



NEWS From Assemblymember John T. McDonald III

Spring 2017

2017-18 State Budget Highlights



Assemblymember McDonald speaking at the New York State Capitol on "International Overdose Awareness Day."

Opioid Treatment and Health

The 2017-18 state budget increases funding by \$43 million over last year – for a total of \$213 million – to fight the heroin epidemic and increase access to treatment for New Yorkers struggling with a substance abuse disorder. This funding supports a variety of treatment and prevention programs, including family support navigators, peer supports, recovery clubhouses and community coalitions, and \$10 million in additional capital support to increase the number of beds for inpatient treatment facilities. In this budget there is the inclusion of a new concept called Urgent Access Centers, \$10 million is allocated to create, based on demand, 10 UACs throughout New York State to be

staffed by trained professionals 24/7/365, to be available for a person with addiction who makes the decision that they need treatment. It is my hope that these centers will fill a void in the community to help individuals enter and navigate the treatment system and hopefully reduce the barriers one often faces when trying to access treatment and move on to a life in recovery. The heroin epidemic has affected families in every corner of the state. By increasing funding and targeting it to the right programs, we can ensure more people get the help they need to conquer their addiction.

Ridesharing

Ride-hailing services offer a convenient, predictable transportation option. They allow customers to know the price beforehand and pay digitally so they do not have to worry about having enough cash on hand. And, ride-hailing apps provide vital peace of mind – residents and visitors alike can enjoy a night out and be assured that they can get home safely and avoid driving while impaired.

The New York State Budget included authorization that allows for ride-hailing companies to operate throughout the state beginning in July.

The new law will require that they:

- obtain a license to operate from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) after providing proof of insurance;
- conduct a criminal background check on all potential drivers, including a review of the NYS Sex Offender Registry and the U.S. Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public website;



Local business owner Vic Christopher speaking at a ridesharing press conference with Assemblymember McDonald, Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, Senator Neil Breslin, and Senator George Amedore.

- do not accept cash payment or solicit or accept street hails;
- provide digital networks that display a picture of the driver and the make, model, color and license plate number of the vehicle before passengers enter a vehicle;
- implement a “zero-tolerance policy” regarding drug and alcohol use;
- adopt a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of destination, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age and sexual orientation; and
- implement and maintain a policy of providing accessibility to passengers with a disability and the accommodation of service animals.

As a long-time supporter of ridesharing I am glad that the efforts and advocacy of many have led to access for all of

New York State as I am confident that this will lead to greater transportation options for our residents, increased economic activity in our restaurants and business community as well as a safer community as this can lead to fewer drunk or distracted driving incidents.



Assemblymember McDonald speaking to hundreds of construction workers and legislative leaders as part of the Rebuild NY effort to support funding for infrastructure.

CHIPS and Transportation Funding

The Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) funds vital transportation infrastructure improvements. Please see below for a chart with a breakdown of funding for 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 for each municipality in the 108th District. As you will see there has been an increased investment to support additional work and projects.

The budget provides \$65 million for the Extreme Weather Recovery Program, distributed through the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Program (CHIPs) formula, to help local governments pay for road and bridge improvements without burdening local taxpayers. When combined with CHIPs, the Marchiselli program, and PAVE NY, total funding for the state's local highway system is \$643 million. The budget also

increases the state Department of Transportation (DOT) Road and Bridge Capital Plan by \$130 million.

In addition, millions of New Yorkers rely on mass transportation, and the ridership is only growing. The budget provides \$20 million for non-MTA transit system capital projects and \$10 million in non-MTA transit system operating assistance that benefits entities such as the Capital District Transportation Authority.

Further, the budget provides \$10 million for aviation and airport infrastructure projects and \$20 million for snow plows for DOT. It also rejects increasing motor vehicle title fees.

Please see below the resources our communities will be receiving in the 108th Assembly District:

County	Municipality Name	16/17 CHIPs	16/17 Pave NY	16/17 Total	17/18 CHIPs*	17/18 Pave NY	17/18 Total	Year to Year Change
Albany	County of Albany	\$2,371,506.08	\$541,319.86	\$2,912,825.94	\$2,645,031.38	\$540,995.08	\$3,186,026.46	\$273,200.52
Albany	City of Albany	\$1,553,107.28	\$354,512.19	\$1,907,619.47	\$1,786,844.33	\$354,659.97	\$2,141,504.30	\$233,884.83
Albany	City of Cohoes	\$350,148.95	\$79,924.98	\$430,073.93	\$402,660.77	\$79,958.55	\$482,619.32	\$52,545.39
Albany	City of Watervliet	\$197,787.68	\$45,147.01	\$242,934.69	\$224,755.85	\$45,169.56	\$269,925.41	\$26,990.72
Albany	Village of Green Island	\$47,580.57	\$10,860.74	\$58,441.31	\$56,362.08	\$10,868.66	\$67,230.74	\$8,789.43
				\$0.00				
Rensselaer	County of Rensselaer	\$2,341,186.56	\$534,399.13	\$2,875,585.69	\$2,655,074.32	\$534,385.39	\$3,189,459.71	\$313,874.02
Rensselaer	City of Rensselaer	\$194,030.48	\$44,289.39	\$238,319.87	\$222,662.26	\$44,308.61	\$266,970.87	\$28,651.00
Rensselaer	City of Troy	\$954,045.72	\$217,770.43	\$1,171,816.15	\$1,097,447.25	\$217,861.45	\$1,315,308.70	\$143,492.55
Rensselaer	Town of North Greenbush	\$102,461.15	\$23,387.78	\$125,848.93	\$121,087.81	\$23,388.68	\$144,476.49	\$18,627.56
				\$0.00				
Saratoga	County of Saratoga	\$2,650,424.95	\$604,985.87	\$3,255,410.82	\$2,990,637.73	\$605,046.40	\$3,595,684.13	\$340,273.31
Saratoga	Town of Waterford	\$37,776.60	\$8,622.88	\$46,399.48	\$44,458.75	\$8,623.24	\$53,081.99	\$6,682.51
Total	All Municipalities	\$10,800,056.02	\$2,465,220.26	\$13,265,276.28	\$12,247,022.53	\$2,465,265.59	\$14,712,288.12	\$1,447,011.84

*17-18 numbers reflect \$65 million legislative add for extreme weather recovery.

Water

Ensuring a safe water supply for our children and families is a top priority for the Assembly. The 2017-18 state budget funds the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 at \$2.5 billion to help local municipalities upgrade their drinking and waste water treatment infrastructure so they can better protect the drinking water and environment.

The funding for water infrastructure, which is a \$500 million increase over the executive budget, includes:

- \$1 billion for the 2017 Water Infrastructure Improvement Act;
- \$245 million for Water Quality Improvement Projects;
- \$150 million for the Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program;
- \$110 million for land acquisition for source water protection;
- \$130 million for mitigation and remediation of contaminated drinking water; and
- \$75 million for upgrades and replacements of septic systems and cesspools.

Other funding amounts for water quality protection initiatives included in the Clean Water Infrastructure Program Act are:

- \$50 million for Green Infrastructure Grants;
- \$50 million to help concentrated animal feeding operations comply with water quality regulations;
- \$20 million for replacement of lead drinking water service lines;
- \$10 million for a water infrastructure emergency loan fund;
- \$10 million for Information Technology system upgrades related to water quality mapping; and
- \$355 million for clean water infrastructure projects after 2021.

Member Steve Otis of Rye (a former Mayor) and I were very much involved in the design of this program from the Assembly side and were able to add an added emphasis on shared service projects such as the Albany POOL CSO LTCP which can be helpful to projects that your community may already be committed to or requires additional financial support.

Education

The 2017-18 state budget increases education aid by \$1 billion for a total of \$25.7 billion, a 4.1 percent increase from last year's budget, reaffirming the Assembly Majority's unrelenting commitment to putting every student on their path to success. The budget also increases Foundation Aid by \$700 million for a total of \$17.2 billion.

The budget includes a \$50 million increase in Community Schools Aid for a total of \$150 million. This funding, which will support many of the schools in our region, allows schools to be converted into community schools that deliver valuable services to both students and families, including offering critical support to at-risk children, strengthening neighborhoods, and preventing the schools from being taken over by the state.

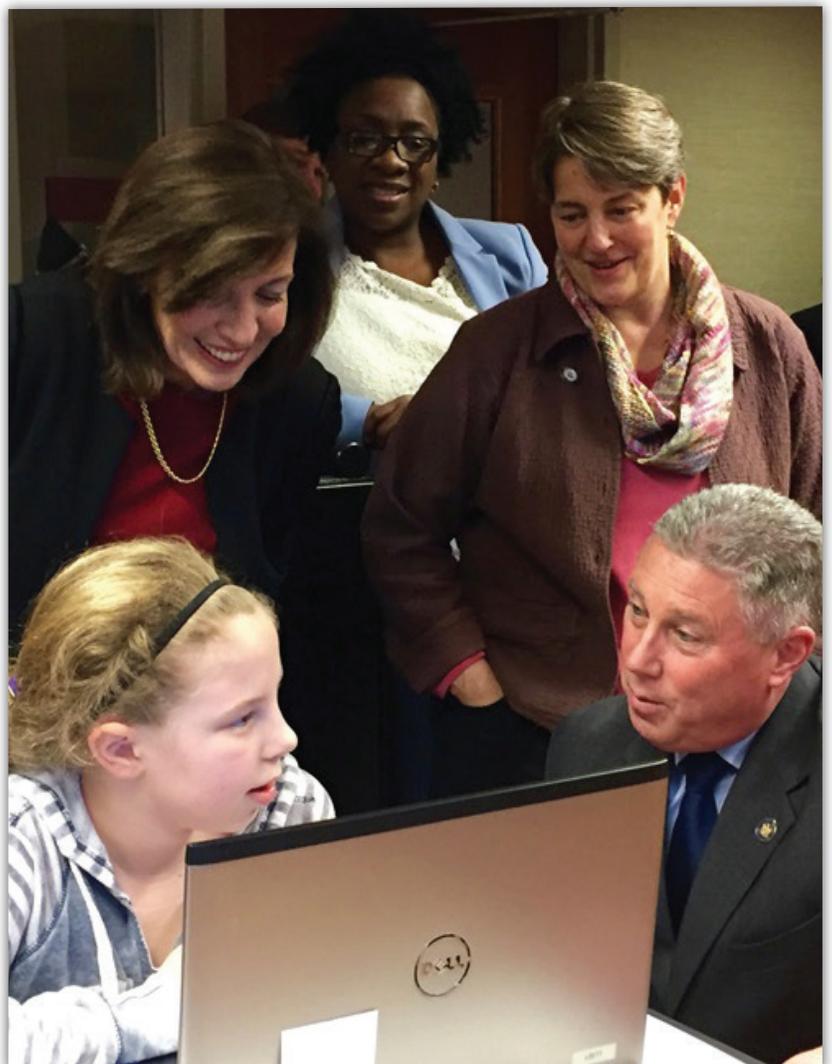
Additionally, the budget provides:

- \$817 million in total funding for prekindergarten programs;
- \$35 million for after-school programs;
- \$5 million to expand half-day and full-day pre-kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-olds in high-need school districts;
- \$300,000 for cyberbullying prevention.

The budget provides \$16.7 million for Early College High School programs, which help at-risk students earn both a high school diploma and an associate degree. I am an ardent supporter of the Early College High School program as I believe this is an underutilized tool in defraying the cost of higher education.

In addition, the budget provides \$25 million for technology projects at nonpublic schools and \$25 million for security upgrades to nonpublic schools, community centers and daycare facilities at risk of

hate crimes or attacks. The budget also provides nonpublic schools \$5 million to hire STEM teachers and \$7 million for costs related to complying with immunization requirements, along with an \$8 million increase for nonpublic school aid.



Assemblymember McDonald visiting the Delaware Ave Public Library with Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul and Albany County Legislator Lynne Lekakis at the "Girls Who Code" event to support a new after school program in Albany where girls learn computer programming skills from professionals.

Direct care workers

The state's approved spending plan provides \$160 million over two years to support two 3.25 percent wage increases (a total of 6.5 percent over two years) for direct support professionals. Under the proposal, on January 1, 2018, direct care and direct support staff will receive a 3.25 percent pay increase. Direct care, direct support staff, and clinical staff will receive another 3.25 percent increase on April 1, 2018 to ensure that these critical workers receive wages above the minimum wage. I am proud to have advocated for this important funding for direct support professionals who provide care to those with disabilities. I have worked with the disabled community for over 30 years and have seen firsthand the excellent work that these service providers are doing for our communities and their commitment to our vulnerable populations.



Assemblymember McDonald speaking at a BFair2Direct Care rally.

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A graphic for a news update from Assemblymember John T. McDonald III. It features a photograph of him speaking at a podium in the New York State Assembly. To the right of the photo is a dark blue box with the text "NEWS From" in white, a silhouette of the state of New York, and the word "Assemblymember" in white. Below the photo and text is a dark blue banner with "John T. McDonald III" in white. The name "J. McDONALD" and "108th AD." are visible on the podium in the photo.



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