

Assemblyman  
**JEFFRION L. AUBRY**  
Reports to the People

35<sup>TH</sup> A.D., QUEENS COUNTY • SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE • WINTER 2021



Dear Neighbors,

The 2021 legislative year has begun. The Governor has presented his 2021-2022 budget. We in the legislature are reviewing his proposals. This newsletter provides a general overview of the Executive Budget along with important community information. You can get more details on the Executive Budget by going online at <https://openbudget.ny.gov/>

The pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic on the process of government is substantial. The new federal administration will be helpful in addressing the financial pressure, but it cannot alleviate the entire budget shortfall. The state will have to raise revenues and reduce funding to some degree.

The budget deadline is April 1, 2021. Budget hearings by the Senate and the Assembly have begun and can be viewed online at <https://nyassembly.gov/av/live/>

Please feel free to reach out with any questions by contacting my New York City office at 718-457-3615 or my Albany office at 518-455-4561. You may also email me at [aubryj@nyassembly.gov](mailto:aubryj@nyassembly.gov).

Thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrion L. Aubry  
New York State Assembly  
AD #35  
Speaker Pro Tempore

## Executive Budget Highlights



The Executive Budget estimates spending for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021-22 at \$192.9 billion, an annual growth of 0.1 percent.

### State Operating Funds Spending

The Executive's estimate of 1.2 percent growth in State Operating Funds remains below its 2 percent spending benchmark with anticipated total disbursements of \$103.4 billion.

### General Fund Spending

The Executive Budget estimates General Fund disbursements of \$82 billion in SFY 2021-22 for an annual growth of \$7.2 billion, or 9.6 percent.

### Closing the SFY 2020-21 and SFY 2021-22 Budget Gaps

The Executive Budget closes a combined budget gap of \$15 billion over state fiscal years 2020-21 (\$4.8 billion) and 2021-22 (\$10.2 billion). It also eliminates these gaps with spending reductions totaling \$4.3 billion in SFY 2020-21 and \$3.5 billion in SFY 2021-22; other savings actions of \$522 million for SFY 2020-21; and new revenue sources estimated at \$6.7 billion for SFY 2021-22.

### Out-year Budget Gaps

After gap-closing actions, the Executive Budget assumes out-year gaps of \$2.9 billion in SFY 2022-23; \$6 billion in SFY 2023-24; and \$8.6 in SFY 2024-25.

### Unrestricted Federal Aid

The Executive Financial Plan is greatly dependent upon the receipt of federal aid to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and assumes an estimate of \$6 billion in unrestricted federal aid apportioned evenly across SFYs 2021-22 and 2022-23. Federal receipts in excess of this amount would be utilized to offset reductions assumed in the Executive Budget.

### Budget Reductions

The Executive Budget includes language authorizing the Director of the Division of the Budget to make automatic across-the-board reductions as of August 31, 2021, if the state receives less than \$3 billion in unrestricted Federal aid in the upcoming state fiscal year.

### General Fund Reserves

The Executive Budget estimates the SFY 2021-22 General Fund closing balance at \$5.7 billion, a decrease of \$1.5 billion from the current year.

For further information on the Assembly's review and analysis of the 2021-2022 Executive Budget, please go to <https://nyassembly.gov/Reports/WAM/2021yellow/> or call my district office at 718-457-3615 to request a copy of specific budget items.



# Governor Cuomo Has Also Proposed the



## Increase Coverage and Ensure Insurance Reimbursement for Telehealth

The state will require commercial health insurers and Medicaid, subject to federal approval, to provide coverage for high-value, medically appropriate telehealth services, including by telephone. This will include reimbursement for all mental health and addiction providers and expand coverage for patient monitoring services.

## Eliminate Health Care Premiums for 400,000 Low-Income New Yorkers and Provide Coverage to 100,000 Uninsured New Yorkers

The Executive Budget has proposed to eliminate the monthly premiums for more than 400,000 Essential Plan enrollees, saving families almost \$100 million per year in premiums. This action will waive the \$20 monthly premium for a family of four with an income between \$36,375 to \$48,500 (150-200 percent of the poverty level). This will not only provide much-needed financial support and peace of mind for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, but it is also expected to insure an additional 100,000 individuals who are currently uninsured.



## Continue to Build the New LaGuardia Airport

The historic \$8 billion transformation of LaGuardia Airport has continued to meet every milestone, including the Summer 2020 opening of a new Terminal B Arrivals and Departures Hall and a major portion of the terminal's second new concourse. In 2021, the vast majority of the roadway network will be completed while making significant progress on Delta's new state-of-the-art terminal and concourses on the east side of the airport. When complete, the new LaGuardia will be the first new major airport built in the United States since 1995, will have created 14,000 jobs, and will safely and efficiently serve more than 30 million passengers per year. In addition, upon receipt of a positive record of decision from the federal government, New York State will continue work on the \$2 billion AirTrain LaGuardia.

New York State will continue the \$13 billion plan to transform John F. Kennedy International Airport into a modern 21st century airport.

## Mandate \$15 Per Month Internet High-Speed Service for Low-Income Families, a First-in-the-Nation Guarantee of Affordable Internet for All Low-Income Families

Today, a basic high-speed internet plan, on average, costs more than \$50 per month. The first-in-the-nation legislation requiring internet service providers to offer an affordable \$15 per month high-speed internet plan to any family that would qualify for free or reduced-price lunch or is at 185 percent of the federal poverty line. Internet service providers will need to ensure that these plans have speed and quality equivalent to the basic plan that the provider offers to the general public.

Please visit <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/2020-state-state-address> for further information on Governor Cuomo's State of the State.





# Following Initiatives to the Legislature:



## Allow Property Owners to Convert Office Buildings and Hotels in New York City to Housing

Stimulating housing conversion will create thousands of good-paying jobs, increase housing affordability, and support long-term economic growth by helping New York's employers attract and retain talent.



## Pass a Comprehensive Adult-Use Cannabis Program

A comprehensive plan will create a new Office of Cannabis Management to regulate all cannabis sectors in the state. The proposal will also correct past harms by investing in areas that have disproportionately been impacted by the war on drugs.

## The Healthy Terminals Act

Recently signed into law, this act ensures that airport workers are paid fair wages and have access to benefits, including health care. The measure requires employers at airports to compensate workers at least a \$4.54 benefit supplement that they can use to acquire desperately needed health insurance.



## Job Training

Unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers can access nearly 4,000 online free courses and certificate programs on Coursera. The new course offerings are provided through a partnership between the New York State Department of Labor and Coursera, the world's leading online learning platform. The partnership will save New York millions of dollars over the next couple of years while providing free job skills training to New Yorkers. New Yorkers can request a free account on the New York State Department of Labor website and at <https://www.coursera.org/browse>

## Courses Focus on High-Growth and In-Demand Industries Like Advanced Manufacturing, Tech, and Healthcare

The Department of Labor is working with stakeholders across the state to curate the content catalogue to respond to industry and regional needs, so that job seekers can easily find courses that will make them the most competitive for open positions in New York State. For more information, go to <https://dol.ny.gov/online-learning-coursera>



# COVID-19 Resources



## LaGuardia Airport is now offering FREE COVID-19 testing

Terminal B Garage, Level 1  
7 days a week  
9:00 am – 7:00 pm

For more information, please visit <https://www.laguardiaairport.com/announcements/covid-19-testing> and [www.testandtrace.nyc](https://www.testandtrace.nyc)

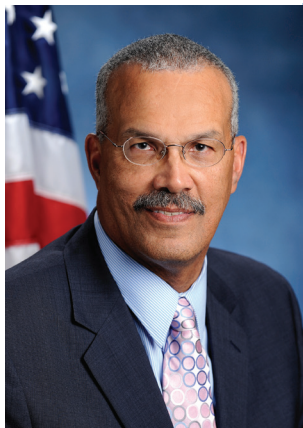
## Citi Field will soon become a 24/7 mega vaccination site

The Citi Field site will be operated by the NYC Health + Hospitals Test and Trace Corps, and will eventually scale up to be able to vaccinate approximately 5,000-7,000 eligible New Yorkers per day. New Yorkers 75 or older and frontline essential workers, such as teachers and education workers, child care staff, first responders, public safety workers, public transit workers, and other frontline essential workers are now eligible to get the free COVID-19 vaccine.

Eligible New Yorkers can reserve their appointment by calling 877-VAX-4NYC or by visiting [nyc.gov/VaccineFinder](https://nyc.gov/VaccineFinder). Eligible New Yorkers who wish to make an appointment over the phone can do so by calling 877-VAX-4NYC between the hours of 8:00 am – 9:00 pm, seven days a week.



New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



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**JEFFRION L. AUBRY**  
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35<sup>th</sup> A.D., Queens County  
Speaker Pro Tempore

*Winter 2021*

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