



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The FY 2025 Executive Budget reflects Governor Hochul's unwavering commitment to make New York State safer and more affordable.

The Executive Budget normalizes growth in state spending after two years of historic, yet necessary investments in public safety, health and mental hygiene, public schools, colleges and universities, and in our social safety net.

While there is always more work to do, stabilization of tax receipts following post-COVID highs requires the State to live within its current means and begin to address multi-year budget gaps. The Executive Budget sets the State on a trajectory to make continued, sound, and sustainable investments. It does not raise taxes and maintains a historic level of reserves to mitigate the impact of any future economic downturn. This budget allows for prior year investments to be implemented, to mature, and provide their intended benefit.

This budget also continues the Governor's public safety efforts by investing in initiatives to reduce and prevent gun violence, prevent and prosecute crimes of domestic violence, stop organized retail theft, secure communities against hate crimes, and strengthen emergency preparedness and response.

Under Governor Hochul's leadership, the statewide minimum wage was increased at the start of 2024 to provide meaningful compensation for a days' work—and those paychecks are already making their way into New Yorkers' pockets. In this budget, Governor Hochul further advances her goal to secure the jobs of tomorrow by establishing new workforce development centers along the I-90 corridor, and by making key investments to attract industries that will make New York State the home of advanced manufacturing and technological innovation. Access to good-paying jobs promotes affordability in every region of our state.

We look forward to collaborating with the Legislature, stakeholders, and all New Yorkers to enact a Budget that maintains the key investments we've already made while protecting the affordability of New York: by creating jobs, aligning spending to actual resources, holding the line on taxes, and resisting the temptation to access reserves to fuel unsustainable growth.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "B. Washington".

**BLAKE G. WASHINGTON**  
BUDGET DIRECTOR