

13. Public Safety

The Executive Budget provides resources to make New York more prepared for and resilient to future man-made and natural emergencies. Equally important, it reflects an approach to public safety that is tough, smart and fair. These priorities, taken together, will better protect New York families and their property.

Overview

The State spends \$4.8 billion annually to protect New York's residents. The public safety agencies assist local communities with crime prevention, supervise criminal offenders both in prison and in the community, patrol the highways, protect critical State assets, and respond to natural disasters and terrorist threats.

Focusing on Emergency Preparedness and Crime Prevention

Emergency Preparedness

Within the last four years, New York State sustained damage from Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Superstorm Sandy – three powerful storms that crippled entire regions. Recognizing that future extreme weather events and natural disasters are likely, the Executive Budget supports a series of emergency preparedness initiatives to prevent loss of life and damage to our communities. These initiatives include establishing a statewide emergency preparedness system, continuing efforts to prepare citizens for emergencies, and enhancing oil spill preparedness. In addition, the Executive Budget makes available \$150 million from the Special Infrastructure Account to support preparedness and response efforts in counter-terrorism and natural disasters including severe weather events, as well as public safety and health emergencies. In concert, these actions will result in a world-class emergency management and response network in New York.

Criminal Justice

New York has one of the lowest crime rates in the country, and also has the lowest imprisonment rate of any large state. From 2004 to 2013, the crime rate in New York declined 15 percent, with a continued decline in the first six months of 2014. In 2013, the number of major crimes committed reached the lowest levels ever recorded, when there were 68,297 fewer major crimes reported statewide than in 2004. Simultaneous with this significant decline in crime, the State's prison population has fallen from a peak of 72,600 in 1999 to a current population of approximately 53,000 – the lowest level in more than two decades.

Last year, the Governor established the Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice to make recommendations on how best to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18, improve outcomes for youth, and promote community safety. The 2015-16 Budget will begin to implement the Commission's recommendations.

Summary of Spending (All Funds)

Category	2014-15 (millions)	2015-16 (millions)	Change	
			Dollar (millions)	Percent
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision	3,003	3,045	42	1.4
Division of State Police	690	708	18	2.6
Division of Criminal Justice Services	254	226	(28)	(11.1)
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	638	621	(17)	(2.7)
All Other	260	255	(5)	(1.9)
Total Public Safety	4,845	4,855	10	0.2

Spending for public safety agencies is projected at \$4.8 billion for 2015-16. The year-to-year change in the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is primarily attributable to an additional institutional pay period in 2015-16. The reduction in the Division of Criminal Justice Services primarily reflects the elimination of spending on non-recurring items directed by the Legislature.

In addition, the Executive Budget also reflects \$3.4 billion in Federal aid which will flow to local governments, public authorities, and not-for-profits

over the next three years to continue the State's recovery from Superstorm Sandy.

Proposed 2015-16 Budget Actions

Disaster Recovery and Preparedness

- **Establish a Statewide Emergency Preparedness System.** To strengthen and better coordinate response across all levels of government, the State will build a world-class emergency management and response network. New protocols, business processes and enterprise solutions will be created to ensure the most efficient and coordinated response to emergencies. Local governments will be trained on new processes and systems to ensure seamlessly integrated efforts. Systems development will be supported through the State's IT Innovation Capital Fund.
- **Prepare Citizens for Emergencies.** The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, in collaboration with the National Guard, has provided in-person training to 37,800 citizens this past year. In addition, 2,800 citizens have completed an online course in preparedness. With the continued goal of preparing 100,000 citizens for emergencies, Homeland Security and the National Guard will provide further trainings in 2015-16. The Executive Budget makes \$3.2 million in new funding available to support this effort.

- **Enhanced Training for Oil Spill Preparedness.** In response to the increased volume of crude oil being transported through New York State, the Executive Budget includes funding to ensure a well prepared and coordinated response to an oil spill. As part of this effort, the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) within the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, will train career fire departments and purchase emergency equipment and supplies. These resources will be strategically positioned throughout the State, which will be available to local and State emergency responders in the event of an oil spill.
- **Continue Counter-terrorism Efforts.** The Governor has taken significant counter-terrorism actions in 2014-15. Most notably, the Governor has: implemented a counter terrorism surge that has doubled the size of the National Guard's Joint Task Force Empire Shield; and ordered a significant increase in the number of uniformed officers from the New York State Police, the Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Port Authority to patrol train platforms, stations and trains. The 2015-16 Executive Budget provides funding to continue counter-terrorism efforts, including the convening of an International Security Task Force, in order to incorporate the most cutting edge security enhancements into the State's planning and deployment.

Criminal Justice

- **Raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction.** New York is one of only two states in which the age of juvenile jurisdiction ends on a youth's 16th birthday. This means that all 16 and 17 year olds are processed in the adult criminal court system, and not through the Family Courts, regardless of the nature of their offense. All other states, except for North Carolina, set the age at 17 or 18 years old. Research has shown that incarcerating adolescents in adult jails and prisons has significant negative impacts, including higher suicide rates and increased recidivism. Experience in other states, such as Connecticut and Illinois, has shown that raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction can lower recidivism and juvenile crime rates through evidence based interventions that keep non-violent young offenders out of the justice system and into needed services.

In 2014, the Governor established the Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice to make recommendations on how best to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18, improve outcomes for youth, and promote community safety. The 2015-16 Executive Budget reflects the first steps to implement the Commission's recommendations with an investment of \$25 million to plan, create, and expand services. This will include diversion and probation services for 16 and 17 year old youth who will be involved in the juvenile justice system, placing newly sentenced 16 and 17 year

old youth in OCFS facilities. The age of juvenile jurisdiction will be raised to age 17 on January 1, 2017 and to age 18 on January 1, 2018.