



## HUMAN SERVICES

Continues **\$20 Billion** Affordable and Homeless Housing and Services Initiative.

The Budget supports progress towards creating/preserving more than

**100,000**

units of affordable housing



**6,000**

units of supportive housing.

### HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETS

Designates \$5 million to expand permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans.



**Increasing the Minimum Wage** Four annual increases to the minimum wage have raised incomes for **1.5 million New Yorkers.**

**Providing Economic Security** The FY 2021 public assistance caseload has declined by more than **17% since 2011.**



### SUPPORTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

the **summer Youth Employment Program** gave approximately

**19,000**

young New Yorkers the chance to work and build skills in 2019.

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The FY 2021 Executive Budget reflects continued delivery of the unprecedented \$20 billion investment in housing and homeless services and increases development of housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. It protects workers and public health by guaranteeing access to sick leave, and protects youth involved in the criminal justice system through continued implementation of the landmark Raise the Age legislation. The Budget also helps low-income families through the expansion of the Empire State Child Tax Credit and streamlines the process to create New York's first State veterans cemetery.

## Overview

New York's human services programs promote the safety and well-being of the State's most vulnerable residents, safeguard workers' rights, and support New York's veterans and their families.

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) oversee programs that support and provide: financial assistance to elderly and disabled persons who are unable to work; services to public assistance recipients to prepare for and secure employment; child support enforcement; child care subsidies to assist low-income working families; protective services for children and adults; and services to at-risk youth in the community, local detention centers, and State operated facilities.

Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) preserves and creates affordable housing and promotes community development. The Office of National and Community Service (NCS) supports community service grants that provide youth education, assistance to individuals with disabilities, public health services, and disaster preparedness.

The Department of Labor (DOL) protects workers, promotes workforce development, and operates the State's Unemployment Insurance System. The Division of Human Rights (DHR) protects civil rights in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, education and credit.

The Division of Veterans' Services (DVS) connects veterans, members of the armed forces, and their families to the economic, medical, and social benefits and services they've earned through active duty military service.

The Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program (NICIP) makes targeted investments in capital projects that improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of nonprofit human services organizations that provide direct services to New Yorkers.

## Providing Opportunity for All New Yorkers

The obligation of a progressive society is to ensure that all people can share in economic growth. The FY 2021 Executive Budget provides the necessary services to open doors of opportunity for all New Yorkers.

Under the Governor's leadership, progress continues on a slate of critical social and economic policies that are improving lives. This includes the Governor's unprecedented \$20 billion investment in affordable and supportive housing, which is creating or preserving more than 100,000 units of affordable housing and creating 6,000 new units of supportive housing.

In April 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law the nation's first statewide \$15 minimum wage plan, marking a major milestone in the Governor's efforts to restore economic justice and fairness

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to working families in New York State. Four annual increases to the minimum wage have taken place so far, raising incomes for 1.5 million New Yorkers.

The Governor also established a \$175 million Workforce Development Initiative for investments that will continue to support strategic regional efforts to meet businesses' short-term workforce needs, improve regional talent pipelines, extend apprenticeships, address the long-term needs of expanding industries, and provide opportunities for job seekers.

Through the Raise the Age initiative, New York's youth who commit non-violent crimes are now receiving age-appropriate housing and programming to lower their risk of re-offense. New York was previously one of only two states that automatically prosecuted 16- and 17-year-olds as adults. This injustice unfairly punished youth and prevented them from receiving the services they need to be rehabilitated and re-integrated into their communities.

**Table 11: Summary of All Funds Spending**

| Category       | FY 2020<br>(millions) | FY 2021<br>(millions) | Change     |         |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|
|                |                       |                       | Dollars    | Percent |
|                |                       |                       | (millions) |         |
| Human Services | 9,553                 | 9,696                 | 142        | 1.5     |
| OTDA           | 5,151                 | 5,191                 | 40         | 0.8     |
| OCFS           | 2,852                 | 2,939                 | 87         | 3.0     |
| DOL            | 580                   | 572                   | (8)        | (1.3)   |
| HCR            | 902                   | 927                   | 25         | 2.8     |
| DVA            | 18                    | 16                    | (2)        | (11.3)  |
| NCS            | 16                    | 17                    | 1          | 3.5     |
| DHR            | 14                    | 15                    | 1          | 6.4     |
| NICIP          | 20                    | 18                    | (2)        | (10.0)  |

### Proposed FY 2021 Human Services Budget Actions

#### Expanding Access to Affordable Housing and Combatting Homelessness

- Continue the \$20 Billion Affordable Housing and Homelessness Initiative.** The Budget continues the \$20 billion, comprehensive five-year investment in affordable housing, supportive housing and related services to provide New Yorkers with safe and secure housing. This investment is creating or preserving over 100,000 units of affordable housing and creating 6,000 new units of supportive housing, with an overall goal of developing 20,000 units of supportive housing.

The State is well on track toward meeting that mark, having already financed the new construction and preservation of more than 60,000 affordable units. Thousands of these units are supportive housing – housing with services that provide stability for some of the state's most vulnerable populations, including veterans, victims of domestic violence, frail or disabled senior citizens, young adults aging out of foster care, and New Yorkers identified as homeless with special needs, conditions, or other life challenges.

Funding continued in the Executive Budget includes \$3.5 billion in capital resources, \$8.6 billion in State and Federal tax credits and other allocations, and \$8 billion to support the operation of shelters, supportive housing units, and rental subsidies.

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Specifically, the FY 2021 Budget continues the following capital resources necessary to ensure continued delivery of safe, affordable housing as part of the housing plan:

- Supportive Housing. \$950 million for the construction or operation of 6,000 supportive housing units throughout the State;
- New Construction. \$472 million for new construction or adaptive reuse of rental housing affordable to households that earn up to 60 percent of area median income (AMI);
- Senior Housing. \$125 million for developing or rehabilitating affordable housing targeted to low-income seniors, aged 60 and above;
- Rural and Urban Community Investment Fund (CIF). \$45 million for mixed-use affordable housing developments that may include retail, commercial or community development components;
- Middle Income Housing. \$150 million for new construction, adaptive reuse, or reconstruction of rental housing affordable to households that earn between 60 and 130 percent of AMI;
- Affordable Housing Preservation. \$146 million for substantial or moderate rehabilitation of affordable multi-family rental housing currently under a regulatory agreement;
- Mitchell-Lama Rehabilitation. \$75 million to preserve and improve Mitchell-Lama properties throughout the State;
- Public Housing. \$125 million for substantial or moderate rehabilitation and/or the demolition and replacement through new construction of public housing authority developments outside of New York City;
- Small Building Construction. \$62.5 million for rehabilitation and/or the demolition and replacement through new construction of buildings of 5 to 40 units;
- Home Ownership. \$41.5 million for promoting home ownership among families of low and moderate income and stimulating the development, stabilization, and preservation of New York communities;
- Mobile and Manufactured Homes. \$13 million for mobile and manufactured home programs;
- Main Street Programs. \$10 million for stimulating reinvestment in properties located within mixed-use commercial districts located in urban, small town, and rural areas of the State;
- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). \$200 million within the housing plan (and \$450 million in other reappropriations) for projects and improvements related at housing developments owned or operated by NYCHA; and
- New York City Affordable Housing. \$100 million for the preservation, restoration or creation of affordable housing units in New York City. All units must be affordable to households earning up to 60 percent of AMI.

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- **Increase Homeless Housing.** The Budget adds additional funding to the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP), doubling it for FY 2021 from \$64 million to \$128 million. This investment will create more housing for individuals and families who are homeless and unable to secure adequate housing without special assistance. HHAP is a critical resource in achieving the State's supportive housing development goals, as it funds the capital construction of housing solely targeted to homeless individuals and families that require wrap-around services to remain stably housed. Adding permanent supportive and affordable housing is an effective long-term solution to reducing the homeless shelter census and associated costs and improves the quality of life of the entire community in which the housing is located.
- **Expand Affordable Housing and Support Services for Homeless Veterans.** Veterans are more likely to experience homelessness than nonveterans, and many veterans at-risk for homelessness are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder or substance use disorder, complicating efforts to get them into stable housing. The FY 2021 Executive Budget directs \$5 million to expanding permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans through HHAP. HCR will also designate housing opportunities within their affordable housing developments so that homeless veterans in receipt of rental subsidies and Federal vouchers can more readily access affordable housing. Additionally, OTDA will work with DVS and localities to ensure temporary housing and services are provided to veterans experiencing homelessness and help provide them with permanent housing within 90 days of becoming homeless.
- **Code Blue Investment.** In 2016, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order to direct local social services districts, working in consultation with State and local law enforcement and community-based organizations, to protect individuals experiencing homelessness from inclement winter weather when temperatures, including wind chill, decline to 32 degrees or below. To support continued implementation of Code Blue efforts across the State, the FY 2021 Executive Budget memorializes the Governor's directive with a \$13 million stand-alone appropriation.
- **Streamline Billing for Office of Rent Administration (ORA).** Currently, the State incurs costs for ORA in the first instance and is subsequently reimbursed through a billing process for activities in New York City. The Executive Budget streamlines this process by adjusting other local assistance payments to New York City by an amount equal to what had previously been billed, thereby replacing a process involving payments in both directions with one net payment by the State to the City of New York. There is no impact on ORA's programs, services, or budget.

### Providing Quality Human Services

- **Expand the Empire State Child Tax Credit.** To support low-income families with young children, the FY 2021 Executive Budget expands the Empire State Child Tax Credit. This credit is currently provided to families with children between the ages of 4-16. The Budget expands it to include families with children younger than 4 with incomes of \$50,000 or less to provide an annual average benefit of nearly \$400 to almost 400,000 families, providing additional financial assistance to low-income families when they need it most.
- **Guarantee Sick Leave.** Approximately one million New Yorkers are faced with the dilemma of either working while sick or taking an unpaid day off. This issue disproportionately impacts the lives of part-time and low-wage workers, who must choose between risking their own economic security and threatening their health and the health

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of co-workers and customers. The FY 2021 Executive Budget will require all employers to provide their employees with sick leave — 7 days of paid leave for large employers (at least 100 employees), 5 days of paid leave for medium-sized employers (5-99 employees), and 5 days per year of unpaid leave for small employers (fewer than 5 employees). Mandatory paid sick leave will contribute to improvements in disease transmission, illness prevention, health care costs, prenatal care, economic security, and employee productivity.

- **Continue Child Care Programs.** The Executive Budget maintains \$832 million for child care subsidies through the New York State Child Care Block Grant. These funds serve approximately 182,000 children, ages 0-13, from approximately 112,000 low-income families. Including child-focused tax credits and pre-kindergarten programs, support for families with child care-aged children totals nearly \$2.8 billion in FY 2020, an increase of more than \$500 million since FY 2011.
- **Create New York's First State Veterans Cemetery.** Veterans and their families have earned the honor of having a revered and sacred final resting place, but New York is one of only a few states that does not have a State Veterans Cemetery. On Veterans Day, Governor Cuomo committed to creating the State's first, and legislation introduced with the Executive Budget will streamline the process established to select a site and access Federal funding. A committee chaired by the Director of the Division of Veterans' Services will develop an action plan and determine the cemetery location.
- **Constitutionally Guarantee Equal Rights.** Legislation submitted with the Budget amends the New York State Constitution's Equal Rights Amendment to add sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin, age and disability as protected classes, ensuring that all New Yorkers are fully protected by the State Constitution.
- **Legalize Gestational Surrogacy.** To give all New Yorkers the equal ability to start and raise families, legislation submitted with the budget eliminates unnecessary, harmful, and costly barriers to gestational surrogacy. The legislation will remove legal uncertainty and ensure that all parties involved in the process are covered by robust protections.
- **Continue Implementation of Raise the Age.** The age of criminal responsibility was increased from 16 to 17 on October 1, 2018 and from 17 to 18 on October 1, 2019. The Budget continues support for implementation, including comprehensive diversion, probation, and programming services for 16- and 17-year old youth in the juvenile justice system.
- **Increase Funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program.** The Budget increases funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program by \$1 million, to \$45 million, to ensure that the State can continue to create job opportunities, while keeping pace with minimum wage increases. In 2019, approximately 19,000 youths were employed through the program.
- **Right-size Capacity at State Youth Facilities.** The Youth Leadership Academy (Delaware County) has been chronically underfilled, with a bed capacity of 25 and 8 youth currently placed. As arrest rates continue to fall, the statutory one-year notice of closure will be given in early calendar year 2020 to administratively close the facility in early 2021.
- **Expand Eligibility for the Community Optional Preventive Services Program.** This program provides funding to certain counties and the City of New York to serve children

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or youth who are not at imminent risk of foster care, but who have been identified as being at general risk of entering the foster care system. Existing law limits eligibility to programs that were designed and approved more than a decade ago, limiting the ability to react to changing needs or best practices. The Executive Budget expands eligibility for additional counties and programs for at-risk youth.

- **Comply with the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act.** Legislation submitted with the Budget will support compliance with the Federal Family First Prevention Services Act and help keep children safely with their families or in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their special needs when foster care is needed. The Budget includes \$75 million in appropriations for the receipt of Federal funding to assist with implementation, and maintains a \$3 million State-supported Family First transition fund to help local social services districts support, recruit, and retain current and prospective foster families, including kinship caregivers.
- **Increase Use of Federal Grant for Child Welfare Services.** The State currently requires at least \$342 million of the \$964 million Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) grant be spent on child welfare services. The Budget increases that threshold of \$40 million to \$382 million, generating \$25 million of State savings through avoided reimbursements.
- **Align Fiscal Responsibility for Committee on Special Education Placements.** The room and board costs for children with severe disabilities placed by Committees on Special Education are shared between local social services districts, school districts and, for placements made by committees outside of New York City, by the State. For Statewide consistency, the Executive Budget eliminates the existing 18.42 percent State share, aligning the fiscal responsibility with the school district responsible for the placement.
- **Change Reimbursement of Family Assistance Programs for New York City.** Using the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant resources, the State provides open-ended 90 percent reimbursement to New York City for eligible spending on Family Assistance and Emergency Assistance for Needy Families benefits. Under the Executive Budget, the programs continue unaffected, with no impact on recipients, but the reimbursement would change to 85 percent.