



The state Capitol in Albany. Photo: Felix Lipov/Shutterstock via City & State New York.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Sabrina Rezy, rezzys@nyassembly.gov
718-940-0428

To the Rescue:
Budget Help On the Way
for

Renters, Parents, Undocumented Workers & Small Businesses!

(Albany, NY) - On Wednesday, **April 7, 2021**, **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn** along with colleagues in the state Assembly passed a **\$212 billion budget**. The budget was passed by the state Senate earlier in the week and has been delivered to the governor.

The budget, which passed by a margin of 88-61, includes a **\$2.1 billion** fund to help undocumented workers who did not qualify for federal stimulus checks or unemployment benefits; **\$2.4 billion** for **child care**; **\$2.3 billion** in federal funds to help **renters**; and **\$1 billion** in grants and tax credits for **small business** recovery.

"This year, with our economy in ruin from the COVID-19 crisis, budget negotiations meant fighting to help New Yorkers stay in their homes, pursue their livelihoods, and access child care and quality education," **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn** stated. "The budget we sent to the Governor achieves those goals. It is a package that meets the moment. In addition, we are providing undocumented immigrants with a \$2.1 billion dollar fund to make up for the shortcomings of the past, federal administrations failures. I proudly voted 'yes' on this budget, which protects the most vulnerable members of our society, and sets Brooklyn on a trajectory to economic recovery for all. I thank **Speaker Carl Heastie** and **Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes**."

- **State Operations Budget Bill** ([S 2500-D / A 3000-D](#))
- **Legislature and Judiciary Budget Bill** ([S 2501-B / A 3001-B](#))
- **Debt Budget Bill** ([S 2502-B / A3002-B](#))
- **Aid to Localities Budget Bill** ([S 2503-C / A3003-C](#))
- **Capital Projects Budget Bill** ([S 2504-D / A3004-D](#))

**New York State Fiscal Year 2020-21 Enacted Budget
Highlights**

Video: Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn in Assembly Chamber speaking on a bill that enacts into law major components of legislation which are necessary to implement the state fiscal plan for the 2021-2022 state fiscal year ([A.3009C](#)).

Excluded Workers Fund



EVERY WORKER WAS AFFECTED BY COVID-19.

The ***Excluded Workers Fund*** helps workers who didn't qualify for any relief funding access the assistance they need to survive. Every worker contributes to our economy and deserves a helping hand in times of crisis.

We are one New York and we care for each and every New Yorker.

- **\$2.1 billion** 'Excluded Worker' Fund that will provide one-time unemployment benefits to undocumented immigrants who lost employment or income during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This will be split into two tiers:
 - **Tier 1:** Excluded Workers can receive **\$15,600** (calculated at \$300 per week for 52 weeks). These workers must show a valid Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), or a letter from an employer, valid pay stubs, W-2, and more.
 - **Tier 2:** Excluded Workers can receive **\$3,200** (the same amount of federal stimulus payments) if they can certify their identity, residency and show alternative proof of work-related eligibility.

Rent Relief and Protections



Rent Relief

- The finalized budget deal creates a **\$2.4 billion Emergency Rental Assistance Program** to provide assistance to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, regardless of immigration status.
- This includes payments for **12 months of back rent** and utilities and **three prospective months of rent**.
- One year of **eviction protection**.

Who is eligible?

A tenant is eligible for the program if the following baseline criteria are met:

- The individual or family pays rent in an apartment, home or mobile home in the state of New York
- They make at or below 80% of the median income for that area, adjusted for household size
- They qualify for unemployment, experienced a reduction in household income or experienced significant costs or financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic
- They are at risk of homelessness or housing instability

Education, Health Care & Small Businesses



The state budget asks millionaires to pay their fair share so we can make better, smarter investments in our future and get help quickly to the people who need it.

Education:

- State aid to school districts will increase to **\$29.5 billion**, a \$3 billion/11% increase from the prior fiscal year.
- **\$1.4 billion** Foundation Aid increase with a commitment to fully fund the state's foundation aid formula over the next three years.
- **\$105 million** expansion of full-day prekindergarten, providing pre-K funding to 210 districts who don't currently receive state-funded full-day Pre-K.

Higher Education:

- Three-year **tuition freeze** for SUNY and CUNY.
- The maximum award under the **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)** will increase by **\$500**.
- Budget commits to eliminating the TAP gap in 4 years by setting up additional recurring operating aid to SUNY and CUNY.
- Restores **\$35 million** in Bundy Aid to support private colleges and universities.
- Also restores **\$72 million** in operating aid cuts to SUNY and CUNY.

Small Business Relief:

- **\$1 billion** will be directed to support small businesses:
 - **\$800 million** for small business grants
 - **\$200 million** in small business tax credits

- **\$35 million** Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit.

Infrastructure and Transportation:

- **\$350 million** in transportation infrastructure investments
 - Includes **\$100 million** increase for CHIPS
 - **\$100 million** in new funding for Extreme Winter Recovery funding
 - **\$50 million** increase for PAVE-NY
 - The finalized deal also creates a new fund the City Touring Routes Program and direct \$1 million for highway and bridge projects.

Environment:

- Authorizes the **\$3 billion** Environmental Bond Act of 2021, "Restore Mother Nature"
- However, the Bond Act will not appear on the ballot until the 2022 general election.

Health Care:

- Restores the **\$415 million** in originally proposed Medicaid cuts
- Delays carveout of the Medicaid prescription drug benefit for two years
- Expands postpartum coverage for women on Medicaid from 60 days to one year.

And More:

- Early Retirement Incentive only applies to NYC employees.
- **\$40 million** for non-profit arts institutions.
- **\$25 million** for the **Nourish NY** program.

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)**, and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education, Banks, Health, and Higher Education**. She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force**.