



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2024-25 budget has been adopted. We reached an agreement with highpoints such as investments for higher education and tuition assistance, the Clean Water Infrastructure Act, Sammy's Law to reduce speeds on NYC Streets, and shutting down unlicensed cannabis retailers. It continues our commitment to a quality education for our kids by increasing funding to schools and makes college a tangible reality for more students by increasing eligibility for essential TAP assistance. New York will also become the first state in the nation to offer paid leave for expecting mothers so they can receive the prenatal care that's so essential to the health of both them and their child. And we're making record investments in mental health and anti-gun violence programs to keep our communities safe.

Please join us for any of the upcoming events our office is pleased to sponsor:

**No-Cost Thursday Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

**Giveaway:** Thursday, May 2, from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the Office of Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets).

**No-Cost Community Shredding Event:** Tuesday, May 7 from 9:00am-12:00pm. A shredding truck will park on York Avenue and 79 Street. No notebooks, bindings or x-rays.

**Crime Prevention Seminar:** Wednesday, May 8 at 7pm at the 19th Precinct Station House, 153 East 67 Street (Lexington/Third Avenues).

**Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony:** Thursday, May 30 at 6:30pm at the Zuckerman Auditorium, MSK Cancer Center, 417 East 68 Street (First/York Avenues).

More information on upcoming events, my work in Albany, and our community is enclosed in this report. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

*Sincerely,*



**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

## **New York State Budget Highlights**



### **\$2 Million Secured by Seawright for the Simon Wiesenthal Center Mobile Museum of Tolerance**

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright authored a letter of support for the Simon Wiesenthal Mobile Museum of Tolerance (MMOT) with over 40 of her colleagues signing in favor of the inclusion of \$2 Million in the budget. The MMOT provides context for the historical issues of genocide and racism, to contemporary issues of diversity and bullying. It will deliver a message of tolerance, hope, and empowerment to communities of all sizes and types across NYS that lack access to these messages of respect, justice, and human rights. This project will increase the Center's long-standing ability to bring diverse communities together.



### **Supporting People with Disabilities**

The budget sets a 1.7 percent salary increase on top of a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) proposed by the executive for support staff, clinical staff and non-executive administrative staff for Human Services agencies. This includes the Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Addiction Service and Supports (OASAS), Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), State Office for the Aging and foster care providers and adoptive parents.

### **Seawright Advocates and Achieves \$30 million in capital funding for 4201 Schools for the Blind and Deaf**

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright garnered support from her colleagues for the inclusion of \$30 million in capital funding for Schools for the deaf, blind, and severely physically disabled.

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### **Local Journalism**

The budget provides a much-needed investment in local journalism by providing \$30 million in tax credits each year, over three years, to support the salaries of local journalists. Publishers may use the \$30 million in tax credits each year over the next three years to cover half of the salaries of journalists up to \$50,000 each year. The credit can apply to current staff, but also provides an additional \$5,000 to companies for each new employee hired to support local papers in expanding their newsroom.

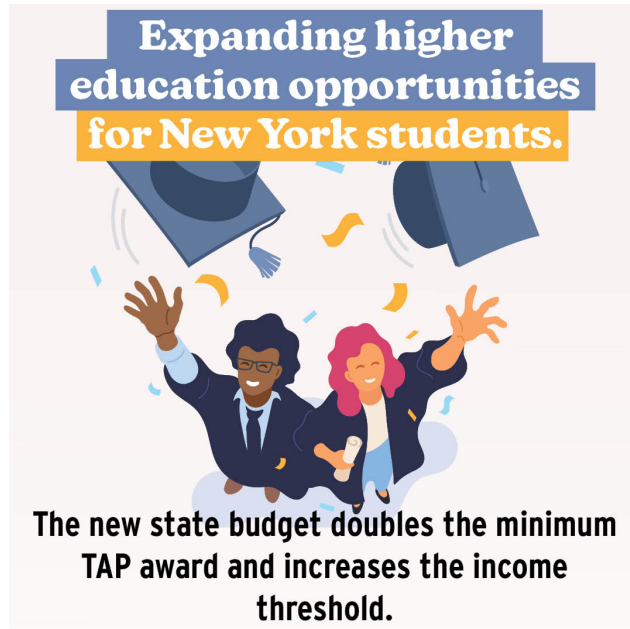
### **Tenant and Homeowner Protections**

The Assembly Majority has a long history of fighting for tenant protections and has included in this plan new tenant protections to prohibit the removal of a tenant from a housing accommodation by eviction or refusal to renew a lease without good cause within New York City and by local option in the rest of the state. Established good cause includes nonpayment of rent, illegal activities, recovery for personal use, and nuisance. Additionally, a tenant can claim an unreasonable rent increase as a defense during a non-payment eviction proceeding if the rent increase exceeds the lower of five percent plus the change in the consumer price index or 10 percent.

### **Closing Unlicensed Cannabis Stores**

The budget includes provisions to cut down on unlicensed cannabis sales by allowing the Office of Cannabis Management to padlock illegal cannabis businesses. Egregious actors would be padlocked immediately.

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### **Expanding High Education Opportunities**

The budget makes a \$20.7 billion investment in higher education with \$1.3 billion to the State University of New York (SUNY), \$858 million to the City University of New York (CUNY) and an additional \$3 million over last year for opportunity programs. The plan also raises the minimum TAP award from \$500 to \$1,000 and expands part-time TAP to proprietary college students.

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# Supporting our children's future

The new state budget strengthens New York's education system by:


- ✓ Providing a **\$1.3 billion** increase in school aid
- ✓ Increasing Foundation Aid by **\$934.5 million**
- ✓ Ensuring that **no school district receives a reduction** in Foundation Aid
- ✓ Taking on a study to evaluate the Foundation Aid formula to ensure all **schools are fairly funded**



## Increasing School Aid and Foundation Aid

The budget funds our classrooms with \$35.9 billion in funding to the General Support for Public Schools (GSPS). It also reinstates the “Hold Harmless” provision within Foundation Aid, which keeps school districts from receiving a cut in Foundation Aid and instead provides \$24.9 billion in Foundation Aid, a \$934.5 million increase over the 2023-24 School Year (SY).

# SUNY Downstate saved!

A photograph of the SUNY Downstate Medical Center building, a large multi-story structure with a prominent cylindrical tower. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are bare trees and a street sign for "Lemo Rd".

The new state budget **sends the hospital needed funding**, creates an advisory board to produce a **long-term viability plan** and ensures SUNY Downstate stays open until at least April 2025.

## Investing in the health facilities of the future

The budget provides \$800 million for financially distressed hospitals and secures up to \$400 million to keep SUNY's Downstate Medical Center operating through at least April 1, 2025. Further, it establishes a 9-member advisory board, appointed by state and local leaders, that would set long-term plans for the hospital.

## Healthcare and abortion access

The budget:

- Eliminates cost-sharing for covered prescription insulin drugs in state-regulated insurance plans
  - Codifies the Reproductive Freedom and Equity grant program to provide funding for abortion care providers and non-profit organizations for those who require assistance accessing abortion care
  - Expands the Hospital Financial Assistance Law, which provides assistance to those who are unable to fully pay co-pays and deductible amounts
-

# **Making our streets safer**

**Sammy's Law** is included in the new state budget allowing NYC to **lower speed limits** and **protect pedestrians**



The budget includes “**Sammy’s Law**” to reduce the maximum citywide speed limit and the maximum speed limit on streets with traffic calming measures that New York City may set. Amends the law that the citywide speed limit in New York City cannot be lower than 25 mph and the speed limit on streets with traffic calming measures cannot be lower than 15 mph by reducing the lowest maximum citywide speed limit that New York City can set to 20 mph upon enactment of a local law, and to 10 mph on streets with traffic calming measures. The law is named after Samuel Cohen Eckstein, a 12-year-old Brooklyn boy who was killed by a driver in 2013.

## **Transportation Funding**

The budget provides \$16.3 million for MTA service enhancements and discounts, including frequency enhancements on seven express routes traveling from the outer boroughs into Manhattan, frequency improvements and extended operating hours on 13 local routes spanning all five boroughs, and an additional 10 percent discount on monthly LIRR and MNR passes for trips within New York City.



# HATE HAS NO HOME IN NEW YORK.

## The new state budget:

- ✓ Provides **\$35 million** for the safety of organizations at risk of hate crimes
- ✓ **Expands the list of crimes** that can be prosecuted as hate crimes

### The budget:

- Provides \$35 million for the safety of organizations at risk of hate crimes
- Includes \$30 million for organizations that benefit the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community
- Adds offenses to the hate crime statute and directs the Chief Administrator of the Courts to record whether a hate crime was charged in the reporting materials they publish
- Amends aggravated harassment in the second degree to a class A misdemeanor. This includes striking, shoving, kicking, or other physical contact with employees of a transit agency or authority while such individual is performing an assigned duty

**Cracking  
Down On  
Retail Theft.**

**OPEN**  
Welcome

*The new state budget helps businesses pay for increased security and increases penalties for assaulting retail workers.*

### The budget:

- Creates a new crime of assault on a retail worker as a Class E Felony
- Creates a new crime of fostering the sale of stolen goods as a class A



Misdemeanor

- Amends the larceny statute to allow for aggregation of the value of retail property stolen pursuant to a common scheme or plan and exempts application of the persistent felony offender status from applying to these offenses
- Provides \$25.2 million in new funding to deploy a dedicated State Police team to build cases against organized retail theft rings and create a new State Police enforcement unit
- Allocates \$10 million in additional funding for district attorneys to prosecute property crime cases and \$5 million in additional funding to build the capacity of local law enforcement efforts to combat retail theft
- The budget implements a \$3,000 tax credit for small businesses investing in retail theft prevention. Businesses with 25 or fewer employees would qualify for the credit if their retail theft prevention expenses exceeded \$4,000 and businesses with between 26 and 50 employees would qualify if their expenses exceed \$6,000.

## Keeping community resources accessible

The new state budget provides **\$103.9 million** to help fund our libraries, an increase of **\$1.7 million** over the executive proposal.



### Supporting libraries and museums as vital community and cultural spaces

The budget:

- Provides \$103.9 million in aid to public libraries, an increase of \$1.7 million over the executive proposal
- Includes \$44 million in library capital
- Provides \$10 million for the New York State Museum
- Provides \$10 million for the Museum of Natural History

The new state budget establishes the **Empire AI Consortium** to position New York as a leader in this emerging technology.

### Empire AI Consortium

The budget establishes an Empire AI Consortium as a not-for-profit corporation and requires project labor agreement for any construction done for Empire AI Consortium.

The new state budget provides **\$8 million** for mental health courts to combat crime caused by mental illness.



### Helping address the growing mental health crisis

The budget:

- Increases funding for the Human Services Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to provide a 1.7% targeted salary increase for support staff, direct care staff, clinical staff and non-executive administrative staff for a total of \$244.4 million
- Provides \$66.3 million for the Office of Mental Health (OMH) for COLAs
- Provides \$31.1 million for various investments addressing individuals with mental illnesses involved in the criminal justice system

## *Supporting mothers and babies*

The new state budget offers paid leave to expecting mothers, requires employers to provide time for nursing mothers to express milk and increases access to care for postpartum depression.



### **Supporting mothers and babies**

This year's budget builds on previous year's historic investments in child care in our state, making child care more accessible to New Yorkers by requiring the new Family Child Care Networks (FCCN) Pilot Programs to make provider recruitment and expansion in childcare deserts a priority. It also includes \$13 million to require local social services districts to establish differential payment rates for child care services at 10 percent higher than the actual cost of care or the market rate, whichever is less, when care is provided during non-traditional hours for children experiencing homelessness; \$6.5 million for United Way of Greater New York; and \$1 million in additional funding for Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultants. It also provides \$280 million for the recruitment and retention of child care providers.

The Assembly Majority is committed to putting New York families first, and in the Enacted SFY 2024-25 Budget has included provisions that would help give New Yorkers necessary resources through pregnancy and their return to work. The spending plan would require private employers to provide employees with 20 hours of paid prenatal personal leave. It would also require both public and private employers to provide employees with 30 minutes of paid break time for breast milk expression. Additionally, the budget includes \$1.5 million for National Diaper Banks and \$2 million for cribs for low income families.

## **Protecting our environment, enhancing our communities.**

The new state budget provides **\$500 million** for clean water infrastructure and **\$400 million** for the Environmental Protection Fund.





## Protecting our environment

The budget provides \$2.5 billion in funding for the environment, including \$400 million for the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and \$500 Million for Water Infrastructure.

## Consider Our Office A Resource

### HEAP Application for Cooling Benefit Open

**The hot  
weather  
is coming  
soon!**

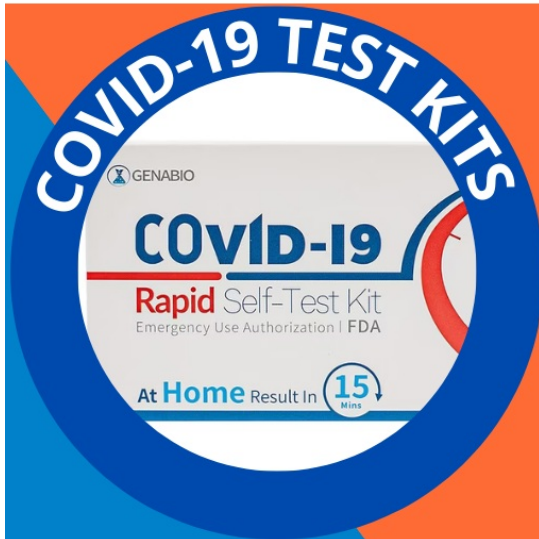
**Stay cool** with  
the HEAP cooling  
assistance benefit.

Did you know New York's Cooling Assistance benefit can help you with the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or a fan? The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. If you are eligible, you may receive one Cooling Assistance benefit per applicant household for the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or a fan to help your home stay cool.

Before the summer months kick into high gear, check to see if you're eligible. Applications are now open! Learn more at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>

**Rebecca  
Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

**NO-COST  
THURSDAY  
PPE  
GIVEAWAY**



**12:00PM-2:00PM**

**COMMUNITY OFFICE  
1485 YORK AVENUE  
(78/79 STREETS)**

**212-288-4607**

**SEAWRIGHTR  
@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

**Upcoming Events**

# Celebrate International Jazz Day

**with a Free Jazz Concert**

**Saturday, April 27th  
2:00PM-5:00PM**

**Rain date: May 4th**

**Roosevelt Island Library Plaza**



International Jazz Day



Roosevelt Island  
Operating Corporation



New York  
Public  
Library





Please join NYC Health + Hospitals/Coler for a community visioning workshop to discuss the design and construction of a new perimeter hazard mitigation system at its long-term care facility. This project will address potential flooding vulnerabilities to protect the skilled nursing facility campus from major storm events.

The project team wants your thoughts and ideas for the public space around NYC Health + Hospitals/Coler. Your participation in this workshop will help develop a public space that benefits everyone.



Thursday, May 2, 2024



Open House from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm



Chapel of the Good Shepherd  
543 Main St, New York, NY 10044



### Can't make it in-person?

Share your vision and preferences with the project team through our online project input survey. Please access the survey at [colercoastalresiliency.com/survey](https://colercoastalresiliency.com/survey) or by scanning this QR code.



- ▶ Questions and comments can be sent to the project team at [colercoastalresiliency@gmail.com](mailto:colercoastalresiliency@gmail.com).
- ▶ Learn more about the project at [ColerCoastalResiliency.com](https://ColerCoastalResiliency.com).



**Rebecca**  
**Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER



# NO-COST COMMUNITY SHREDDING

2024 UPCOMING DATES:

**TUESDAY, MAY 7 - YORK AVE & 79TH ST**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18 - FIRST AVE & 67TH ST**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 - ROOSEVELT ISLAND**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 - YORK AVE & 91ST ST**

**9AM TO 12PM**

**NO NOTEBOOKS, BINDINGS, OR X-RAYS**

**OFFICE OF NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**  
**1485 YORK AVENUE**  
**212-288-4607**  
**SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

**Rebecca  
Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER



# CRIME PREVENTION SEMINAR

**CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS FROM THE  
LOCAL NYPD 19TH PRECINCT**



**NYPD 19Pct**  
New York City Police Department

**WEDNESDAY MAY 8  
7:00 PM  
19TH PRECINCT  
153 EAST 67TH STREET**

**RSVP: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV  
212-288-4607**





**SATURDAYS**

April 27, 1-4 pm - Gene Casey and the Lone Sharks

May 11, 1-4pm - French Cookin' Blues Band

June 11, 1-4 pm - Special Guest Band

**FREE  
ICE CREAM**

# Esplanade Friends Spring 2024 Concerts!

Live Music






Kids Activities by Craft Studio



SPONSORED BY


**FRIENDS  
OF THE  
EAST  
RIVER  
ESPLANADE**

**60th Street &  
The East River  
Esplanade  
at the  
Waterfront**  
*Rain Date: June 10*

-  [EsplanadeFriends.org](https://EsplanadeFriends.org)
-  [EastRiverEsplanade@gmail.com](mailto:EastRiverEsplanade@gmail.com)
-  [/EsplanadeFriends](https://www.facebook.com/EsplanadeFriends)
-  [@EsplanadeFriend](https://www.instagram.com/EsplanadeFriend)

DONATIONS



 SCAN ME

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright

# 2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

Together, let's celebrate **Women's History Month** by recognizing the extraordinary women who are making our communities stronger.

## Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony

**Thursday**  
**May 30 at 6:30 PM**  
Zuckerman Auditorium  
MSK Cancer Center  
417 E 68 Street  
*Between 1st and York*



**Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright**  
1485 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10075  
212-288-4607 • seawright@nyassembly.gov



For more information about this or any other community issue,  
contact **Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright** at 212-288-4607  
or [seawright@nyassembly.gov](mailto:seawright@nyassembly.gov).

# OUTDOOR ART SHOW

Submission  
deadline  
MAY 17

# open call for NYC ARTISTS



## SHOW DATE

June 22, 2024

Rain date: June 23, 2024

**Location:** James Cagney Place;  
(E. 91st St. between 2nd & 3rd Aves.)

Submit a photo of paintings, photography, or sculptures by **May 17** to [info@cb8m.com](mailto:info@cb8m.com) using “Art Show Submission” in the subject line.

No drop-ins at the show!



**Sponsored by Community Board 8 Manhattan**

 [www.cb8m.com](http://www.cb8m.com)

 [@CB8M](https://twitter.com/CB8M)

  [@CB8Manhattan](https://www.instagram.com/CB8Manhattan)





## Manhattan Community Board 8 Calendar

The Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8M) represents the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. CB8M is comprised of 50 volunteer members who serve as advocates and service coordinators for the community and its residents, as well as help citizens resolve municipal service delivery complaints.

CB8M reviews and makes recommendations on various issues, including applications for Zoning Text Amendments, building variances and special permits, liquor licenses, sidewalk cafes and street fairs, changes to landmarked buildings or buildings in historic districts, traffic and transportation issues, and more.

Each month, CB8M committees meet to discuss and resolve issues in the community.

Full Board Meeting - 3rd Wednesday  
Land Use Committee - 2nd Wednesday  
Street Life - 1st Tuesday  
Transportation - 1st Wednesday  
Housing - 1st Thursday  
Parks - 2nd Thursday  
Landmarks - 3rd Monday  
Social Justice - 4th Monday  
Zoning and Development - 4th Tuesday  
Youth and Education - 4th Thursday

[Read More](#)

## In Case You Missed It: Past Editions Of Our Community Update

[Community Update: April 19, 2024](#)

[Community Update: April 12, 2024](#)

[Community Update: April 5, 2024](#)

[Community Update: March 29, 2024](#)



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