



# GENERAL GOVERNMENT



## OFFICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Among the agencies responsible for ensuring that New York State government is operating effectively are:

The **Office of General Services (OGS)** is responsible for a wide array of State support services including managing and leasing properties, designing, building, and maintaining State facilities, and establishing contracts for goods, services, and technology. \$1.4 billion in funding is included in the Executive Budget.

The **Department of Civil Service (DCS)** is responsible for providing human resource management services to the State and local governments, assisting State agencies with workforce recruitment, administering exams, overseeing job classifications, and administering employee benefits. \$99.8 million in funding is included in the Executive Budget.

The **Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC)** operates under the direction of the **State Liquor Authority (SLA)**. ABC/SLA is responsible for regulating and issuing licenses for the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcoholic beverages within the State. \$16.5 million in funding is included in the Executive Budget.

The **Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)** is responsible for developing a comprehensive regulatory structure to monitor and control the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, and sale of cannabis in New York State. \$68.1 million in funding is included in the Executive Budget.

The **State Board of Elections (SBOE)** is responsible for executing and enforcing all laws related to elections, overseeing the conduct of elections and the disclosure of campaign finance activities. SBOE is also responsible for reviewing the practices of all local boards of elections, facilitating ballots for State offices, approving the voting systems, maintaining the Statewide voter registration database, and implementing various federal programs. \$158.4 million in funding is included in the Executive Budget.

## PROPOSED EXECUTIVE BUDGET ACTIONS

### Resiliency & Sustainability Consultants

As part of the Leading by Example initiative set forth in Executive Order 22, New York State is currently engaged in efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and develop new sustainable and resilient policies and practices that meet the high standards of the State. The Office of General Services (OGS) has been tasked with developing a methodology and process for collecting relevant data to build a comprehensive GHG report for agencies' assets and reporting.

To accomplish these goals, it is crucial that State agencies are able to build the capacity to develop effective policies and reporting. The State will create effective communication materials related to sustainability to develop guidance for both public and private entities. Last year, OGS engaged consultants and will invest \$450,000 to retain these services. The consultants provide expert level staff augmentation to assist with the development of GHG metrics, reporting, and communication materials. This continues to be a large undertaking for the State and involves complex issues that require specific knowledge and expertise to create effective reports, policies, and more.

### Language Access Interpreters

Over 5 million New Yorkers speak a language other than English at home and New York's language access law requires agencies to provide oral interpretation and document translation in an individual's primary language. The Office of General Services (OGS) will create a Language Access Certification program, which will offer oral and written language assessments and training for State employees who speak a language other than English. This program would improve the quality and availability of translation resources and make State services more available.

### **Increase Maximum Short-Term Disability Benefits to Provide Equity in Benefits**

To ensure New Yorkers have adequate access to leave for their own medical needs, the Executive Budget increases the maximum amount for short-term disability benefits. Last updated in 1989, the current maximum of \$170 will be amended and tied to the Statewide Average Weekly Wage (SAWW) to keep pace with wage growth. Strengthening medical leave will not only support women and birthing persons, but also the nearly 1 in 5 New Yorkers with a disability, who often need leave from work to manage disability-related health needs.

### **Expanding Access to Prenatal Visits through Paid Leave**

Pregnant New Yorkers have limited paid options for leave to pursue prenatal appointments. New York led the nation with the roll out of Paid Family Leave (PFL) and can continue to do so by providing additional leave in Workers' Compensation Law for prenatal care. The Executive Budget amends PFL to permit up to 40 hours of leave for eligible employees to attend prenatal appointments, without impacting the twelve weeks of PFL.

### **Justice Infrastructure Initiative and Civil Legal Services Grants Increase**

The Executive Budget includes \$500,000 to pursue a Justice Infrastructure initiative and a \$10 million increase in grants to non-profits from the Interest on Lawyer Account (IOLA) Fund. The Justice Infrastructure initiative aims to create more coordination among disparate providers of civil legal services in New York, ensuring that when New Yorkers have legal needs, they know whom to contact and the steps to take. The one-time grants increase grows the \$50 million in expected grants in FY 2025 to \$60 million, increasing funding to non-profits that provide civil legal services to lower income New Yorkers.

### **Rightsizing Anti-Discrimination Investigations Division Funding**

The Executive Budget provides the Office of Employee Relations approximately \$3.3 million to fund the agency's Affirmative Action Administrator (AAA) staff. Since AAA positions were consolidated into OER in 2018, the agency has experienced higher than expected demand for discrimination investigations. This \$3.3 million will give the agency the necessary funding to staff Affirmative Action Administrators allowing OER to better meet the need for these services.

### **Enhance New York's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work**

To establish a more inclusive workforce that reflects the diversity of New York, the Executive Budget provides the Office of Employee Relations \$200,000 in funding to create a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) course and \$591,000 to the Department of Civil Service for developing and administering an anti-racism training program for State employees.

### **Combat Unlicensed Sale of Cannabis**

The Executive Budget includes legislation to strengthen the Cannabis Law to better enable the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), as well as local government agencies, to seal or padlock an unlicensed cannabis business. The Budget also provides additional staff resources to the Department of Taxation and Finance to assist these expanded enforcement efforts.

### **Public Campaign Finance**

The Public Campaign Finance (PCF) program effective November 9, 2022, establishes public financing to encourage candidates for public office to focus campaign efforts toward soliciting small donations from individual constituents rather than corporate interest groups. As such, the State will provide matching funds on the first \$250 of any qualifying donation. The Executive Budget includes \$100 million for the State's matching portion.