

12. PUBLIC SAFETY

The FY 2017 Executive Budget reflects an approach to public safety that is smart, tough and fair, while providing new resources to State and local responders to better protect New York families and their property during emergencies.

Overview

The State spends \$4.8 billion annually to protect New York 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

In September 2014, Governor Cuomo initiated a counter terrorism surge in the New York City metro area with enhanced security measures and an increased

State Police, Metropolitan Transportation Authority police, and National Guard presence. This year, the State began utilizing the “See Something, Send Something” mobile app to help New Yorkers report suspicious activity. The Governor also proposed, through the Department of Financial Services, new anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering regulations to detect, deter, and prevent illicit transactions that fuel worldwide criminal and terrorist networks. The FY 2017 Executive Budget builds upon these actions and strengthens preparedness by expanding the current surge to deploy law enforcement to critical infrastructure throughout the state.

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 2005 to 2014, the crime rate in New York declined 18 percent, with a continued decline in the first six months of 2015. In 2014, the number of major crimes committed reached the lowest levels ever recorded, when there were 80,014 fewer major crimes reported statewide than in 2005. 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 issued an Executive Order to establish a facility to house 16- and 17-year old youth who are in the State's correctional system. This action will relocate certain juvenile offenders from adult prison facilities into an age-appropriate alternative. The Governor also offered pardons to persons convicted of non-violent crimes committed when they were 16 or 17 years old, and who have since lived crime-free for 10 or more years, giving an opportunity for over 10,000 people to escape the limitations of a criminal record and become productive citizens. The FY 2017 Executive Budget takes additional measures to advance the Governor's Raise the Age Campaign.

Summary of All Funds Spending

Category	FY 2016 (millions)	FY 2017 (millions)	Change	
			Dollar (millions)	Percent
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision	2,988	2,943	(45)	-1.5%
Division of State Police	730	726	(4)	-0.5%
Division of Criminal Justice Services	229	232	3	1.3%
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	577	578	1	0.2%
All Other	260	305	45	17.2%
Total Public Safety	4,784	4,784	0	0.0%

Spending for public safety agencies is projected at \$4.8 billion for FY 2017. The year-to-year change in the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is primarily attributable to the elimination of funding for a non-recurring 27th institutional payroll.

Proposed FY 2017 Budget Actions

Disaster Recovery and Preparedness

- **Continue the Surge and Make State Police Presence in New York City Permanent.** Reinforcing the Governor's 2014 counter-terrorism surge, the State will establish a permanent State Police presence in New York

City. These specially-trained uniformed State Troopers will partner with dozens of investigators to strengthen the law enforcement presence in and around New York City's transit hubs and other critical infrastructure.

- **Protect Critical Infrastructure.** The State currently engages public and private organizations to conduct security assessments of critical infrastructure and key resources. These assessments help local governments and businesses develop comprehensive protection strategies against evolving threats. The FY 2017 Executive Budget will increase the number of exercises performed annually and ensure exercises occur in each of New York State's 16 Counter Terrorism Zones.

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, have set this age at 17 or 18 years old.

Beginning in August 2016, 16 and 17 year old youth will be housed at Hudson Correctional Facility, currently a DOCCS operated facility that is undergoing transformation to appropriately house and serve younger offenders. Youth will receive specialized age-appropriate

programming, and individuals presenting with mental health needs will have access to services provided by staff from the Office of Mental Health.

The FY 2017 Executive Budget reflects the next steps in juvenile justice reforms through legislation to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 17 on January 1, 2018 and to age 18 on January 1, 2019. Additional reform measures include comprehensive diversion, probation, and programming services for 16 and 17 year old youth who will be involved in the juvenile justice system.

- **Re-entry Initiatives.** In FY 2017, the State will undertake reforms to hold fewer people in prison pre-trial, bring sentencing practices into the 21st century and expand alternatives to incarceration. Through a comprehensive re-entry initiative, New York will provide citizens who enter the criminal justice system the opportunity to rehabilitate, return home, and contribute to their communities.
- **Alternatives to Incarceration.** In FY 2017, \$1 million will be invested to expand and modernize ATI programs, ensuring that they are focused on high-risk and high-need populations.
- **Video Visitation.** Incarcerated individuals who have regular contact with family members fare better upon release. This initiative will increase opportunities for video visitation between parents, children, and other family members.

- **Reduce Criminal Behavior through Education.** Expand college level education programs for incarcerated individuals through \$7.5 million investment of criminal forfeiture funds obtained by the Manhattan District Attorney.
- **Provide Transitional Support.** The first six months immediately following a person's release from the criminal justice system are the most crucial. The Governor's re-entry agenda supports transitional housing, connections to employment, and provision of medical and mental health services.

13. STATE WORKFORCE

Overview

The New York State workforce delivers vital public services and manages a range of critical facilities and provider networks. There are 180,252 full-time equivalent State employees within 59 Executive agencies, the SUNY and CUNY systems and in the Offices of the Attorney General and State Comptroller. The Executive has direct control over 65 percent of the State workforce (118,311 full-time equivalent employees). Staffing levels are expected to remain relatively stable in FY 2017.

Category	FY 2017		Change	
	3/31/16 Est.	3/31/17 Est.	Number	Percent
Workforce Subject to Direct Executive Control	118,311	118,538	227	0.19
University Systems	57,465	57,465	0	0.00
Office of the State Comptroller	2,643	2,663	20	0.76
Department of Law	1,833	1,839	6	0.33
Grand Total	180,252	180,505	253	0.14

Approximately 94 percent of the State workforce is unionized with the remaining portion serving in

Management/Confidential (M/C) assignments. State employees receive an average compensation (salary and other pay) of roughly \$69,000. Over the past five fiscal years, the State has spent an average of \$6.6 billion on employee fringe benefit programs, including employee and retiree health insurance, pensions and workers' compensation.

In FY 2013, the State enacted Tier VI pension reform to help control escalating retirement costs for State government, local governments and school districts. As of April 1, 2012, all newly hired public employees belong to Tier VI. This reform will significantly diminish long-term pension costs, saving the State, local governments and school districts more than \$80 billion over 30 years.

Consistent with Governor Cuomo's push to restore economic justice by making New York the first state in the nation to enact a \$15 minimum wage for all workers, the Budget includes the phased-in minimum wage increase for State employees and employees of the State University of New York.