amount up to $40 for each prescription dispensed are billed to N-CAP, resulting in no or lower out of pocket expenses for the individual. Pharmacies are often in closer proximity to individuals’ homes and have flexible hours making it easier for individuals to access naloxone. State resources can be maximized to cover naloxone for individuals not eligible under N-CAP, including the uninsured and those who use naloxone in the line of duty (e.g., fire fighters, basic life support, and law enforcement). New York has begun to see press in relation to the utilization of N-CAP in drug user health hubs, resulting in enhanced access to opioid overdose prevention.

Community Health

Launched Phase Two of the $1.4 Billion Vital Brooklyn Initiative
In April 2018, Governor Cuomo announced a series of major milestones and the launch of phase two of the groundbreaking Vital Brooklyn initiative which is transforming Central Brooklyn by addressing chronic social, economic and health disparities, including five RFPs to construct more than 2,000 affordable homes on parcels of land controlled by the State or owned by Brookdale University Hospital, and the State-owned Brooklyn Developmental Center. These solicitations will advance the Vital Brooklyn initiative’s $563 million commitment to build 3,000 units of affordable housing in Central Brooklyn. Additionally, the Governor announced a suite of awards and RFPs to improve access to open space, recreation, and healthy food; expand education and economic empowerment initiatives; improve community-based violence prevention; and enhance resiliency.

This builds on $664 million in funding announced in January 2018 to strengthen local healthcare facilities to close current gaps and increase services; transform the healthcare system by increasing access to quality services and preventive care; and develop a 32-site ambulatory care network that will include partnerships with existing community-based providers. These funds will support the development of an expansive integrated ambulatory care network, significant
infrastructure modernization at each of the three hospital facilities, including regionalizing clinical programs and restructuring inpatient services, and the creation of enterprise wide health information technology platform to improve coordination and delivery of care through an efficient, high quality regional health care delivery system.

**Medicaid Drug Cap**

In the first year of implementing New York’s nationally recognized Medicaid Drug Cap, the Department of Health (DOH) has successfully negotiated supplemental rebate contracts with several drug manufacturers and achieved its statutory target for cost savings. New York is the first state to cap the growth of prescription drug spending in its Medicaid program by establishing the Medicaid Drug Cap. The program caps the growth of prescription drug spending in the Medicaid program to an annual growth limit. If spending is projected to exceed that limit, DOH has enhanced authorities to negotiate rebates with drug manufacturers and, if necessary, refer a drug to the Drug Utilization Review Board which is authorized to recommend a target supplemental rebate amount using clinical and economic studies as well as other information to determine if a drug is overpriced when compared to the benefit provided to patients. The success of the Medicaid Drug Cap builds on Governor Cuomo’s commitment to control the rising costs of prescription drugs without limiting access to medications for patients in the program.

**Increased the State’s Investment in Essential Health Care Services**

As proposed in the Governor’s Executive Budget, the 2019 enacted Budget made $525 million available to health care providers to support activities that include preserving or expanding essential health care services, improving physical plants and infrastructure or health information technology infrastructure, and/or transitioning to fiscally sustainable systems of care. Providers eligible to apply through a competitive process are general hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living programs, and community-based providers. Community-based providers include clinics licensed by the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services or the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, primary care providers, home care providers, and hospice programs. With this additional funding the State will have provided capital support of over $5 billion to health care providers over a six-year period to promote health care transformation and help strengthen and protect continued access to health care services.

**Funded the Construction of New York State’s Life Sciences Laboratory**

The 2019 Budget includes $600 million for the construction of a new Life Science Laboratory facility for the Wadsworth Center in the Capital District, adding to initial investment of $150 million made available by the FY 2018 Budget. An expert evaluation of potential sites is underway and a Request for Qualifications is being developed by the Department of Health and NY Dormitory Authority to solicit firms interested and qualified to work on the project. Construction of the facility is linked to the Governor’s Life Sciences Initiative, and Wadsworth has worked with the Empire State Development Corporation to establish relationships with industry partners. These relationships will result in advances in science that benefit the health of New Yorkers as well as bring jobs to the Capital Region.
Expanded Access to Health Care Through Telehealth

Telehealth is increasingly seen as a means of improving access to health and behavioral health care, particularly in medically underserved areas, helping New Yorkers avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and readmissions and promoting better health outcomes. However, the law previously allowed Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth encounters only when patients were in certain locations such as a hospital or doctor’s office. The FY 2019 Budget included the Governor’s proposal to permit a patient to be located anywhere, greatly expanding opportunities to access services for individuals who cannot physically appear in a provider’s office due to distance or other factors. In addition, the enacted Budget permitted telehealth services to be provided by Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors (CASACs), which will expand access to substance use disorder services — a critically important measure given the scope of the heroin and opioid crisis. Finally, as reflected in the Budget, the Department of Health, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities are coordinating on guidance to help consumers, providers, and payers understand how telehealth can break down barriers to care.

Modernized Eligibility Determinations through Mobile Document Upload (MDU)

To continue to expand the access to health care, while also making it easier for New Yorkers to apply for critical benefits, New York State is working to provide a mobile solution that will allow applicants/recipients to electronically submit verification documents required to make eligibility determinations for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medical Assistance (MA) and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Currently, applicants/recipients submit documents by (a) visiting their Social Services District offices, (b) sending in via fax machine, or (c) sending in via mail delivery. In some instances, as part of the application, recertification and change reporting processes, documents are submitted via MyBenefits.

Automated Benefits Throughout Social Service Districts

As part of the continuous transformation effort for making health care more accessible for New Yorkers, New York is working on a project to automate the authorization of benefits throughout upstate social services districts. Each time that a change is made to a data field, districts are required to print, review, sign, scan, upload, and file an updated form. This manual business process has proven to be time consuming and burdensome. State agencies are working together to deliver system functionality in two phases, with basic functionality targeted to be complete by 2019 and additional functionality to be delivered in 2019.

Improved Verification of Social Security Number (SSN) for New Yorkers Receiving Benefits

To improve Social Service District processing of applications for assistance, the State worked with several agencies to complete social security verification in February 2018 for Temporary Assistance (TA), Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Medicaid. Now, real-time social security number validation is provided for Welfare Management System (WMS) applicants for these services. As a next phase, OCFS has submitted a data exchange request to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to enable expansion of the real-time SSN validation enhancement to Services (WMS).
Expanded Assisted Living Capacity

The Assisted Living Program (ALP) is a community-based residential setting offering personal care, home health, and nursing services to people who are otherwise medically eligible for nursing homes. There clearly is demand for additional capacity, but new ALP slots presently are made available only through solicitations which are periodically authorized in statute. The enacted Budget authorized new ALP slots through a rolling application based on a showing of public need. In the interim, existing providers may request new slots from previous awards that were never operationalized, and the Department will also issue a new solicitation for up to 1,000 new ALP slots. In addition to the ALP expansion, the enacted Budget also authorized a new pilot program to subsidize the cost of assisted living for up to 200 individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia who are not eligible for Medicaid. The subsidies, will offer a more affordable option for these individuals to receive care in community-based settings rather than nursing homes. The State will consider expanding the program after reviewing pilot program results.

Update Professional Licensure Requirements

The 2019 Budget amended Education Law to delineate those services which do and do not require licensure to ensure uninterrupted quality treatment to individuals with developmental disabilities, substance and mental health issues and other human service programs. Continues to ensure that qualified individuals deliver services operated, funded or approved by the Mental Hygiene and Human Services agencies. Education Law Articles 153, 154 and 163 define the scope of practice for psychologists, social workers, and mental health practitioners.

Increased Medicaid Ambulance Fee

To standardize, modernize, and update ambulance rates, the 2019 Budget increased Medicaid fees for both emergency and non-emergency ambulance transports at the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support level of service. The statewide fee increases reflect the value of the first two years of a five-year phase-in of the $31.4 million fee increase recommended by the Health Department’s 2017 Ambulance Rate Adequacy Review Report. In addition to increasing the ambulance rates in most counties and New York City, the statewide fee increase will support greater rate standardization and reduce rate disparities among counties resulting from the legacy of local departments of social services administration of Medicaid transportation. Counties with current rates higher than the proposed rates will be held harmless from any reductions resulting from aligning the new rate increases.

Implemented Medicaid Long Term Care Efficiencies

The Department of Health (DOH) is working in collaboration with stakeholders to implement a series of 2019 Budget initiatives to improve efficiencies in the Medicaid a Managed Long Term Care Program. Among these are initiatives that ensure that enrollees in Managed Long Term Care Plan are in need of long term care services on a continuous basis and have continuity in plan enrollment, and to ensure that there is not costly and unnecessary duplication of payment for care management services for individuals who reside permanently in a nursing home. To protect consumers, DOH is strengthening its oversight of fiscal intermediaries to ensure that advertising is factual and not misleading, requiring cost reports from providers and strengthening consumer protections in the event of a closure or merger of a Managed Long Term Care Plan(s).
Implemented a Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Control Plan

New York State recognizes the threat that Lyme and other tick-borne diseases pose to increasing numbers of New Yorkers. As announced in his 2018 State of the State address, Governor Cuomo required several agencies to take an active role in working on tick control and tick-borne disease prevention. Steps initiated as part of this effort include: targeting priority counties and public lands with tick control methods including eco-friendly tick control treatments; implementation and expanded use of 4-poster tickicide stations to treat deer and bait boxes to treat rodents; establishment of a new working group on Lyme, and other tick-borne diseases, to review current strategies and to suggest improvements to prevention efforts; creation of a tick-borne disease plan and guidance document for the state and local health departments; a tick-borne disease prevention summit which is scheduled for June 2018; and continuing public outreach campaigns.

Committed to Eliminate Hepatitis C in New York State

In March 2018, Governor Cuomo announced the nation’s first state-level hepatitis C (HCV) elimination strategy. The goals of the HCV elimination initiative are to increase access to medication and enhance treatment services. HCV is curable. With the arrival of new direct acting antiviral therapies, more than 90% of people treated can be cured of their HCV disease. The FY 2019 Budget includes $5 million for the HCV elimination initiative. Strategies will include strengthening HCV surveillance and initiating services targeted to populations disproportionately impacted by HCV, including people who inject drugs and incarcerated individuals. Services may include targeted HCV prevention services, patient navigation to link HCV-positive persons to care and treatment, innovative care and treatment models, and education to increase awareness of HCV.

Committed to an Age Friendly New York

As a continued commitment to creating age-friendly communities, Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State Message announced that he will issue an executive order that directs agencies to consider the impact of their policies and procurements on health and healthy aging, aligned with the eight domains of an Age-Friendly Community. In 2017, New York State was designated the first age-friendly state in the nation by AARP and the World Health Organization. This achievement was a result of the Governor’s directive to develop a health across all policies approach which charges non-health agencies to work together to improve population health by integration and addressing social determinants. To support the State’s commitment in creating age friendly communities, the State will set a goal of making 50 percent of all health systems age friendly within the next five years, which will include the establishment of age-friendly emergency rooms that will be better equipped to provide care to aging New Yorkers with cognitive and other physical disabilities.

Launched a Long Term Care Planning Council

To understand the projected and desired needs of older adults in New York, Governor Cuomo has launched a Long Term Care Planning Council that will be charged with examining New York’s long-term care system. The Council will analyze, evaluate, and identify the existing service gaps in New York’s long-term care system, determine the most cost-effective evidence based interventions, and prepare a strategic plan to meet the emerging needs of New York’s aging population over the next decade. The Council will be jointly-led by the Commissioner of Health and the Director of the Office for the Aging, with participation from external stakeholders.
Expanded Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Under a federal grant, New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) successfully piloted an Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team (E-MDT) model, in conjunction with multiple partners, incorporating forensic accountants and geriatric psychiatrists to investigate and intervene in complex cases of elder financial exploitation and elder abuse. The intervention was aimed at improving and protecting victim safety and assets through systems collaboration and awareness of signs of financial exploitation among both the public and private sectors. Building on the successful EMDT pilots, NYSOFA and the Office of Victim Services have been working together to increase statewide funding for the EMDTs and replicate the model to other areas of the State. The 2019 Budget baselined the $500,000 investment in last year’s Budget for the expansion of E-MDTs. NYSOFA has partnered with the Office of Victims Services to use this investment to leverage an additional $2 million in federal funds annually for three years.

Protected New York’s Shelter Animals

In FY 2019 Budget continues the $5 million in support for critical improvement projects at New York’s non-profit and municipal animal shelters, humane societies, and societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The New York State Companion Animal Capital Fund is the first state-funded program of its kind in the nation. Funds can be used to construct, renovate, rehab, or acquire buildings or equipment needed to house, treat, and care for sheltered dogs and cats.

Initiated a Food Safety Modernization MobileApp

As a part of the FY2019 Budget, Governor Cuomo made food safety a priority by investing $2.6 million to provide a state-of-the-art food inspection system. This ambitious project is anticipated to include a field inspector mobile app component that will bring a much safer and more efficient food inspections process to the State, and will modernize the systems associated with food safety. The mobile app will include secure login and fingerprint recognition, bar code scanning, geolocation capability, interactive maps and directions, inspection photos with ability to annotate, satellite view, inspector notebook, digital signatures, online/offline usability with auto sync and onsite printing using a portable thermal printer to name a few. The project is expected to be completed by FY 2021.

Advanced Protections for Consumers and Farmers from Substandard Seeds

The Department of Agriculture and Markets drafted a Seed Departmental bill #47 (A.5309B/A.10803) that passed in the 2018 session. The litigation better protects consumers and farmers from buying substandard or adulterated materials by requiring vegetable and flower seed labels to include the calendar month and year of germination tests and “sell by” dates. The law also allows the Commissioner to issue “stop sale” orders when products are found to be in violation of the law.

Continued the NY Connects Sustainability

The NY Connects system helps older adults, individuals of any age with disabilities, and caregivers make informed decisions about available long term services and supports. It also helps individuals coordinate connections to multiple service systems and assists with benefits applications. The 2019 Budget provided sustainability funding to continue the partnership of the area agencies on aging and independent living centers in delivering NY Connects services.
V: Protecting the Environment
Open Space and Parks

Approved Historic State Land Classifications for the Adirondack Park

This March, Governor Cuomo approved the historic State Land Classification for land in all twelve Adirondack Park counties. Included in this was the final tract of the Finch Pruyn & Company land deal - the 20,543 acre Boreas Ponds tract. The acquisition of this remarkable tract on the southern slopes of the High Peaks helps conserve the region’s natural beauty while creating public access and economic opportunities for communities in the Adirondacks, and providing even more unparalleled settings for outdoor tourism and recreation.

Supported the Largest Artificial Reef Expansion in State History

Governor Cuomo announced this April the largest expansion of artificial reefs in State history to enhance New York’s diverse marine life and boost Long Island’s recreational and sport fishing industries. The initiative will support the development of six artificial reefs on Long Island at sites off the shores of Smithtown, Shinnecock, Moriches, Fire Island, Hempstead, and Rockaway. The program, which is the first of its kind in New York State, will deploy such materials as barges, tug boats and scows, as well as concrete and clean, recycled materials from the demolition of the former Tappan Zee Bridge.

Broke Ground at Frontier Town Campground

In a big boost to both tourism and the economy of the North Country, Governor Cuomo announced this April the groundbreaking of the Frontier Town Campground. This project, which is part of a $25 million public/private investment to create a “Gateway to the Adirondacks” tourism hub as part of the State’s Adventure NY initiative, will include a new State campground, equestrian campground, two day-use areas and a new brewing facility for Paradox Brewery. The facilities and 91 campsites will include ADA-compliant features, including two ADA-compliant horse-mounting ramps.

Made Progress Towards Completing the Hudson River Park

The FY 2019 Budget includes $50 million in capital funding to complete the Hudson River Park. This a major step forward to fulfilling Governor Cuomo’s pledge to complete the park’s full 4.5-mile expanse. When finished, the Hudson River Park will provide countless recreational opportunities to millions seeking recreation in the heart of New York City.

Continued Funding for the Revitalization and Rehabilitation of State Parks

The FY 2019 State Budget includes $90 million in capital funding for revitalization and rehabilitation projects at nearly 50 State parks and historic sites across New York this year. The funding continues a major transformation of the park system that has invested more than $700 million into park and historic site improvements since 2011. The projects are part of the Governor’s NY Parks 2020 plan, a $900 million multi-year commitment to revitalize the state park system.

Expanded Connect Kids to Parks Field Trip Grant Program

The 2018-19 Budget provides $1 million for a grant program to cover the transportation and program costs for public school field trips to State Parks and Department of Environmental Conservation lands. Field trip grants were awarded to Title 1 classrooms in New York State public schools. Nearly 75,000 New York public school students have visited state lands as part of the program.
I Love My Park Day Celebrated Seventh Year with 8,000 Volunteers

Now in its seventh year, the 2018 I Love My Park Day on May 5 was the largest ever with 8000 volunteers at 135 State Parks, Historic Sites and public lands participating. Volunteers took part in more than 270 projects, including raking, weeding, cleaning up litter, building picnic tables, removing invasive species, marking trails and planting trees and flowers. I Love My Park Day is organized in partnership with Parks & Trails, New York. The annual event has grown bigger each year since it was launched by Governor Cuomo with 2,000 volunteers in 2012.

State Parks Opened $3.2 Million Grafton Lakes State Park Welcome Center

State Parks opened a new $3.2 million Grafton Lakes State Park Welcome Center in May, providing a sustainably designed year-round space for improved programming at the Rensselaer County park. The 5,000-square-foot facility provides new indoor and outdoor space to host educational, recreational and volunteer activities in all four seasons, including the 7,000 children currently served in the park’s environmental education programs. A playground featuring a replica of the park’s Dickinson Hill fire tower and a boardwalk trail to the beach are adjacent to the center.

Announced the Opening of New State Park Cabins and Cottages on Long Island and the Finger Lakes

Projects to offer new options for vacation lodging at State Parks are being completed this Summer. For the first time, State Parks on Long Island will offer vacation cottages. Ten cottages at Wildwood State Park on Long Island Sound will feature both one-and-two-bedroom units, as well as a bathroom, kitchenette, screened porch and furnishings. Heckscher State Park on the Great South Bay will soon offer 15 cottages with one-bedroom and two-bedroom with a loft options. In the Finger Lakes, 14 new cabins opened at Buttermilk Falls State Park. The just-the-basics cabins provide one double bed, triple bunk bed and comfortable shelter in inclement weather.

Completed $50 Million in Improvements at State Parks Across Long Island

More than $50 million in improvements and new opportunities at State parks across Long Island have been completed for the Summer. At Jones Beach State Park, the new $20 million storm-resistant Boardwalk Café opened for Independence Day on a site that vacant since 2004. A $3.4 million project to modernize the 45-slip marina at Robert Moses State Park will allow the park to offer overnight boating accommodations for the first time. Sunken Meadow State Park has completed $14 million in improvements, which include a new automated entrance to ease traffic congestion as well as a new special event pavilion and golf course improvements. A completed trail project opens new access for the first time in 40 years at Napeague State Park along South Fork Bay.

Fort Niagara State Park Opened $2.7 Million Pool Bathhouse

A $2.7 million project to build a modern pool bathhouse is complete for Summer at Fort Niagara State Park, which draws 830,000 visitors to Niagara County annually. The bathhouse design draws inspiration from the adjacent 18th Century Old Fort Niagara. The energy efficient bathhouse features fully accessible parking, pathways and changing facilities.

Completed $6.5 Million Watkins Glen State Park Gateway

State Parks has completed a $6.5 million project to transform the main entrance to Watkins Glen State Park by relocating the parking area away from the gorge, creating a less congested and more welcoming approach to this leading Finger Lakes tourism destinatio
Completed $1.5 Million Renovation of The Minna Anthony Common (MAC) Nature Center

State Parks and the Friends of the MAC Nature Center have completed a $1.5 million project to renew the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center at Wellesley Island State Park, the first nature center in the State park system named after a pioneering female environmentalist in the North Country. The project is the first major renovation of the center in its 50-year history.

Completed $3 Million Peerless Pool Bathhouse at Saratoga Spa State Park

Construction on a new $3 million project to replace the outdated Peerless Pool Bathhouse complex at Saratoga Spa State Park is complete for the Summer season. The project replaced a failing 50-year-old facility to create more green space near the pool complex and provide updated and improved facilities for pool visitors.

Improved the Recreation Experience for Hunters, Trappers, and Anglers MobileApp

Governor Cuomo has a long-standing initiative to improve the outdoor recreational experience for hunters, trappers, and anglers. In support of this very important initiative, NYS has developed and launched the HuntFishNY mobile app for iOS (https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/huntfishny/id1151964202?mt=8) and Android (https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.ny.its.HuntFishNY&hl=en_US) devices. The app allows users to access electronic versions of their licenses, access up to date news and information, and enter harvest information for deer, bear, and turkey. All these features are available with, or without, mobile connectivity. The app has been downloaded over 11,000 times.

Clean Water

Continued the Clean Water Infrastructure Act

The FY 2019 Budget continued the State’s historic multi-year $2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act. The act invests in drinking water infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure and source water protection actions with the goal of enhancing community health and wellness, safeguarding our most important water resources by being better prepared to identify and mitigate emerging contaminants, and creating jobs.

Additional $10 Million Committed for Lead Service Line Replacement

The 2019 Budget included a new $10 million appropriation to fund the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) with grant funds to facilitate the replacement of lead drinking water service lines. Governor Cuomo announced $20 million in initial funding for the program in November 2017, which awarded LSLRP grants to 26 municipalities now working with the Department of Health as they advance the lead service line replacement process. The new $10 million enables additional municipalities to participate in the LSLRP and supports the State’s ongoing commitment to protect public drinking water and to reduce lead exposure, especially in children.

Approved New Technology to Remove Contaminants from Drinking Water

In February 2018, the NYS Department of Health approved New York’s first use of a technology known as Advanced Oxidative Process (AOP) to remove 1,4-dioxane, a chemical that when present in groundwater is not readily removed by conventional drinking water treatment. The new treatment technology, approved for use by the Suffolk County Water Authority at its Commercial
Boulevard well field, complements the $2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017, an investment that acknowledges the significant and complex nature of maintaining New York’s nearly 10,000 public drinking water systems. The State’s approval of new treatment technology to remove 1,4-dioxane will allow New York to stay ahead of emerging water quality issues and will inform the statewide Drinking Water Quality Council, a group of experts charged with recommending maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) to the state in the absence of federal guidance.

Protected NYS Waterbodies from the Threat Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)

The NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation, Health, and Agriculture and Markets participated in four regional summits in February and March 2018 supporting the State’s efforts to protect vulnerable lakes and waterbodies across the State from harmful algal blooms (HABs). The summits were part of a $65 million 4-point initiative to aggressively combat harmful algal blooms and builds on the $2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017. The initiative continues to bring together researchers and experts from across the nation and state to share best practices and develop innovative solutions. In addition, the NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health are drafting action plans for 12 priority waterbodies as well as action items for HABs statewide. The action plans are expected to be released for public comment in 2018. This investment advances projects to reduce pollution and protect sources of drinking and recreational water to preserve health and bolster tourism.

Containing the Grumman Plume

In 2017 Governor Cuomo called for advancing $150 million to fast-track a system to fully contain and treat the plume of contamination caused by industrial waste from the U.S. Navy and Northrop Grumman Bethpage manufacturing facilities in Oyster Bay, Nassau County. Past releases of industrial solvents from the facilities have resulted in a plume of contaminated groundwater that is nearly four miles long, two miles wide, and extends to a depth of 800 feet beneath the surface of the ground. The containment system will include at least 14 wells strategically located around the perimeter of the plume to prevent it from migrating further south and impacting additional communities. In addition, at least four wells will be located within the plume to target hot spots of contamination. The plan is the latest step the Governor has taken to safeguard clean water on Long Island.

Sustainability

Renewed Record Funding for the Environmental Protection Fund

The FY 2019 Budget continues the $300 million Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) the highest level of funding in the EPF’s 25-year history. The EPF supports crucial projects across New York State that protect land, improve water and air quality, and reduce environmental threats. Specifically, $38 million will be utilized for Solid Waste Programs, $86 million for Parks and Recreation, $156 million for Open Space Programs, and $20 million for the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program.

Committed to Flood Relief Programs

Governor Cuomo is committed to helping New York’s Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River communities recover from recent historically high water levels that caused devastation along the shoreline. He has made $95 million available to help families, businesses and municipalities in Jefferson, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, St. Lawrence, Wayne, Cayuga and Oswego counties build
back stronger and smarter.

Funding includes support for NYS’s Lake Ontario Flood Recovery Program that is providing assistance to property owners that sustained damage. The program includes coordination with four regional not-for-profit organizations to respond to approximately 3,500 applications for assistance.

In addition, in 2018 Governor Cuomo established the NYS Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist with emergency rental costs for displaced residents of Underwood Estates in Plattsburgh recovering from recent flooding. Wildly fluctuating temperatures caused ice jams statewide, and in January 2018 the 70 homes that comprise Underwood Estates were evacuated when an ice-jam caused the Saranac River to flood, leaving a significant portion of residences uninhabitable. New York State Homes and Community Renewal, in partnership with Clinton County and the non-profit Housing Assistance Program of Essex County and Clinton County Housing Assistance Program provided grant funding for emergency rental assistance to displaced residents.

**Committed a Historic $1.4 Billion to Renewable Energy**

In an unprecedented commitment to renewable energy, Governor Cuomo announced in March that New York State will be investing $1.4 billion to advance 26 large-scale renewable energy projects across New York. The projects, which are all expected to be operational by 2022, include 22 utility-scale solar farms, three wind farms and one hydroelectric project. These projects represent a significant step in advancing the Governor’s Clean Energy Standard to obtain 50 percent of New York’s electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030.

**Announced Regulations to Make New York Power Plants Coal-Free by 2020**

In a historic step in the fight against climate change, Governor Cuomo directed the Department of Environmental Conservation to release proposed regulations that require all power plants in New York to meet new emissions limits for carbon dioxide. This first in the nation approach to regulating carbon emissions will ensure the State’s remaining coal fired power plants transition to cleaner, alternative sources of energy or shut down achieving the Governor’s goal to end the use of coal in New York State power plants by 2020.

**Expanded Energy Efficiency Programs**

On April 20, 2018 Governor Cuomo announced an ambitious acceleration of energy efficiency in New York, including a comprehensive plan to achieve a new target for significant greenhouse gas emission reductions, decrease consumer energy costs and create job opportunities. Meeting the new energy efficiency target will deliver nearly one-third of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions needed to meet New York’s climate goal of 40 percent reduction by 2030. The new energy efficiency 2025 target is equivalent to the energy used by 1.8 million homes. The investments are expected to create up to 19,500 new jobs and will decrease annual electricity use by more than 3 percent, with corresponding savings to consumers.

**Ensured Utility Customers Benefit from the Federal Tax Cut**

On Jan. 8, 2018 Governor Cuomo announced that financial gains to utility companies from recent federal tax changes would benefit consumers. The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) is taking steps to ensure that any financial windfall to New York utilities from recent changes
to the federal Corporate Income Tax will be returned to the more than 10 million utility customers in New York who indirectly pay the tax. While the federal government has slashed the corporate income taxes at the expense of middle- and working-class men and women, the PSC is ensuring that any resulting financial gains go to benefit consumers and not company owners.

**Accelerated the Development of Renewable Energy**

On Jan. 17, 2018 the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment granted approval to Cassadaga Wind to build and operate a 126 MW wind farm in Chautauqua County. The Siting Board’s decision followed a rigorous review and public participation process to ensure that the wind farm meets or exceeds all siting requirements. The Siting Board’s decision was in keeping with Governor Cuomo’s goal to develop clean energy resources in New York State, and the project is expected to create a substantial number of construction jobs and pay more than $10 million to local governments and school districts over a 20-year period.

**Advanced Regulatory Reforms under Reforming the Energy Vision (REV)**

On April 19, 2018 the Public Service Commission announced four actions related to Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), Governor Cuomo’s strategy to lead on climate change and grow New York’s economy. The decisions include expanding the integration of larger energy storage technologies; moving forward with an upstate “energy smart” community project; creating an on-line platform to make it easier to share data amongst energy companies; and making it easier for farmers to use anaerobic digesters to produce electricity. Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, New York State is creating a cleaner energy system that is good for New Yorkers and directly addresses climate change. Through REV, New York is spurring private investment into new renewable power supplies, developing new clean-energy jobs and creating more clean energy choices for consumers.

**Protected Consumers from Unscrupulous Energy Service Companies**

In 2018, the Public Service Commission continued to take action to protect consumers from unscrupulous energy service companies (ESCOs). The actions range from prohibiting an ESCO from further marketing and enrolling new customers in New York to allowing an ESCO to serve low-income customers after demonstrating its ability to provide guaranteed savings to customers. In instances where an ESCO chooses not to comply with PSC rules, the PSC prohibits their ability to enroll new customers and further requires that they provide refunds to customers who may have been harmed by improper enrollment practices. The Commission has prohibited ESCOs from serving low-income customers unless they demonstrate that they can guarantee savings. That decision has been effectively enforced across the State with tens of thousands of low-income customers returned to direct service by their local utility. The PSC continues to actively pursue regulatory changes to ensure that ESCOs bring choice and affordable energy services to customers.

**Held New York American Water Accountable to Customers on Long Island**

After a thorough investigation of New York American Water’s erroneous property tax calculations affecting customers in Sea Cliff, on April 30, 2018 the State found that the company’s error has caused an overpayment over the past four years of $2.3 million (not the $1.8 million the company initially calculated in December 2017). A recommendation has been made to the PSC that the overpayment be given to customers as a credit on future bills, which, after accounting for rate
changes already implemented to protect customers, equals about $65.50 per average customer that will be spread out over 12 months. Further, based on corrected property tax levels and targets, it is estimated customers will see a $2.4 million reduction in future forecasted rates related to property taxes, in addition to the $2.3 million retrospective error. Meanwhile, PSC staff continue to investigate how the company initially made the mistake, why it allowed errors to persist for so long without being corrected, and why the company failed to notify the State about the errors.

**Continued Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s Clean Energy Jobs and Climate Agenda**

In the past year, New York State has made some of the largest strides on clean energy and climate action in State history. Governor Cuomo’s 2018 Clean Energy Jobs and Climate Agenda is continuing progress toward reducing emissions from existing fossil fuel power plants and advancing clean energy technologies through unprecedented investments in offshore wind, solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency, while spurring market development and creating jobs across the State.

**Continued the Progress of the U.S. Climate Alliance**

In June 2018, Governor Cuomo marked the one-year anniversary of the federal government’s announcement to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement with a wave of new U.S. Climate Alliance initiatives to further progress on emissions reductions to meet the Paris Agreement targets. The new initiatives will reduce high-intensity climate pollutants, expand clean energy financing, drive grid modernization and deployment of renewable energy, improve the energy efficiency of appliances, and increase resilience to climate change. Despite the federal government’s environmental inaction, New York and the coalition of states will lead by example with unprecedented investments in renewable energy and reductions in harmful emissions, all while creating a clean energy economy.

**Issued the Nation’s Most Comprehensive Master Plan for Offshore Wind**

After two years of robust analysis and stakeholder outreach, Governor Cuomo issued the nation’s most comprehensive master plan for offshore wind in 2018, including a commitment to develop up to 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030, enough to power 1.2 million New York households. The plan includes procuring 800 megawatts of offshore wind across two solicitations in 2018 and 2019. The Governor also directed NYSERDA to invest $15 million in clean energy workforce development and infrastructure advancement to train workers for high quality, well-paying jobs in the offshore wind power industry.

**Built on the Clean Energy Standard Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects**

Governor Cuomo created the most comprehensive and ambitious clean energy mandate in the State’s history in 2016, requiring that 50 percent of electricity in New York come from renewable energy sources like wind and solar by 2030. The Clean Energy Standard is driving unprecedented investment in renewable energy including $1.4 billion for 26 large-scale projects announced in March 2018. Building on this momentum, in April 2018, the Governor announced the second solicitation for large-scale renewable energy, for up to 20 projects, expected to spur up to $1.5 billion in private investment and create more than 1,000 new well-paying jobs for New Yorkers. The solicitation is expected to support an additional 1.5 million megawatt-hours of renewable electricity per year, enough to power 200,000 homes, and advance New York’s nation-leading Clean Energy Standard commitment.
Advanced the Modernization of Energy Storage

Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State Address included an energy storage target of 1,500 megawatts by 2025 to help integrate renewable energy into the electric grid. This is largest per capita commitment to energy storage by any state and reinforces New York’s leadership commitments around climate and clean energy. Energy storage will be a critical enabling technology to allow the State to reach its renewable energy, carbon reduction, and resiliency goals cost effectively. In June, Governor Cuomo announced the release of a comprehensive energy storage roadmap to guide the State toward its storage target. The Governor has directed State energy agencies and authorities to work together to generate a pipeline of storage projects. The Governor called for NYSERDA to invest at least $40 million through storage pilots and activities to reduce barriers to deploying energy storage and commit at least $200 million from the NY Green Bank for storage-related investments.

Set New Energy Efficiency Targets

Governor Cuomo directed the Department of Public Service and NYSERDA to engage stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and propose a comprehensive energy efficiency initiative. On Earth Day 2018, the Governor announced New Efficiency: New York, an ambitious new energy efficiency target to reduce energy consumption equivalent to 1.8 million New York households by 2025, resulting in nearly one third of the emissions reductions to meet the Governor’s 2030 emission reduction target. The initiative will support the growth of cost-effective private sector energy efficiency businesses and further Reforming the Energy Vision opportunities for third-parties to partner directly with utilities. These strategies will deliver benefits to New York consumers through new building retrofits, efficient appliances, and innovative technologies. Energy efficiency is a significant part of New York State’s clean energy economy, with more than 110,000 New Yorkers employed in energy efficiency-related jobs. New York State Agencies and Authorities will identify opportunities by which State facilities can lead by example to reach these energy efficiency targets.

Reconvened Scientific Advisory Committee on Climate Change

Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State address called for reconvening the Independent Advisory Committee on Applied Climate Assessment, a group of leading scientists and experts tasked with providing recommendations to help federal, state and local governments, and the private sector plan for the effects of climate change. The advisory committee on climate change held its first meeting in New York City in May 2018. The federal committee was disbanded by the Trump administration in late 2017. Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership the reconstituted group will carry on its vital work advising on how to provide decision-makers the ability to better understand the impacts of climate change on their organizations and communities, and what they can do to plan for those impacts.

Committed to Expanding NY Green Bank

Governor Cuomo’s commitment to expand the NY Green Bank, the largest public-private clean energy finance entity of its kind in the nation, will ensure a cleaner, greener and more economically beneficial future for New York and create endless new career paths in clean energy. NY Green
Bank has driven $1.6 billion in public and private investment in clean energy projects across New York State since its launch in 2014. Based on this success, NY Green Bank is now raising at least an additional $1 billion in private sector funds to “go national.” NY Green Bank will also work with other states and philanthropic entities to help establish local Green Banks in other states. This expansion will combat climate change while creating good-paying clean energy jobs across the state, helping to secure a cleaner and greener tomorrow for all New Yorkers.

Installed More Electric Vehicle Charge NY 2.0

As part of the Governor’s Charge NY 2.0 electric vehicle initiative, the New York State Thruway Authority is installing new fast-charging stations at Thruway service areas and Thruway-owned commuter parking lots over the next two years. The clean energy initiative will help the State achieve its goal of installing 10,000 charging stations by 2021 and further the Governor’s Reforming the Energy Vision to build a cleaner and greener New York. The State is working with the private sector to support the public availability of at least 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the State by 2021. By 2020, an EV traveling anywhere on the interstate system in NY will be able to recharge at a convenient location, and the State will create an official designation for EV-ready businesses and communities. The addition of new charging stations will enhance the electric vehicle driving experience for the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who have already made EVs their transportation of choice, and for those who are switching to EVs in ever greater numbers.

Expanded Solar—NY SUN

Governor Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State Address included a proposal to expand more solar into communities for low income customers, advancing their participation in the growing clean energy economy and protecting their environments from the harmful effects of climate change. In February 2018, Governor Cuomo announced that solar power in New York increased more than 1,000 percent from December 2011 to December 2017, leveraging more than $2.8 billion in private investment into New York’s growing clean energy economy. The NY-Sun solar program has helped foster growth in solar power across New York State and is fueling 12,000 jobs. To ensure that more New Yorkers are served by the community solar market, NYSERDA launched Solar For All. 10,000 households throughout New York, that meet low-income eligibility requirements, will be able to sign up for a no-cost subscription in a community solar project in their area. Solar is critical to achieving the Governor’s mandate for half of all electricity consumed to come from renewable energy sources by 2030 and cements New York as one of the national leaders in clean energy growth.
VI: Justice for All
Criminal Justice

Invested $100 Million to Implement Raise the Age

Throughout his time in office, Governor Cuomo has enacted major reforms to the criminal and juvenile justice system. Last year, the Governor championed historic legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age to provide young people with the programs and opportunities they need to succeed. To support the implementation of Raise the Age, the FY 2019 Budget provided $100 million to support a broad array of services to prevent, divert, treat, and supervise justice-involved youth at the state and local level. This unparalleled investment in the juvenile justice system will help position the State in advance of the effective date of October 1, 2018 for 16 year olds, as well as improve outcomes in education and employment while reducing future crimes. To continue to remain a national leader, New York’s State agencies – including OCFS, DCJS, DOCCS, and SCOC— are closely working to expand services, incentivize evidence-based treatment, and upgrade facilities with the systems they will need to promote greater youth engagement and impact.

Restored the Right to Vote for Parolees

Building on Governor Cuomo’s commitment to the successful re-entry and reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals, the Governor issued Executive Order 181 in April 2018 to provide eligible parolees with a conditional pardon restoring their right to vote. In May 2018, the first group of conditional pardons were issued to 24,086 people currently under community supervision. This landmark action will reduce needless disenfranchisement and address the deficiency in current law that violates the principles of citizenship, as well as disproportionately impacts minorities. Importantly, the Governor’s pardon review process examines each person and considers a variety of factors, including if the person is living successfully in the community by maintaining contact with his or her parole officer and remaining at liberty. This common-sense measure has restored voting rights to this previously neglected population.

Improved Services for Vulnerable Survivors of Crime

Governor Cuomo has continued to focus the State agencies on expanding access and providing resources to support survivors of crime, particularly those who are most vulnerable, such as children, as well as survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In April 2018, the Governor announced that 86 victim assistance programs throughout the State would share $20.4 million over three years. These funds will be specifically used to hire case managers to connect survivors with direct assistance to help them recover and cope with trauma from their crime and include counseling, advocacy, and civil legal assistance, among other services. The same month, the Governor launched a pilot program in Ulster County to intervene to reduce intimate partner violence and directed a team of agencies to work to protect children from sex trafficking through legislative and administrative action.

Public Safety

Combattted Gun Violence Throughout New York

Governor Cuomo has championed evidence-based gun violence reduction efforts throughout the state which have received national recognition, such as the Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative and SNUG (guns spelled backwards) street outreach program. This year, the Governor announced $17.8 million to support these successful efforts that work to support law
enforcement agencies and community-based organizations in the prevention of shootings and homicides involving firearms. The GIVE initiative provides funding to support technical assistance, training, equipment, and personnel – such as prosecutors and crime analysts – to help local law enforcement agencies reduce gun violence in the 17 counties outside of New York City which experience the vast majority of violent crime. The SNUG program provides funding and training for community-based organizations that manage street outreach programs where individuals disrupt the cycle of gun violence by responding when disputes escalate within their community and connecting high-risk individuals with social support services.

Launched the “States for Gun Safety” Multi-State Gun Coalition

Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, New York has passed the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, but recent tragedies – such as Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida – highlight the lack of action by the federal government to enact common-sense reform. In the wake of this inaction, the Governor led the creation of the “States for Gun Safety” coalition in February 2018 to combat the gun violence epidemic. Together with New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, New York entered into an agreement to trace and intercept illegal guns, better share information on individuals prohibited from buying or owning firearms, and create the first-in-the-nation regional gun violence research consortium. Within days, Massachusetts, Delaware, and Puerto Rico also joined the coalition which now represents over 35 million Americans.

Increased Security Measures to Protect Against Hate Crimes

In response to an alarming increase in the number of hate crimes across the State and nationally, Governor Cuomo created the “Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes Grant.” The program, administered by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, will provide $25 million in grants to cultural museums, non-public schools, and day care centers to increase security measures and thwart possible hate crimes against their facilities due to ideology, beliefs or mission. Specifically, this program provides up to $50,000 in funding for additional security training needs, cameras and state-of-the-art technology, door-hardening, improved lighting and other related security upgrades at each eligible facility. Organizations that operate more than one facility were eligible to submit up to three applications for a total request of up to $150,000. The first round of awards for this grant were regionally announced in June 2018.

Secured Rail Stations through Operation NY S.E.C.U.R.E.

In April 2018, Governor Cuomo launched Operation NY S.E.C.U.R.E (Securing the Empire Corridor by Unifying Regional Efforts) to test and improve emergency response capabilities on Amtrak’s Empire Line. The first of these exercises was held between Penn Station in New York City and the Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak station. These drills partner state and local emergency responders and law enforcement officers to enhance response capabilities in the transportation sector. Each exercise includes heightened platform patrols, increased security presence on trains, explosives detection canine sweeps, and counter-surveillance measures.

Removed Guns from Domestic Abusers

In April, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to prevent domestic abusers from having access to firearms. Prior State law narrowly prohibited the possession of firearms for individuals either convicted of a felony or a limited number of misdemeanor “serious” offenses, excluding many misdemeanor offenses that are clearly serious and often involve domestic violence. This new law, championed by the Governor in his 2018 Women’s Agenda, expands the list of “serious”
crimes that require the loss of a firearm license and the surrender of all firearms to ensure no domestic abuser retains the ability to possess a firearm once convicted of a disturbing crime. This common-sense law also precludes any individual wanted for a felony or other serious offense from obtaining or renewing a firearm license which was previously a glaring loophole in the law.

**Cut Off the Recruitment Pipeline for MS-13 on Long Island**

Governor Cuomo announced in the 2018 State of the State that he would seek a significant investment to prevent gang activity on Long Island, particularly violent crime associated with MS-13. The Governor secured $18.5 million in the FY 2019 Enacted Budget which builds upon his previous support for law enforcement agencies. This additional funding is being used to expand educational programming, increase employment opportunities, and provide comprehensive services to young people. Together, this support will help support and integrate community-based responses to gang violence by ensuring that young people have the tools and resources to avoid gang involvement.

**Ended Sextortion and Prohibiting Sexual Contact by Police Officers and Individuals in Custody**

The Governor’s 2018 Women’s Agenda included two provisions which protect potential victims of sexual extortion or coercion that were passed and signed into law as a part of the FY2019 Enacted Budget. Sextortion is a form of exploitation that involves either coercion to extort sexual acts from the victim, or the use of sexual images or videos as a form of blackmail to force the victim to participate in sexual acts. To combat this scourge of menacing behavior, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to increase criminal penalties for individuals convicted of these crimes ranging from a Class E Felony to a Class C Felony, as well as requiring registration as a sex offender. The Governor also successfully enacted a provision to expressly prohibit police officers from having sexual contact with an individual in their custody which is the same standard in place for other types of law enforcement officials, such as correction and probation officers.

**Protected the Election Infrastructure from Cyber Disruption**

In the 2018 State of the State, Governor Cuomo announced sweeping actions to improve the resiliency of the State’s election and voting systems against cyber security threats. While there is no indication that New York’s voting systems were compromised, the 2016 elections exposed the potential vulnerability of elections to outside interference. To protect this fundamental function of democracy, the Governor sought the establishment of an Election Support Center, Cyber Security Support Toolkit, vulnerability assessments, and additional reporting requirements for county Boards of Elections. In May 2018, Governor Cuomo, in partnership with the State Board of Elections, announced the launch of a series of six elections cyber security tabletop exercises that will take place across the State. These exercises will partner with the federal Department of Homeland Security to ensure elections officials across the state are aware and prepared to address the threat posed to their systems and processes.