



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015-16 BUDGET AGREEMENT FOR UPSTATE NEW YORK COMMUNITIES

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today highlighted the major investments for Upstate New York included in the 2015-16 Budget Agreement:

“With this budget, we are making the single largest investment in Upstate New York in a generation,” Governor Cuomo said. “From creating jobs and strengthening our infrastructure to investing in farms, hospitals and broadband access, this budget is paving the way toward a new economic vitality in Upstate. It’s all part of how we’re turning around the decades of neglect that the region used to experience from Albany, and we will continue building the region back better than ever.”

Launch a \$1.5 Billion Upstate Revitalization Initiative

The agreement includes the Governor’s proposed Upstate Revitalization Initiative. This competition will replicate the successful Buffalo Billion initiative to help further Upstate New York’s economic recovery. Seven regions are eligible to compete for one of three \$500 million upstate revitalization funds: Mid-Hudson, Capital Region, Mohawk Valley, Central New York, North Country, Southern Tier and Finger Lakes. Projects exhibiting region-wide impact will be made a priority and should focus on strengthening critical infrastructure, revitalizing communities, bolstering workforce development, growing tourism, and improving quality of life.

Ensure Statewide High-Speed Broadband Access by the End of 2018

Governor Cuomo set an ambitious goal to ensure every New Yorker has access to high-speed broadband service by the end of 2018. In order to accomplish this, the Budget includes \$500 million to launch a statewide broadband program that leverages at least an additional \$500 million in private resources to create the New NY Broadband Program. The program will incentivize private sector providers to expand high-speed broadband access in underserved and unserved communities. This is the largest and most ambitious state investment in universal broadband deployment in the country.

Support for Capital Projects for Health Care Systems

\$400 million is reserved to support debt restructuring and other capital projects for health care systems in rural communities to facilitate health care transformation. Upstate health care systems are critical service providers and some of the largest regional employers. However, financial challenges exist for smaller, community-based and geographically isolated systems that could prevent their participation in critical state reform efforts.

\$65 Million in Ports & Rail Hub Infrastructure

The Budget includes \$65 million for transformative infrastructure projects. Funding will support a statewide initiative to finance large-scale, complex infrastructure projects across the State and mobilize innovative project delivery methods, including design-build and public private partnerships. The state will provide resources as follows:

- \$40 million for the **Port of Oswego** to link with the Port of New York and create additional intermodal rail yards in **Syracuse** and **Binghamton**. Such improvements will reduce truck traffic on downstate highways, increase existing export activity, build small and medium sized enterprise export capacity in upstate, and expand efforts of regional service providers.
- \$15 million for the **Port of Albany** for enhancements to ensure Upstate New York is ready to handle the projected increase in volume of containerized cargo resulting from the Panama Canal expansion of 2016. The State's investments will support improvements to the Port's southern dock to expand shipping capacity and serve grain operations.
- \$10 million for the **Port of Ogdensburg** for improvements to the port's facilities and equipment, including harbor deepening to accommodate larger ships and expanded grain and salt storage.

\$50 Million to Transform State Fairgrounds

The Budget includes \$50 million in Capital Projects moneys for the State Fairgrounds. It has been over one hundred years since the New York State Fair embarked on a transformative capital project. It was 1909 when the first of the major buildings were completed as a part of this development. This year we lay the groundwork for the next century of a new, dynamic State Fair, one that will support the economy of Central New York, showcase New York food and agriculture and revitalize Onondaga County in an unprecedented way. Through this \$50 million investment the New York State Fairgrounds will be transformed into a premier multi-use facility by enhancing the fairgrounds' infrastructure and buildings as well as the surrounding community to create a world-class entertainment and tourism destination, making this the greatest State Fair in the Country and providing enhanced economic activity for decades to come.

\$50 million to Expand & Protect Agriculture in the Southern Tier & Hudson Valley

The Budget includes \$50 million for the Governor's proposed Southern Tier and Hudson Valley Farm Initiatives. These will support farms in the region by helping landowners maintain and protect farmland, as well as develop and grow farm, agricultural and related businesses.

Student Loan Relief

The Budget includes student loan support that is designed to help eligible New York State residents who graduate from college and continue to live in the state to pay nothing on their

student loans for the first two years out of school. For graduates earning less than \$50,000 per year, the Get on Your Feet program will supplement the federal Pay As You Earn (PAYE) income-based loan repayment program. The amount a participant will benefit is based on the amount owed and their adjusted gross income. The program is estimated to assist 7,100 graduates in its first year and more than 24,000 participants annually by 2019-20.

Anti-Poverty Initiatives for Rochester, Syracuse, Binghamton

The Governor's Opportunity Agenda included the creation of the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative to combat poverty. In partnership with the Rochester Anti-Poverty Task Force made up of State agencies and other government representatives, the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative works to better coordinate existing resources, create integrated services, utilize data and information technology, develop more flexible funding arrangements, and evaluate services based on outcomes. The Budget expands this initiative to Syracuse and Binghamton/Broome County and includes \$725,000 in support.

Increase investment in the Environmental Protection Fund

The enacted budget raises the Environmental Protection Fund to \$177 million dollars, an increase of 32 percent since Governor Cuomo took office. The \$15 million increase will support increases in fourteen categories, including land conservation, stewardship, and invasive species control and prevention. The increase includes a new sub-allocation for capacity grants to State Parks friends' groups.

Support for Fort Drum

Fort Drum is one of New York's treasures and an institutional anchor for its region. More than 50,000 North Country residents rely on this base for economic stability. To ensure Fort Drum remains a strong fixture in New York and a worthy home of the 10th Mountain Division, the Budget includes \$1.5 million to purchase land for training and \$25 million for improvements along Route 26.

Brownfields Reform and State Superfund

The Budget extends the Brownfields Cleanup Program for ten years, and includes important reforms to protect taxpayers and promote brownfield redevelopment, particularly Upstate. The Budget also includes a new \$100 million appropriation and extends the State Superfund cleanup program for 10 years, which has been instrumental in identifying, investigating and cleaning up hazardous waste sites throughout the State.

Enhance Oil Spill Preparedness

In response to the increased volume of crude oil being transported through New York State, the Budget provides funding for additional staff dedicated to oil spill planning, training and response, consistent with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 125, which outlines steps the State is taking to improve oil spill response and prevention. The Budget also provides the necessary funding for planning and preparedness costs and ensures the solvency of the Oil Spill Fund by increasing fees for oil transported through New York.

Launch another \$110 million round of NYSUNY2020 and NYCUNY2020

SUNY2020 and CUNY2020 are challenge grant programs designed to simultaneously strengthen

academic programs at the State's public colleges and universities while spurring economic growth at specific campuses and in nearby communities. The programs provide incentive for capital development on and around SUNY and CUNY campuses. The Budget includes \$110 million to continue these programs.

Continue the Progress of the Regional Economic Development Councils

To continue the progress of the Regional Economic Development Councils (REDC), the Budget includes \$150 million to fund regional priority projects and \$70 million in State tax credits for a fifth round of the REDC awards. Since 2011, the REDCs have awarded over \$2.9 billion in State funding through a competitive process to spur job creation based on regional priorities. This new strategy has resulted in 150,000 new or retained jobs in New York.

Strengthen Roads & Bridges Statewide

The Budget includes \$750 million for significant repairs and maintenance efforts on the state's network of roads and bridges, ultimately enhancing the strength and resiliency of road infrastructure statewide.

Local Capital Aid for Extreme Winter Recovery

The Budget includes an additional \$50 million of capital to help municipalities repair and rehabilitate local roads and bridges impacted by the extreme winter.

Upstate Transit Aid Increase

Upstate transit systems will receive an extra \$25 million this year, \$10 million in operating and \$15 million in new capital spending. This funding will help address the rising cost of operations and alleviate increases in fares and cuts in services

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