



David A. Paterson
Governor

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF THE BUDGET
STATE CAPITOL
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12224

Laura L. Anglin
Director of the Budget

2009-10 EXECUTIVE BUDGET CALL LETTER

TO: All State Department and Agency Heads

September 5, 2008

As we begin the process of preparing next year's Executive Budget, we face a clear and undeniable fiscal challenge. The current state financial plan anticipates a 2009-10 deficit of more than \$5.4 billion, even after the extraordinary actions that we took during last month's special session. And if the economy continues to worsen, this budget gap could deepen even further.

As Governor Paterson has clearly articulated since the first day he took office, we must limit spending to more affordable levels. Already this year, he has taken substantial actions to reduce state expenditures, including ordering a hard hiring freeze and directing agencies to reduce their operational spending by more than ten percent to address a serious decline in revenues.

These actions were a positive step toward getting our fiscal house in order. But they only represented a down payment on our state's substantial, looming budget deficits. Now we will have to implement even stronger savings measures. Accordingly, Governor Paterson has asked that you submit a 2009-10 budget request that limits your agency's spending to no more than the current year level.

I understand that preparing a zero growth agency budget proposal will be difficult. It will require that you advance creative proposals for reducing costs, streamlining your operations, and increasing productivity. To the extent possible, you should examine options for consolidating services, coordinating programs with other agencies, and eliminating outdated or costly statutes and regulations. Capital requests should be limited to those that are essential to health and safety.

Please submit your agency's budget request no later than October 3, 2008. An examiner from the Division of the Budget will contact your staff shortly to assist you with this process and provide further instructions. You should also involve your respective Deputy Secretary within the Executive Chamber as soon as possible during the development of your budget request.

Governor Paterson and I appreciate your efforts and look forward to working closely with you over the coming months to improve the efficiency of our government. Through hard work and determination, I know that together we can weather this current economic storm and implement the Governor's vision for a more fiscally responsible state budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura L. Anglin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Laura L. Anglin