

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MISSION

The Department of Labor administers New York's Unemployment Insurance system, labor exchange system and State worker protection programs, including enforcement of safety and health regulations in the public sector, State labor laws and Federal statutes related to working conditions, wages and hours and laws related to public work. The Department is a primary advocate for job creation and economic growth through workforce development, and serves as the State's principal source for labor market information, offering a variety of services designed to help businesses find workers and people find jobs.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Department is headed by a Commissioner with a central office located in Albany. This office is responsible for two Unemployment Insurance Telephone Claims Centers and eight employment service regional offices that oversee employment services staff at 79 locations throughout the State. In addition, through nine worker protection district offices, the Department enforces child labor laws, fosters workplace health and safety, and ensures that employees are paid in accordance with provisions of the Labor Law. Offices are staffed based upon the workload in each geographic area.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Labor will have an authorized staffing level of 3,805 in State fiscal year 2007-08. Approximately 83 percent of these positions are financed by Federal grants and 17 percent are supported by fees and assessments. Less than one percent of the Department's positions are supported by State tax dollars from the General Fund.

Federal funds support specific programs and activities that include Workforce Investment Act (WIA) job training services and re-employment services for persons who may be affected adversely by international trade agreements. Federal appropriations also include funding to assist individuals and families that are the victims of disasters.

Fee revenues support funding for worker protection and compensation enforcement activities and job training programs. These accounts are financed by fees for health and safety inspections, revenue from Workers' Compensation Board assessments and penalties for misreporting wages for Unemployment Insurance purposes. The Budget includes funding to support 10 additional positions to enhance enforcement of the minimum wage law. The Unemployment Insurance benefit appropriation of \$3.25 billion is funded from Unemployment Insurance taxes paid by employers.

In 2007-08, existing fees and assessments received by the Department of Labor will help to finance the Department's ongoing program to modernize its Unemployment Insurance computer system, which is over 40 years old and incapable of providing the level of services or accountability expected from a system of its type.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

JOB SERVICES

Consistent with the WIA requirements, the Department of Labor and local governments work together at local One-Stop Centers and affiliated sites across the State that offer access to a variety of employment services including job referral and placement, education and training, resume preparation, employer services, human resources consultation, and support services such as child care and transportation. The Centers benefit employers by providing them with access to worker resumes and information on tax credits, workplace safety issues and apprenticeship services.

Through the use of job orders, on-line forms, America's Job Bank and America's Talent Bank available through the Internet, the Department of Labor has made it easier for job seekers and employers to use and benefit from Agency services and to immediately access relevant information without assistance from Department staff.

In addition to partnering in One-Stop Centers across the State, the Department continues to work with other State and local agencies, community colleges and others to ensure that New York's workforce development system provides access to information and services across agency lines regardless of where a person may initially go for assistance.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Federally funded local assistance appropriation authority includes \$239 million for WIA services. WIA provides job training to youth, adults and dislocated workers. WIA also upgrades the skills of those currently working, thus helping employers meet the changing needs of their business operations. Eligible participants access WIA services through the network of local One-Stop Centers for the delivery of employment and training services. WIA also improves customer choice and program effectiveness, as participants can choose training providers based on past performance through the use of individual training accounts.

WORKER PROTECTION

Worker Protection functions are carried out by two Department of Labor programs: Occupational Safety and Health and Labor Standards/Public Work.

The Occupational Safety and Health program is responsible for health and safety inspections and granting licenses to qualified persons to operate or handle dangerous equipment or substances. Statistics for the last two completed State fiscal years show that the Division inspected 20,346 amusement park devices, 966 ski lifts, 6,195 places of public assembly (e.g., bleachers at concerts) and 31,332 commercial boilers. It also reviewed applications for 45,029 asbestos licenses and certificates.

The Labor Standards program enforces the Labor Law in such areas as minimum and prevailing wage, child labor and garment industry registration. Statistics for the last two completed State fiscal years indicate the Division inspected 1,118 businesses for compliance with child labor laws and collected nearly \$20 million in back wages, unpaid fringe benefits and minimum wage underpayments for approximately 30,571 employees.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The Unemployment Insurance program makes weekly payments to eligible, unemployed workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own. These temporary payments, generally available for up to 26 weeks, help workers and their families pay bills and buy basic household items while looking for work. The Department also operates a re-employment services program to further strengthen efforts to move individuals back to work. The 2007-08 Budget reduces Unemployment Insurance Fiduciary funding by \$550 million to more accurately reflect the level of claims anticipated in the upcoming State fiscal year.

As part of a continuing effort to make government more efficient, the Department of Labor operates a telephone claims system that uses computer technology and information received to determine if applicants are eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance benefits and to handle all other processing issues related to an individual's benefits. The system, which operates through two Tele-Claims Centers located in Troy and Endicott, replaced a process which required DOL staff to determine eligibility from paper forms filled out by applicants at local Department of Labor offices. In addition, the Department currently accepts Unemployment Insurance claims and employer registration through the Internet.

New in 2006, the Department began issuing all Unemployment Insurance benefit payments through debit cards. The cards, known as Direct Payment Cards, offer customers a safe, convenient way to access their benefits. The Department is also working on a Direct Deposit program for Unemployment Insurance benefit payments which will provide claimants with an additional option. The Direct Deposit program is anticipated to be implemented during 2007. These efforts are intended to modernize the unemployment system, while making the process more customer friendly and cost effective.

**ALL FUNDS
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Category	Available 2006-07	Appropriations Recommended 2007-08	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2007-08
State Operations	4,367,115,000	3,855,490,000	(511,625,000)	952,698,000
Aid To Localities	311,412,000	239,049,000	(72,363,000)	569,552,000
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	4,678,527,000	4,094,539,000	(583,988,000)	1,522,250,000

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**ALL FUND TYPES
PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM
FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS**

Program	Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		
	2006-07 Estimated FTEs 03/31/07	2007-08 Estimated FTEs 03/31/08	FTE Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,188	3,152	(36)
Employment Relations Board			
General Fund	16	16	0
Employment and Training			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	89	74	(15)
Labor Standards			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	242	281	39
Occupational Safety and Health			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	260	282	22
Total	<u>3,795</u>	<u>3,805</u>	<u>10</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
General Fund	1,720,000	1,720,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	466,509,000	525,961,000	59,452,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	98,886,000	77,809,000	(21,077,000)
Enterprise Funds	3,800,000,000	3,250,000,000	(550,000,000)
Total	<u>4,367,115,000</u>	<u>3,855,490,000</u>	<u>(511,625,000)</u>

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) To	
Executive Chamber	
General Fund	65,000
Appropriated 2006-07	<u>4,367,180,000</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Program	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
Administration			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	395,009,000	454,461,000	59,452,000
Employment Relations Board			
General Fund	1,720,000	1,720,000	0
Employment and Training			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	8,144,000	13,173,000	5,029,000
Labor Standards			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	22,888,000	25,546,000	2,658,000
Occupational Safety and Health			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	37,854,000	39,090,000	1,236,000
Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	71,500,000	71,500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30,000,000	0	(30,000,000)
Enterprise Funds	3,800,000,000	3,250,000,000	(550,000,000)
Total	<u>4,367,115,000</u>	<u>3,855,490,000</u>	<u>(511,625,000)</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2007-08 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Employment Relations Board	1,251,000	0	1,218,000	0
Total	<u>1,251,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,218,000</u>	<u>0</u>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Employment Relations Board	33,000	0
Total	<u>33,000</u>	<u>0</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2007-08 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Employment Relations Board	469,000	0	36,000	0
Total	<u>469,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36,000</u>	<u>0</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Employment Relations Board	33,000	0	375,000	0
Total	<u>33,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>375,000</u>	<u>0</u>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Employment Relations Board	25,000	0
Total	<u>25,000</u>	<u>0</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2007-08 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	454,461,000	59,452,000	0	(8,549,200)
Employment and Training	13,173,000	5,029,000	2,808,000	8,000
Labor Standards	25,546,000	2,658,000	14,993,000	1,447,000
Occupational Safety and Health	39,090,000	1,236,000	17,668,000	484,000
Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund	3,321,500,000	(580,000,000)	0	0
Total	<u>3,853,770,000</u>	<u>(511,625,000)</u>	<u>35,469,000</u>	<u>(6,610,200)</u>

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	0	(3,887,300)	454,461,000	71,888,500
Employment and Training	1,865,000	21,000	8,500,000	5,000,000
Labor Standards	10,553,000	1,211,000	0	0
Occupational Safety and Health	21,422,000	752,000	0	0
Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund	0	0	3,321,500,000	(580,000,000)
Total	<u>33,840,000</u>	<u>(1,903,300)</u>	<u>3,784,461,000</u>	<u>(503,111,500)</u>

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**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Available 2006-07</u>	<u>Recommended 2007-08</u>	<u>Change</u>
General Fund	11,741,000	0	(11,741,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	299,241,000	238,619,000	(60,622,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	430,000	430,000	0
Total	<u>311,412,000</u>	<u>239,049,000</u>	<u>(72,363,000)</u>

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 2006-07</u>	<u>Recommended 2007-08</u>	<u>Change</u>
Employment and Training			
General Fund	11,741,000	0	(11,741,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	299,241,000	238,619,000	(60,622,000)
Occupational Safety and Health			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	430,000	430,000	0
Total	<u>311,412,000</u>	<u>239,049,000</u>	<u>(72,363,000)</u>