

Assemblyman
JEFFRION L. AUBRY
Reports to the People

**35TH A.D. • QUEENS COUNTY
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**



2013-14 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET...AN OVERVIEW

Dear Constituent,

I am pleased to report on the New York State Budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The budget, which was passed last month, totals \$141.3 billion and closes a \$1.4 billion budget gap. Budget negotiations extended longer than anticipated, however, for the third consecutive year, the legislature has adopted an on-time state budget, which provides a balanced spending plan that delivers for hardworking New Yorkers.

This year's budget addresses fundamental issues facing our families, including the Assembly Majority's longtime commitment to increasing the state's minimum wage to \$9.00 incrementally by 2016. You will also note that the budget preserves tax relief for middle-income citizens and families and provides tax incentives to small businesses and businesses that employ inner city youth and returning veterans. By stimulating job creation and bringing tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, we are ushering in a stronger, more successful economic recovery throughout New York.

In an effort to ensure a brighter future for our youth, the 2013-14 budget provides NYC schools with the necessary funding for our children to receive a quality education. We have allocated \$8.28 billion to New York City schools, \$25 million for full-day pre-K programs and additional half-day pre-K slots, increased support to higher education and a \$4 million increase in aid for our State's libraries, bringing the total NYS library funding to \$86.9 million.

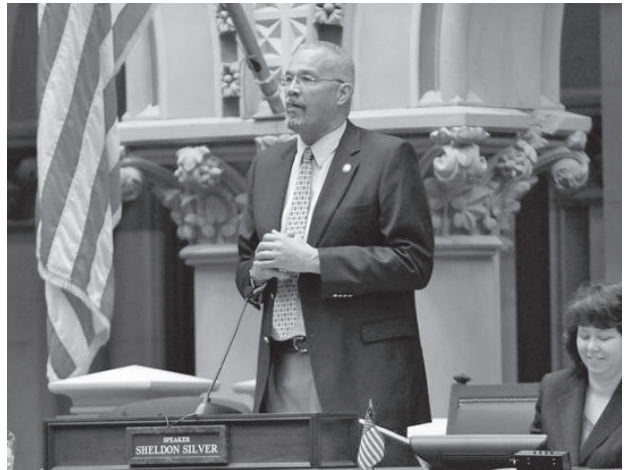
Additionally, although it has been six months since Hurricane Sandy devastated our shores, many parts of our city still remain in complete disarray; in an effort to assist in the rebuilding process, the budget includes federal funding for Superstorm Sandy cleanup. Furthermore, to maintain our commitment of providing quality and affordable health care to all New Yorkers, federal funding has also been allocated for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

While there are many positive elements to this year's budget, the news of indiscretions by members of the legislature has dominated the airwaves. I am compelled to apologize to you, the citizens of the 35th Assembly District and State of New York. The individuals who have been accused are now facing the criminal justice system. That process will determine their guilt or innocence and ultimately their punishment. Nothing about that process will restore the lost confidence which has spread across the state. While we await these outcomes, my responsibility is to proceed with the honest business of government, protecting our families, our children, and those in need.

Thank you for your patience and your continued support. I look forward to seeing all the benefits of this budget for our district and state throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry
Speaker Pro Tempore
35th AD, Queens County



Assemblyman Aubry introduces and extends the courtesies of the house to visitors in the Assembly Chamber.

**2013-14 STATE BUDGET
INCREASES SCHOOL AID BY
\$936.6 MILLION
OVER LAST YEAR**

■ **KEEPING THE PROMISE:
INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN'S
EDUCATIONAL FUTURE**

As long-time supporters of education, the Assembly majority understands that the community is only as strong as its schools. The 2013-14 state budget increases school aid by \$436 million over the Executive's budget proposal, or a \$936.6 million increase over last year. The spending plan also increases community college base aid by \$150 per full time student for the second year in a row. By increasing school aid, we will be able to provide our children and young adults with a quality education, hold property taxes in check, and keep the dream of a college degree alive for more working families.

The Assembly also realizes that giving our children an earlier start to education better prepares them for the future; this year's budget also includes \$25 million for full-day and half-day pre-kindergarten grants. This new investment will allow for more full-day pre-K programs across the state and additional half-day pre-K slots.

■ **2013-14 BUDGET MAKES
MAJOR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION WITH
\$363.9 MILLION INCREASE FOR NYC SCHOOLS**

The 2013-14 budget ensures that our children won't be punished in future years for events out of their control. Our children's education should not suffer because Mayor Bloomberg's teacher evaluation

Continued on next page



Assemblyman Aubry along with other Assembly colleagues meet with York College students and representatives to discuss their school's issues and concerns.

2013-14 BUDGET MAKES MAJOR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION WITH \$363.9 MILLION INCREASE FOR NYC SCHOOLS

Continued from page 1

system isn't finalized, the 2013-14 state budget allocates \$8.28 billion to New York City Schools, an increase of \$363.9 million over last year and \$184.3 million more than the Executive's budget proposal. The budget also restores \$240 million to New York City schools' base funding levels for the 2013-14 school year and ensures that a teacher evaluation system will be in place in subsequent school years, which will prevent students from being penalized in the future.

The budget also:

- Increases expense-based aids in NYC by over \$46 million;
- Continues the phase-in of Foundation Aid and increases it in NYC by \$134.7 million over the Executive budget; and
- Provides \$15 million for Community Schools grants, which are designated schools that integrate the community into its curriculum such as health and mental health services.

2013-14 BUDGET INCREASES SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET PROVIDES A TOTAL INCREASE OF \$9.3 MILLION IN BASE AID FOR CUNY COMMUNITY COLLEGES

New York has one of the finest higher education systems in the nation; this is why it is vital that we continue to grow our higher education system and improve infrastructure so students have quality places to learn.

The budget increases support to \$2,422 per-Full Time student at SUNY and CUNY community colleges. This is an overall increase of \$150 per student and the second consecutive increase in community college base aid. The budget provides a total increase of \$9.3 million in base aid for CUNY community colleges.

The budget provides a 3 percent increase in funding for college opportunity programs, including:

- \$25 million to the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), an increase of \$728,040;
- \$21.7 million to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), an increase of \$632,430;
- \$12.9 million to the Liberty Partnerships Program, an increase of \$376,250;
- \$11.1 million to the Science and Technology Entrance Program (STEP), an increase of \$324,030; and
- \$8.4 million to the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), an increase of \$245,520.

TAX CREDITS SIGNAL NEW YORK MEANS BUSINESS

In a continued effort to make New York a friendlier place to do business and create jobs, the budget provides tax relief measures to the business community that will:

- Phase out the 18-A utility assessment surcharge; by fiscal year 2017-18, the savings for utility customers will reach \$500 million; and
- Provide a veterans' tax credit for businesses that hire veterans. For taxable years 2015 and 2016, this credit would be worth 10 percent of the wages paid to a qualified veteran during the first full year of employment or 15 percent of the wages if the veteran is disabled.

This state budget puts money where it is needed, giving small businesses already operating in New York more breathing room, and giving new businesses a reason to call New York home.

The 2013-14 budget renews the inner-city youth employment program, providing a \$24 million tax credit over four years for employers who hire unemployed youth 16 to 24 years of age who reside in a city of more than 55,000 or a town of more than 480,000.

The benefits of this tax credit are twofold, giving at-risk youth a chance to gain valuable work experience and helping the businesses that hire them with much-needed tax relief. For many, this could be a first job where they learn the value of working.

Furthermore, the program and credit will be available to employers in the clean energy, health care, advanced manufacturing and conservation industries. Eligible employers would receive up to \$4,000 per employee if they retain the worker for an entire year. The program will be extended through 2017.

PROTECTING UNEMPLOYED WORKERS AND REDUCING COSTS FOR BUSINESSES

With our economy still making its way out of the worst recession since the Great Depression, protecting workers and those who cannot find work is incredibly important. The 2013-14 budget gradually increases the weekly unemployment benefit from \$405 per week to 50 percent of the state's average weekly wage by Oct. 1, 2026.

Additionally, the budget adopts the federal expansion of the Shared Work Program, which helps prevent employees from losing their jobs by providing employers with an alternative to laying off workers.

To save businesses money and further jump-start our economy, the budget also reforms the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system to make it solvent in 2016. Employers will immediately save \$446.5 million annually and once the UI fund is solvent, there will be three additional benefits to businesses:

- **UI Interest Assessment**—businesses will no longer pay interest on the federal UI loan once the fund is solvent;
- **Contribution Schedule**—businesses will pay contribution rates that are up to 25 percent lower than they pay now; and
- **Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) Reduction**—businesses will see the federal unemployment tax rate cut in half.

BOOSTING MWBE'S AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Over the past few years, New York State has secured its spot as a great place to do business, and the 2013-14 budget takes another step in the right direction. The budget includes a \$365,000 increase to the Minority and Women-owned Business Development and Lending Program, for a total appropriation of \$1 million, and opens certain state programs to more small businesses. Specifically, the budget authorizes MWBEs and other small businesses to access "bridge loans" for procurement purposes from the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund. Bridge loans are short-term loans that allow businesses more time to work out a long-term financing plan.

Our minority- and women-owned small businesses (MWBEs) are vital assets to our economy; the Assembly Majority is committed to keeping these businesses up and running and encouraging more businesses to open their doors right here in New York.

HELPING OUR SENIORS

It is important that we continue to provide for the oldest and most vulnerable citizens in our community this is why the 2013-14 budget maintains funding for EPIC at \$195 million and allocates \$230 million to the State Office for the Aging. No programs to assist seniors operated by the State Office for the Aging were cut. The budget also allocates funding for the following programs:

- \$500,000—Elderly Abuse Education and Outreach Programs;
- \$200,000—Social Model Adult Day Services Program; and

- \$200,000—Transportation Services for the Elderly.

The budget also provides new funding for the following programs:

- \$200,000—Lifespan for Elderly Abuse Education and Outreach Program; and
- \$200,000—Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City for the Older Adult Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) initiative.

KEEPING NY AFFORDABLE FOR MILLIONS OF HARDWORKING FAMILIES

■ BUDGET CONTINUES TAX CUTS FOR 99% OF NEW YORKERS

To continue providing a fairer tax system in New York, the 2013-14 state budget extends the current tax rate first implemented in 2012, locking in the lowest tax rate for middle-class families in 60 years. Approximately 4.4 million taxpayers, more than 99 percent of those filing statewide, benefited from \$690 million in tax relief stemming from the tax restructuring, which is why this multi-year extension is so critical for hardworking families. The budget extends this middle-class tax cut for three additional years and pays for it by requiring those making over \$2 million per year—less than 1 percent of all New York residents—pay their fair share.

By implementing a more progressive tax structure, we can continue to keep New York affordable for millions of families statewide. Asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share goes a long way to ensuring low- and middle-income New Yorkers a more secure future for years to come.

■ INCREASING THE STATE'S MINIMUM WAGE

The 2013-14 state budget increases the state's minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour by 2016. The wage will gradually increase over the next three years from \$7.25 to \$8.00 per hour on Dec. 31, 2013; to \$8.75 on Dec. 31, 2014; and then to \$9.00 per hour on Dec. 31, 2015.

The increase to the minimum wage will directly benefit 925,000 New Yorkers currently earning below \$9.00 an hour, which is over 10 percent of the state's employed population. For years the Assembly Majority has led the fight to raise the wage, voting last year to increase it to \$8.50 per hour and voting twice again this year to raise it to \$9.00 per hour. Soon, thousands of hardworking families who depend on it will have a little more money in their pockets. The issue has become a hot-button topic nationally, and with over 80 percent of New Yorkers showing their support for an increased minimum wage, the Assembly delivered the results that hardworking families expect and deserve.

New Yorkers overwhelmingly support raising the minimum wage because morally it is the right thing to do. The minimum wage increase will help jump-start consumer spending and spur the economy. This is a huge victory for not only minimum-wage employees, but for workers across the state.

■ PRESERVING PROGRAMS TO HELP STRUGGLING FAMILIES

The 2013-14 state budget protects the following programs that were eliminated in the executive budget proposal and provides:

- Nearly \$7.3 million for Facilitated Enrollment programs that expand eligibility for child care assistance and allow parents to maintain employment while their children are being cared for in safe environments;
- Nearly \$5.1 million for Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs;
- \$1.2 million for Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services to assist victims of domestic violence not residing in shelters;
- Nearly \$1.5 million for Settlement Houses to provide services such as job training, early childhood education and citizenship and legal education; and
- \$750,000 to Career Pathways, which provides training for low-income young adults to prepare them for jobs in high-growth sectors.
- \$2 million for the Nurse-Family Partnership initiative, which provides services to help ensure health and success for first-time moms and their babies;
- Nearly \$1.4 million for Displaced Homemaker Services to provide counseling and job training to homemakers;
- \$950,000 for Wage Subsidy services to assist low-income individuals and public assistance recipients find and retain employment;
- \$800,000 to ACCESS – Welfare to Careers to help individuals attain equity in education and gain economic security through internship and job placement;
- \$610,000 for Preventive Services that offer prevention, intervention and treatment services to low-income individuals and families;

- \$500,000 for Emergency Needs for Homelessness Program (ENHP) to assist homeless individuals or those at risk of becoming homeless to stabilize their lives and move toward self-sufficiency;
- \$500,000 for Advantage Schools to provide quality youth development opportunities to school-age children and youth;
- \$250,000 for Educational Resources to increase education among low-income parents and individuals;
- \$200,000 for the Fatherhood Initiative to increase the participation of fathers in the lives of their children;
- \$144,000 for Wheels for Work to provide emergency automobile repairs to those who own a vehicle and can't afford necessary repairs to keep it operable;
- \$112,000 for Community Solutions to Transportation to assist low-income families with acquiring reliable used cars and registering and insuring their vehicles;
- \$102,000 for the Bridge Program to provide job readiness and job search activities, academic services, and short-term skills training; and
- \$101,000 for Caretaker Relative/Kinship programs to help caregivers access health, education, financial and legal services for the children in their care.

The budget also restores \$1.6 million in funding for additional homeless housing programs. It allocates \$250,000 for the Disability Advocacy Program to provide legal representation for those who have been denied disability benefits. The budget also allocates \$4 million to the Indigent Legal Services Fund to help improve both the quality of and access to public defense services for those that are legally entitled to counsel, but cannot afford to hire an attorney.

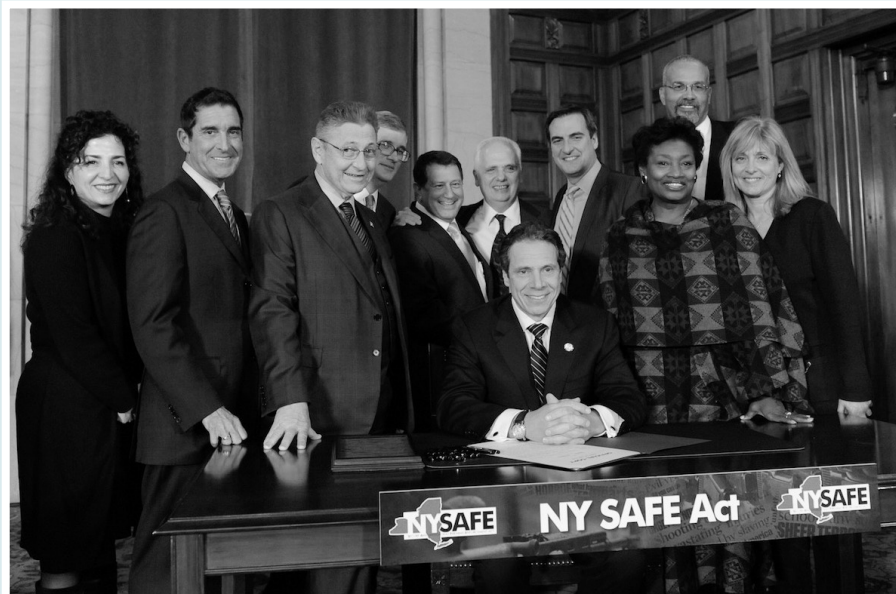
IMPROVING THE STATE'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

■ OSBORNE ASSOCIATION TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF FORMER FULTON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY PROPERTY

The 2013-14 budget restores \$1.3 million in supplemental support for Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) programs. Further, the budget provides:

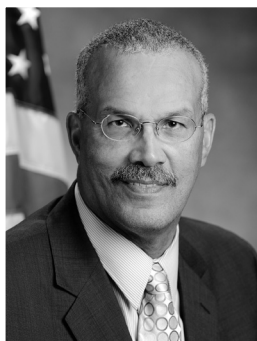
- \$2.65 million in civil and criminal legal services grants;
- \$1.1 million in additional support for Prisoners' Legal Services;
- \$600,000 for the Indigent Parolee program;
- \$500,000 for the purchase of safety equipment for correctional officers; and
- \$450,000 for immigrant legal services for students and families.

The budget restores \$1 million to the New York State Defenders Association, \$1 million for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) and \$1.2 million to domestic violence-related civil and criminal legal-service providers. It also provides \$2.7 million for law enforcement, drug, violence, and crime control and prevention programs, along with \$3 million for Operation SNUG to help combat gang violence and improve public safety for young adults.



Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry, and other members of the legislature at the signing of the NY SAFE Act. The SAFE Act stops criminals and the dangerously mentally ill from buying a gun by requiring universal background checks on gun purchases, increases penalties for people who use illegal guns, mandates life in prison without parole for anyone who murders a first responder, and imposes the toughest assault weapons ban in the country.

Additionally, the budget also includes legislation that I sponsored which would transfer the former Fulton Correctional Facility to the Thomas Mott Osborne Memorial fund; this will allow the Osborne Association to use this property as a community alternative to incarceration and for re-entry programs.



Assemblyman
JEFFRION L. AUBRY
Reports to the People

35TH A.D. • QUEENS COUNTY
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

98-09 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY 11368 • 718-457-3615
Room 646, LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4561
aubryj@assembly.state.ny.us

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

■ PROTECTING PROGRAMS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND YOUTH



Plaza Del Sol Family Health Center of Corona, NY (a community health center) visits the Assemblyman at the Legislative Office Building during the Urban Health Plan Advocacy Day.

The 2013-14 budget combines the Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP) program and the Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP) into a single Youth Development Program, streamlining access to these funds for community service providers. The budget also restores \$1.3 million in funding for the Youth Development Program. Additionally, the budget reinstates funding for the following community-based initiatives:

- Community Reinvestment (\$1.75 million);
- Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children program (nearly \$1.65 million);
- Child Care Subsidies (\$1 million);
- Caseload Reduction (\$757,200);
- Runaway and Homeless Youth (\$254,456); and
- Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (\$200,000).