



NEWS FROM

Speaker of the Assembly **Carl E. Heastie**



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. As always, I want to express my sincere gratitude for years of continued support, engagement, and trust. It has been a true honor to serve as your representative, and as always, I remain committed to working every day on your behalf as well as the entire community.

In working for you, I have had the opportunity to negotiate the 2026-27 State Budget and ensure your needs were at the forefront. I am confident that it will allocate vital resources to the areas that require them most, strengthening the numerous systems that ensure a prosperous future for the entirety of our great state.

In this newsletter, **I am excited to share several important budget wins and initiatives that will continue to make New York a better place** for families, small business owners, and everyone who calls it home. Despite the challenges, we successfully achieved our objectives and made it across the finish line. As the legislative session comes to an end, I again would like to thank you for your helping hand. The progress that has been made in our great state would not be possible without your involvement.

If you have questions or concerns about this year's enacted budget, or if I can be of assistance with any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office. We are here to serve you!

Sincerely,

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
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Preserving Affordability and Putting Money Back into Your Pockets

SFY 2026-27 enacted budget invests directly into the people of New York, putting money back into the pockets of the hardworking people of our state. As the cost of living has skyrocketed, the Assembly Majority worked hard to provide relief. This includes:

Protecting Our Wallets Energy Rebate (POWER)

- Joint filers with incomes below \$150,000 will **receive a check of \$200**;
- Joint filers with incomes between \$150,000 and \$300,000 will **receive a check of \$150**; and
- Single filers with incomes below \$150,000 will **receive a check of \$100**.

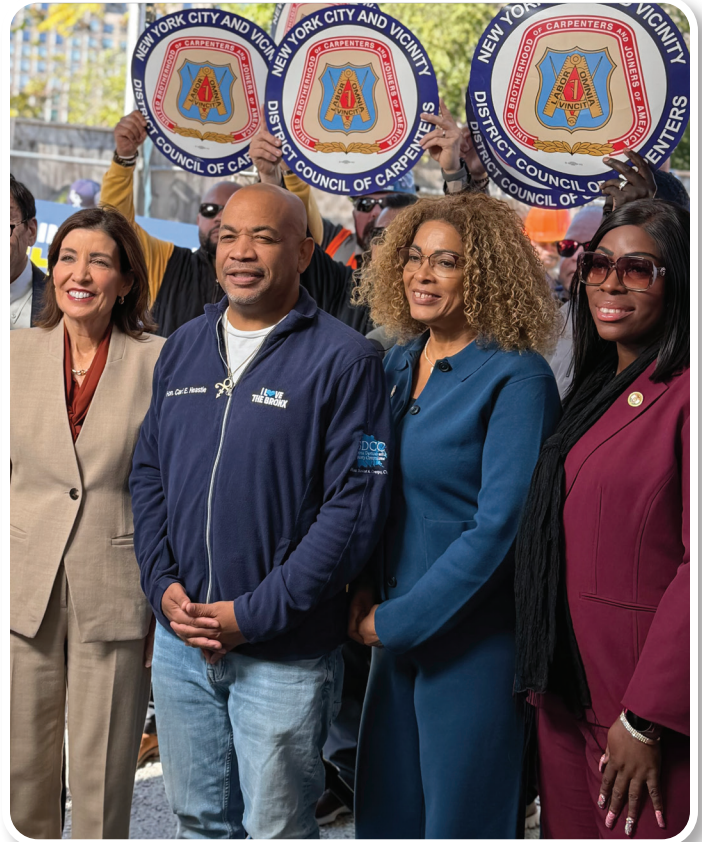
The checks will be available to full-time residents of New York and are based on 2024 tax return information.

Child and Dependent Care Credit

- This year's budget enhances the Child and Dependent Care Credit by making it its own standalone credit. **This will provide \$65 million in tax relief for New York families.**

Other Savings

- The budget will also **eliminate income taxes on certain tipped wages** up to \$25,000. This will provide more than **\$60 million** in tax relief for New Yorkers.



Educating our Children and Making Childcare Affordable

Investing in our children is a direct investment in their future, the future of their families, and the progress of New York State. This year's spending plan focused on making critical investments that will assist in establishing beneficial programming that will make childcare more accessible to families as well as expanded past programs. This includes:

- **\$39 billion in school aid**, a \$1.7 billion increase from School Year (SY) 2025-26
- **\$27.4 billion for Foundation Aid**, a \$1 billion increase over SY 2025-26.
- **An expansion of the current Universal Pre-K (UPK)** to support full-day instruction for 4-year-old children across the state by Fall 2028.
- **Funding for an increased number** of 3-year-old children in prekindergarten in New York City.
- **\$116 million** for after-school programs.
- **\$3 billion in childcare subsidies** to help New York families.
- **\$73 million to begin 2-Care** (childcare for 2-year-olds) in New York City.
- **\$50 million** for Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP), a rental assistance program that will help provide individuals and families facing, or at risk of facing, housing insecurities a road to secure permanent housing, assisting to transition out of shelters or unsustainable housing situations.

To expand housing opportunities, the budget includes:

- **\$250 million** for affordable housing development and preservation;
- **\$100 million** for the construction of modular and starter homes;
- **\$40 million** for land banks, in addition to \$10 million in operating support;
- **\$40 million** for vacant apartment repairs outside of New York City;
- **\$30 million** for infill housing;
- **\$10 million** for USDA 515 housing preservation
- **\$10 million** for the Small Rental Development Initiative;
- **\$5 million** for Access to Home;
- **\$4 million** for the Housing Opportunities Program for the Elderly, which includes the RESTORE program; and
- **\$3 million** for the Green Affordable Pre-Electrification Program (GAP).

Making Housing Affordable

Critical investments have been made into affordable housing across New York State. SFY 2026-27 budget includes:

- **\$85 million** in capital funding for Mitchell-Lamas (affordable rental cooperative housing)
- **\$140 million** in capital funding for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Keeping New Yorkers Safe

During this year's negotiations, the safety of the state's communities was paramount, while also prioritizing the needs of New Yorkers.

Tackling Gun Violence

Ghost guns and those produced by 3-D printers pose a serious threat to public safety and continue to fuel violence in our communities. The budget **expands criminal penalties related to ghost guns, bans the sale of convertible pistols, and cracks down on untraceable firearms** produced using 3-D printing technology. It also prohibits the sale and distribution of digital instructions used to build these weapons. In addition, the budget establishes a working group to study the feasibility of blocking technology for 3-D printers and, if such technology is feasible, prohibits the sale of 3-D printers that do not include those safeguards.



Making our Subways Safer

The state budget includes an additional **\$77 million to support the deployment of NYPD officers throughout the subway system**, helping improve safety for riders. The budget also expands the Subway Co-Response Outreach Teams (SCOUT) initiative, allowing teams to reach more locations and respond quicker to individuals experiencing acute distress.

Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers

At a time when immigrant communities are facing fear and uncertainty, New York is standing up to protect the safety and rights of all residents. The enacted budget includes measures to prohibit local government collaboration for federal civil immigration violations, end agreements that deputize law enforcement as immigration officers, establish protections for sensitive locations and ensure continued access to education for children.

Investing in our Future: Environment

Environmental Protections

SFY 26-27 continues to make critical investments into the preservation of the environment, allocating **\$450 million for the Environmental Protection Fund and \$1 billion for the Sustainable Future Program**, which will fund projects across the state to reduce emissions and invest in sustainable infrastructure, particularly in disadvantaged communities, which have historically been negatively impacted by environmental pollution.



Speaker Heastie Provides Essential Investments into Healthcare and Food Assistance

Healthcare services and food assistance are crucial in our communities as they ensure access to quality medical care and nutritional meals while enhancing the overall well-being of families. The enacted budget makes critical investments into both to continue to prevent and manage disease, put food on the table and improve quality of life for individuals and families.

SFY 26-27 investment includes:

- **\$1.5 billion** in new Medicaid funding;
- **\$706 million** in funding for hospitals statewide;
- **\$480 million** for nursing homes;
- **\$80 million** for Federally Qualified Health Centers;
- **\$72.8 million** for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance program;
- **\$55 million** for Nourish NY; and
- **\$8.7 million** for NYS's network of community-based navigators, a program to assist in the certification of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

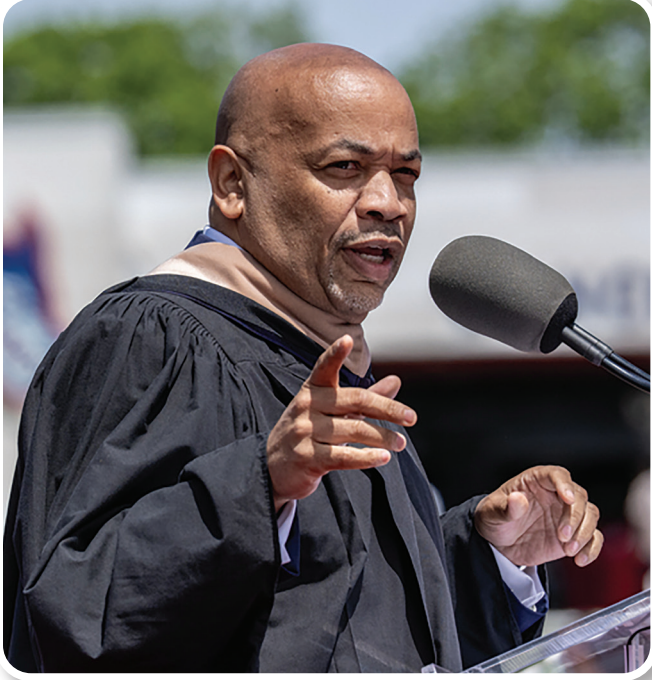
Protecting Access to Vaccines

As federal vaccine guidance becomes increasingly politicized and less rooted in science, it creates uncertainty for schools, healthcare providers and families while putting public health at risk. To protect New Yorkers and keep healthcare costs down, **the budget includes provisions allowing the state to set its own immunization standards** based on accepted medical science and public health needs.



Ensuring Quality Higher Education is Within Reach

Both SUNY and CUNY institutions remain pillars in our communities, offering accessible education to students and families, meeting their needs without compromising its quality. To ensure this remains true for generations to come, the enacted budget includes investments that will continue to put our families first. The SFY 26-27 spending plan will empower young people and give them the ability to not only achieve, but to attain their goals. Speaker Heastie **secured a budget that provides \$15.1 billion for State University of New York (SUNY), and \$6.7 billion for City University of New York (CUNY).**



Opportunity Programs

- **\$55.7 million** for the Educational Opportunity Program;
- **\$50.5 million** for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP);
- **\$39.9 million** for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK) program;
- **\$26.1 million** for the Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP);
- **\$17 million** for CSTEP; and
- **\$8.5 million** for Foster Youth Initiative.

“Accessible world-class higher education at SUNY and CUNY institutions gives students and families the opportunity to grow, succeed, and receive the great education they deserve.”

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248

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NEWS FROM

Speaker
Carl E. Heastie

“While the state budget has been enacted and the legislative session has come to a close, our work does not stop here. As we move forward, I will continue fighting to make New York safer, more affordable and a better place for every family to call home.”

– Speaker Carl E. Heastie

