NEW PENN STATION-FARLEY COMPLEX
BROOKLYN BATTERY TUNNEL
QUEENS MIDTOWN TUNNEL
RFK MANHATTAN CASHLESS TOLLING
NEW SYRACUSE HANCOCK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
NEW LIRR CONCOURSE
NEW PENN STATION-FARLEY COMPLEX
Controlling Spending, Budget, Taxes, and Government Reform

- Enacted Seventh Fiscally Responsible Budget
- Prudent Capital Spending and Reduced Debt
- Lowest Middle Class Tax Rates in 70 Years
- Improvements to the Child and Dependent Care Credit for Middle Class Families
- Life Sciences Tax Credits
- Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Stopping Suspicious Refund Claims
- Strengthening Diversity in State Government
- Implementing Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Competition
- Supporting Country-Wide Shared Services Implementation
- Re-aligning State Assistance for Municipal Restructuring
- Investing in Local Government Consolidation
- Linking Local Government Consolidation
- Helping Local Governments Improve Performance

Growing the Economy

- Continuing successful regional growth strategy
- Delivering Ride Sharing for Upstate New York
- The “New York Buy American Act”
- Create the Office of Rural Development
- Downtown Revitalization Initiative
- Launch Liminate NY Photonics Venture Challenge
- Expanding Industrial Hemp and first Industrial Hemp Summit
- Fueling the New York Power Electronics Manufacturing Consortium
- Storm Recovery Building Back Better
- NY Rising Programs
- Investments to revitalize communities
- Increase in Matching Funds for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Workforce Development

- Attracting investment in skills training
- Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises In New York
- Employment opportunities for youth and apprentices
- Expanding Summer Employment for Youth
- Advancing the Tech Workforce Training Fund
- Expanding capacity and creating opportunities for MWBEs at DASNY
- Expanding the Unemployment Strikeforce
- Defending Union Jobs as a Pathway to the Middle Class
- Increasing Direct Care Professional Salaries
- Enacting Comprehensive Workers’ Compensation Reform
• Eliminating the Wage Gap to Protect Women’s Rights
• Cracking down on wage theft

**Tourism** 31

• Attracting more visitors to New York
• $70 Million for Phase Two of the New York State Fairgrounds
• Promotes the Taste NY Culinary Trail System
• Investing in New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority
• Master Plan for “Gateway to the Adirondacks” at Northway Exit 29

**Expanding New York Products**

• Expand the NYS Grown & Certified program
• Maximizing Agriculture and Beverage Production
• Launch the first-ever New York Craft Beverage Week

**Building the New NY** 35

**Transportation Infrastructure** 36

• Opening of the Kosciuszko Bridge
• Second avenue subway
• New Mario M. Cuomo Bridge
• West End Concourse Opens at Penn Station
• Goethals Bridge Replacement Bridge
• Bayonne Bridge Navigational Clearance Program
• I-684 Rehab, Hardscrabble Road to I-84
• Cross Harbor Freight Program
• Access to LaGuardia Airport via AirTrain
• Stewart International Airport
• Syracuse Hancock International Airport
• Elmira Corning Regional Airport
• New Greater Rochester International Airport
• Plattsburgh International Airport

**Transportation Enhancements** 46

• Cashless tolling
• Autonomous Vehicle Testing to Begin in New York State
• Woodbury Transit and Economic hub
• Transformative investments on Long Island

**Securing Justice for All** 48

• Historic Investment in Affordable Housing
• Ending Child Marriage in New York
• $10 Million to Liberty Defense Project
• Ensuring Fairness in the Criminal Justice System
• Raised the Age of Criminal Responsibility
• Advancing Equality and Justice for All
• 65 Million in Federal VA Payments for Veterans
• Equality for Veterans through Law School Partnerships
• Peer-to-Peer Veteran Mentoring Program
• A Final Resting Place for Veterans
• Veteran Outreach on Social Media
• Revitalizing Communities and Expanding Economic Opportunity
• The new “Affordable New York” Program (Formerly 421-a)
• Encouraging Homeownership, Retaining and Attracting College Graduate To Homeownership Program in Upstate
• Strengthening Tenant Protections
• Protecting Runaway and Homeless Youth
• Maximizing Access to Existing Federal Benefits for Needy Families
• Supporting OPWDD’s Transition to Managed Care
• Providing Quality Legal Representation for all New Yorkers
• Growing the Empire State After-School Program
• Leveraging Federal Funds to Fight Food Insecurity
• 100 new National FFA Organization chapters across the state

**Increasing Access to Education 56**

**Higher Education 57**
• Highest Level of Education Aid Ever
• Excelsior Scholarship
• Extend Mayoral Control for Two Years
• Overall Support for Higher Education
• College Affordability
• Supporting New York’s Public Colleges
• Open Education Resources (OER)
• Enhanced Tuition Award
• Supporting New York’s Public Colleges
• NYSUNY 2020 and NYCUNY 2020 Capital Challenge Grants
• SUNY and CUNY Capital Projects
• Design-Build Speeds Residence Hall Construction
• Low-Cost Financing for SUNY Residence Halls
• SUNY State-Operated Campuses
• CUNY Senior Colleges
• Community Colleges Aid
• Advancing energy efficiency at CUNY
• Higher Education Opportunity Programs
• Low-cost Financing for Private Higher Education Institutions
• Part-Time Scholarship Award Program
• Child Welfare Worker Incentive Scholarship and Loan Forgiveness Programs

**Pre-K through 12 Accomplishments 61**
• Expanding Community Schools
• Supporting Pre-Kindergarten
- Extend Mayoral Control for Two Years
- Awarding Excellent Teachers in the Empire State
- Supporting Public Charter Schools
- Expanding Early College High Schools
- Technology Funding for Non-Public Schools
- Double the number of certified Ag educators 240 to 480

### Achieving Statewide Wellness 64
- Protecting New Yorkers from the Soaring Cost of Prescription Drugs
- FreshConnect Checks
- Investing $1.4 Billion for Vital Brooklyn
- Combating the Opioid Epidemic
- Providing Funding for Essential Health Care Providers
- Delivering for Utica Hospital
- Rebuilding the Life Sciences Initiative
- Low Cost financing for Health Care Providers
- Reforming Health Care Regulations
- Advancing Health Across All Policies
- Statewide Farm-to-School Summit
- Growing Schools’ Commitment to Purchasing Local Produce
- Procurement Training for Farm to School
- Farm Donation to Food Pantries Tax Credit
- Expand the New York Agriculture in the Classroom program
- Connect All New Yorkers to Healthy Outdoor Recreation

### Ensuring Public Safety 72
- Standing Up to Hate Crimes
- Protecting New Yorkers from Cyber-Attacks
- Combatting Gang Violence
- 205th Session Graduation from the State Police Basic School
- Reducing Gun Violence
- Combating Cyber-bullying
- Safeguarding New York’s Airports
- Preventing and Responding to Victimization
- The Household Cleaning Product Information Disclosure Program
- Protecting Our Children from Furniture Tip Over Accidents
- Protecting Customers from Potential Bad Actors in the Distributed Energy Resources
• Providing Direct Consumer Assistance

Environmental Leadership 75

• Encouraging New Yorkers to Drive Cleaner Vehicles
• Promoting Innovative Clean Energy Financing
• New York Excels as a National Leader in Clean Energy Investments
• Closure of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant by 2021
• Designing a Clean Energy Economy
• Largest Clean Energy Procurement by a U.S. State
• Promoting a Sustainable State Government
• Methane Action Plan
• Advancing Resilient Microgrid Development Through NYPrize
• New Locally Sourced Microgrid to Power the Empire State Plaza
• Bringing Offshore Wind to New York
• Expanding Public Sector Opportunities to use Solar

Protecting Our Environment

• $2.5 Billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017
• Addressing Flooding Along Lake Ontario and St Lawrence River
• Additional funding for NY Parks 2020 initiative
• Empire State Trail Initiative
• Adventure NY
• Completion of Capping of Onondaga Lake
• Acquisition of More Than 6,000 Acres of Protected Land in Oswego County
• DEC secured $70M in NY Works capital funding in this year’s budget
• $300 million funding for EPF
• Preservation of More than 5,900 Acres of Parkland in the Hudson Highlands
• $40 Million to Build Local Sewer Systems in Smithtown and Kings Park
• Community-Based Environmental Justice and Clean Energy Capacity Grants
• Provide Green Skills Training for Youth in Environmental Justice Areas
• Reusing Brownfields Across the State
• Additional funding for NY Parks 2020 Initiative
• Promoting a Sustainable State Government
By virtually every measure, New York State has been transformed over the last seven years under the leadership of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. Today the Empire State has the lowest taxes in decades, is making the nation’s largest investment in infrastructure, and is home to the most private sector jobs in history. The cornerstones of New York State’s energized economic growth are its unrelenting protection of the rights of all who call this state home and its ability to transcend a polarized political atmosphere and perform for the people.

The 2017 Legislative Session builds on the State’s historic achievements over the last seven years by passing intelligent legislation promoting economic mobility for the middle class.

The 2017 Legislative Session:

1. Invests in jobs, infrastructure and transportation
2. Increases access to education
3. Lowers income taxes for millions of New Yorkers

New York is not just talking about infrastructure; under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, the State is aggressively building the new New York. The FY 2018 State Budget accelerates the State’s hallmark $100 billion infrastructure and development plan by investing in Upstate airports, roads, bridges and public transportation; restoration of historic and beautiful State Parks; regional mass transit in New York City, including the MTA’s subway, LIRR and Metro-North; an expansion of Javits Convention Center; and construction of Moynihan Train Hall at the new Penn Station-Farley Complex.

New York State’s innovative strategy for regional economic growth is working. To build on its momentum, the FY 2018 State Budget invests $750 million for Round VII of the Regional Councils, including an additional $100 million to transform promising urban centers into thriving downtowns. Ridesharing is now enabled statewide - creating jobs and creating safe alternative transportation options for millions of New Yorkers.

The Governor and State Legislature passed a $2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act that provides communities across the state the resources they need to upgrade industrial-era water systems - foundational to promote healthy living and outcompete other regions of the globe in today’s economy. Additionally, the FY 2018 State Budget maintains the record $300 million Environmental Protection Fund.

While investing in economic growth and mobility, this Legislative Session also affirmed New York State’s leadership in protecting American values that are core to the character of this state. New York now has the nation’s first college access program for the middle class - providing students whose families earn less than $125,000 tuition-free public higher education in New York State. The State also doubled the Child Care Tax Credit, giving more middle- and working-class families needed relief and passed a $10 million Liberty Defense Fund protecting the rights of immigrants.

These and many more nation-leading accomplishments build on the previous six years of historic progress, including passing marriage equality, paid family leave, gun safety laws and a $15 statewide minimum wage.

By every measure, New York State today exemplifies its motto: Excelsior, or “Ever Upward.” At a time when people are wary of government’s capacity to perform, under the leadership of Governor Cuomo the Empire State is rising above partisanship and gridlock, and showing the nation the way forward on the most challenging issues of our time. **The following report highlights many of these accomplishments.**
CONTROLLING SPENDING
The Fiscal Year 2018 State Budget builds on the fiscal discipline of the last six years while strengthening the middle class, reducing taxes and making strategic investments for our future. For the seventh consecutive year, the Budget is balanced and holds spending growth to 2 percent.

The FY 2018 State Budget continues New York’s trajectory ever upward by providing $2.5 billion for the landmark Clean Water Infrastructure Act to ensure that current and future New Yorkers have access to clean water, makes college tuition-free at SUNY and CUNY two- and four-year colleges for working and middle-class families making up to $125,000 per year, increases Education Aid by $1.1 billion to a new all-time high of $25.8 billion, and includes new measures to relieve the property tax burden on New Yorkers through innovative county-wide shared services plans.

ENACTED SEVENTH FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

The 2 percent state spending cap – self-imposed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the Legislature – has empowered the State to lower taxes and improve competitiveness while helping the financial plan weather volatility. This spending restraint is a stark contrast to the 25 year period prior to 2011 in which state spending grew at an average of 5.1 percent per year.

The fiscal discipline required by the cap has also driven innovation in government. New York State agencies are working more closely together than ever before, streamlining processes and eliminating waste, while improving services. State agency spending has been held essentially flat since FY 2012 and, in the FY 2018 State Budget, agencies are implementing a new round of management plans to control costs.

Through careful management of the Financial Plan, the State recorded surpluses in FY 2014, FY 2015, FY 2016 and FY 2017 and has made several deposits to rainy day reserves. General Fund reserves are now at $2.5 billion, up from $1 billion ten years ago, and including $500 million for debt management.

PRUDENT CAPITAL SPENDING AND REDUCED DEBT

The FY 2018 State Budget Capital Plan includes new and continued investments for roadways, bridges, and transit systems; affordable and supportive housing units; economic development; health care; and environmental protection. Additionally, the Plan continues funding for State parks, educational, mental health, and correctional facilities.

The State’s capital program is unprecedented in scope but sized to fit within the limits established by the State’s statutory debt cap. State-related outstanding debt continued its decline from a high point of $56.4 billion in FY 2012 to $50.7 billion in FY 2017, its lowest point since FY 2008. Never before in the modern history of New York has debt declined in three consecutive years; FY 2017 was the fifth consecutive year that outstanding debt dropped. The State currently has the most favorable debt to personal income ratio since the 1960s. Even with major capital investments throughout the State the ratio is expected to improve even further over the five-year capital plan.
New York State’s record of significant tax relief under Governor Cuomo continues in 2017 with the start of new middle class tax cuts. Building on the middle class tax cuts of 2012, which lowered rates from 6.85 percent to 6.45 percent for taxpayers in the $40,000-$150,000 income bracket, and to 6.65 percent in the $150,000 - $300,000 income bracket, the new rates will drop all the way to 5.5 percent and 6.0 percent respectively, when fully phased in. This new lower tax rate will be the lowest in the state in more than 70 years saving New York’s middle class nearly $6.6 billion in just the first four years, with annual savings reaching $4.2 billion by 2025 impacting 6 million filers when fully phased in. These new middle class tax cuts will help improve New York’s competitiveness and improve quality of life, but they are just the latest such accomplishment. In 2017 taxes are lower for all of New York, which now has the lowest corporate tax rate since 1968 and the lowest manufacturers’ tax rate since 1917; the payroll mobility tax has been eliminated for more than 700,000 small businesses and the self-employed; reforms have been made to unemployment insurance and the workers compensation system. This recent overhaul of corporate taxes is the most significant change to the business tax code in seven decades and has simplified the tax code and added fairness to the system.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CHILD DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT FOR MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES**

The FY 2018 State Budget includes an increase in the New York State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, reducing child care costs statewide, for more than 200,000 middle class families and families with more than two qualifying individuals.

The Child Care Tax Credit is a percentage of the federal child and dependent care credit. The credit is equal to 110 percent of the federal credit for taxpayers with New York Adjusted Gross Income less than $25,000. The share of the federal credit decreases as the Adjusted Gross Income increases. Prior to this year’s amendments, taxpayers with incomes above $65,000 could receive 20 percent of the federal credit. Unlike the federal credit, the Child Care Tax Credit is refundable. The Enacted Budget provides $47 million in relief to families earning between $60,000 and $150,000, who will see their tax benefits more than double on average. For example, a family with an income of $60,000 with two qualifying children will see their State tax credit increase from $566 to $1,314 this year, an increase of $748.

Additionally, the federal credit allows up to $3,000 of qualifying expenses for one qualifying individual, and up to $6,000 of expenses for two or more qualifying individuals. A qualifying
individual is a child under age 13 who can be claimed as a dependent, or any person who is disabled and can be claimed as a dependent. The FY 2018 State Budget increased the amount of qualifying expenses allowed for purposes of the Child Care Tax Credit to $7,500 for taxpayers with three qualifying individuals, $8,500 for four qualifying individuals, and $9,000 for five or more qualifying individuals.

**LIFE SCIENCES TAX CREDITS**

The FY 2018 State Budget includes a $620 million initiative to grow a new, world-class life science research cluster in New York and expand the state's ability to commercialize research and grow the economy. Through this multi-faceted initiative, New York will significantly increase its share of industry-funded research and development, support the commercialization of existing academic research, and usher in the next generation of advanced technologies. Beyond the advancements in science, this initiative will position New York to be a magnet for emerging manufacturing based enterprises, bolstering regional economies and creating thousands of jobs. A significant feature of this initiative is the expansion of the Excelsior Jobs Program to include special benefits for life sciences companies, including a new Research and Development Tax Credit.

Life sciences companies that create at least five net new jobs will now be eligible for the existing Excelsior Jobs Tax Credits, including an existing investment tax credit, research and development tax credit and jobs credit. A life sciences company that cannot meet that threshold can qualify if it has at least 25 full-time job equivalents. If a life sciences company creates at least 20 net new jobs and makes a significant capital investment, it can also be eligible for the Excelsior Jobs Program real property tax credit.

In addition, new formative stage life sciences companies may qualify for the new research and development tax credit. The new life sciences companies would apply to Empire State Development and, if approved, will receive a certificate of tax credit stating the amount of credit and the tax year for which they are eligible. ESDC can award a total of $10 million annually for ten years. The credit is equal to 15 percent of a new life science company's research and development expenditures in New York State, with the rate increasing to 20 percent for companies with less than 10 employees. A qualified life sciences company can claim credit for up to three tax years with an annual maximum amount of $500,000.
SAVING TAXPAYER DOLLARS BY STOPPING SUSPICIOUS REFUND CLAIMS

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance stopped more than 330,000 suspicious refund claims during the 2016 income tax season. Based on results from previous years, the Tax Department projects that stopping these refunds will save New York State and its taxpayers about $480 million this year—a savings increase of nearly 20 percent compared to the same period last year.

By using state of the art technology to analyze each income tax return that comes in, and its related data, the Tax Department stays ahead of emerging fraud schemes and refund scams. For example, this filing season the Tax Department validated returns for more than 7,000 employees from dozens of businesses that were victimized by scammers in an elaborate scheme to steal payroll data. Since its inception the Tax Department’s business analytics program has saved New York State taxpayers $4 billion and led to the arrest and prosecution of many paid tax preparers accused of filing fraudulent returns.

STRENGTHENING DIVERSITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT

In March of 2017, Governor Cuomo announced a series of bold actions to increase the diversity of the State government workforce, including advancing legislation to accelerate the hiring of highly-qualified diverse candidates and expanding access to Civil Service exam preparation and tests. These actions, recommended by the Governor’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, focus on attracting, recruiting, and retaining a diverse and highly-skilled workforce, and build upon Governor Cuomo’s legacy of expanding opportunities for all New Yorkers.
IMPLEMENTING MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCY COMPETITION

The Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Competition will provide up to $20 million in state funding to a single consortium of local governments to implement a series of projects designed to modernize municipal services and reduce property taxes. The Competition has two phases. Under Phase I, local government consortiums, led by a county or a local government with a population in excess of 50,000, were eligible to submit an “Intent to Propose” for participation in the program. Each of the six successful Intent to propose consortiums received $50,000 to develop the final Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Plan which were due on June 28, 2017. These six plans, must include an actual local government consolidation and will compete against each other for one $20 million award to implement significant regional local government service restructuring.

SUPPORTING COUNTRY- WIDE SHARED SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION

The greatest tax burden in New York State is the local property tax. In April 2107, Governor Cuomo released a new initiative designed to generate property tax savings by facilitating operational collaboration between local governments. The County-Wide Shared Services Initiative establishes a Shared Services Panel in each county, chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the County. The Panels will work to help develop, and ultimately approve a County-Wide shared Service Property Tax Savings Plan, through intergovernmental cooperation to find new opportunities to share and coordinate services. During April and early May, the Department of State’s Division of Local Government has been significantly involved in the development of this program and spreading the word to all 57 counties outside of New York City about the program requirements. This included the provision of 10 workshops to over 500 local officials, as well as individual meetings with county leadership as they begin to implement this program.
RE-ALIGNING STATE ASSISTANCE FOR MUNICIPAL RESTRUCTURING

The Department of State continues to administer the $25 million Municipal Restructuring Fund, which was originally launched by Governor Cuomo in February of 2016. This multi-phase program is designed to solicit large-scale projects that are at varying states of readiness, from initial project development through small-scale and full-scale implementation. The goal of the Fund projects is to produce large scale reorganization of municipal services. Through May 2017, the program has received 31 proposals, requesting just under $30 million in funding, with estimated 10-year savings at over $210 million. This includes the most recent review of MRF applications, which was completed in March of 2017 for 9 new applications and 4 re-submitted projects. To date, the total committed funds, pending final approval from the Office of the State Comptroller, are just over $13 million. Current Fund projects include county and city police consolidation efforts, a multi-municipal government consolidation, regionalized emergency services, county-wide health insurance consolidation, consolidation of municipal highway departments and multi-county records management.
INVESTING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSOLIDATION

Over the first 5 months of this year, the Department of State has provided over $395,000 in Citizens Reorganization and Empowerment Grant funding to seven projects to plan for and implement local government consolidation pursuant to General Municipal Law 17-A. Since the beginning of 2016, the total number of consolidation and dissolution projects is 24, with an investment of $895,000.

LINKING LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For 2017 the Department of State continues to implement the Local Government Efficiency Program through the Consolidated Funding Application developed under the Regional Economic Development Council program. This year $4 million is available once again to assist local governments to help implement projects that will produce recurring annual savings. In 2016, 20 projects were approved for $4 million in assistance.

HELPING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

The Department of State provided training to nearly 3,000 local government officials through on-site courses and webinars and through online interactive training in the first five months of 2017, plus hundreds of individual calls and emails of technical assistance, putting us on track to be consistent with the total number of local officials we assisted in 2016. Among the goals of training and providing technical assistance to local officials is to educate them to make efficiency decisions that improve their communities. The State utilized experts from a variety of disciplines to help local officials discover opportunities to improve service delivery and reduce their cost of doing business.
GROWING THE ECONOMY
INVESTING IN GROWTH

CONTINUING SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY
Since 2011, the Regional Economic Development Councils have awarded nearly $4.6 billion in state funding to over 5,200 projects through a competitive process to spur job creation based on regional priorities. Projects receiving funding through the REDC initiative are expected to create and retain 210,000 jobs in New York. The FY 2018 State Budget includes $800 million in core capital and tax-credit funding that will be combined with a wide range of existing agency programs to build on the momentum with a seventh round of the REDC program.

DELIVERING RIDE SHARING FOR UPSTATE NEW YORK
The FY 2018 State Budget authorizes Transportation Network Companies to operate across New York. The Department of Motor Vehicles has broad oversight of ridesharing companies and will ensure compliance with all laws, rules, and regulations required as part of a TNC’s operational license. A statewide task force has been established to make recommendations on accessibility needs to protect and provide transportation to vulnerable populations, and the state will also establish minimum standards to ensure passenger safety, including mandatory background checks, ongoing monitoring for traffic safety, anti-discrimination protections, and zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policies.

THE NEW YORK BUY AMERICAN ACT
During the 2017 Legislative session Governor Cuomo signed legislation enacting the “New York Buy American Act,” which requires the Department of Transportation, Thruway Authority, Bridge Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Office of General Services, SUNY Construction Fund and Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, to include a contract
provision requiring the use of American-made structural iron and structural steel for all surface road and bridge projects. The legislation requires that the entire manufacturing process of these items occur in the United States. The “New York Buy American Act” will be implemented on April 1, 2018 and will pertain to contracts that are executed after that date. This will allow for consideration of any potential funding requirements or other considerations that may be needed to implement the provisions of the bill on future state projects. The measure also establishes a work group that, among its responsibilities, would be to consider the feasibility of expanding the provisions to other products manufactured in the United States such as concrete, cement and aluminum products, explore reciprocal trade access with a foreign state that may be impacted by this provision to the detriment of the state, consider fiscal impacts, and mitigate any issues with the implementation of the legislation.

CREATE THE OFFICE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
In January 2017, Governor Cuomo announced the Office of Rural Development would serve as a one-stop shop to enhance collaboration among relevant stakeholders, maximize resource efficiency, and attract and leverage new capital. In 2015, New York State had the nation’s sixth highest rural population, but received the 32nd highest amount of USDA Rural Development funds. With more than 24 New York State agencies and 16 federal agencies administering programs serving rural communities, navigating the confusing and uncoordinated network of assistance can be daunting. The new Office of Rural Development will provide rural communities with a user-friendly library of available and appropriate resources, a single point of contact to connect communities with funding and technical assistance, and an inter-agency work-group to coordinate relevant programs, application processes, and outreach activities.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE
The FY 2018 State Budget includes $100 million for Round II of the successful Downtown Revitalization Initiative. The Initiative was created last year to support transformative housing, economic development, transportation, and community projects to attract and retain residents, visitors, and businesses to downtowns. The first round awarded $100 million last year to ten communities experiencing population loss or economic decline to develop, in collaboration with policy and planning experts, revitalization plans for their downtown areas.

LAUNCH LIMINATE NY PHOTONICS VENTURE CHALLENGE
A new $10 million, multi-year Luminate NY Photonics Venture Challenge in Rochester is the world’s largest business accelerator for startup firms in the optics, photonics and imaging industries. The program is focused on attracting and growing the most promising companies developing and commercializing these technologies from across the state, the nation, and around the globe. Launched in July, Luminate NY is now accepting expressions of interest from teams competing for one of ten available slots in the first cohort, guaranteeing them a minimum investment of $100,000 and major investments of up to $1 million.
EXPANDING INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND FIRST INDUSTRIAL HEMP SUMMIT

As outlined in Governor Cuomo’s 2017 State of the State address New York State passed legislation expanding its industrial hemp industry. Industrial hemp, which is used in the production of clothing, building materials, paper, and animal feed, is emerging as a significant agricultural product. Nationally, the industry is estimated to be worth more than $570 million. In support of this growing industry New York establishes an industrial hemp work group, awarded $400,000 to Cornell University to explore best practices for growing varieties of hemp in different soil types and conditions, eliminated the cap on the number of sites authorized to grow and research industrial hemp, expanded the number of research permits it issued to six and opened the application for growing permits to private farms. As a result of this effort New York State now has a total of ten hemp research sites. In addition to the passage of this legislation Governor Cuomo hosted the first-ever Industrial Hemp Summit in Ithaca, NY which brought together farmers, researchers, and industry leaders to discuss new developments and strategies to grow New York’s hemp industry.

FUELING THE NEW YORK POWER ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM

The FY 2018 Budget includes an additional $33 million to complete the State’s $135 million multi-year commitment to the New York Power Electronics Manufacturing Consortium. The consortium will develop and commercialize wide bandgap power electronic devices.

STORM RECOVERY BUILDING BACK BETTER: HOMES, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITIES

Governor Cuomo continues to address the long-term needs of victims of Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee while securing our safety from future natural disasters. Much of the State’s efforts have been funded by $30 billion in federal aid that Governor Cuomo fought to obtain for relief efforts. The Governor’s efforts are focused on three primary areas: assisting in recovery and rebuilding for individuals, businesses and communities; improving the State’s emergency preparedness and response systems; and upgrading the State’s infrastructure to better withstand major weather events.

NY RISING COMMUNITY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Through its Community Reconstruction Program, the State is setting a new standard for community participation in recovery and resiliency planning. More than 650 New Yorkers have worked together in 61 Planning Areas to address their communities’ specific needs in the aftermath of Sandy and in anticipation of other extreme weather events. They have shared over 700 recovery and resiliency project ideas at over 250 Public Engagement Events during which thousands more community members have been able to provide feedback. Following two rounds of planning, the Program is in project implementation mode, entering into local partnership agreements with local governments and non-profits to define the scope of projects and procure engineering and design consultants in compliance with federal regulations. By the middle of Q2 2017, working in 20 counties in New York State, the NYRCR Program has nearly 300 active projects, with over 30 projects in construction, almost 40 non-capital projects in implementation, and over 200 projects approved and in design.
NY RISING HOME BUYOUT AND ACQUISITIONS PROGRAM

Staten Island Rising: Operating an Enhanced Buyout Program in the Ocean Breeze, Oakwood Beach and Graham Beach neighborhoods of Staten Island, the State has offered impacted homeowners the pre-storm value of their homes, plus a 10% enhanced buyout bonus and a 5% relocation incentive to those who purchase a new home outside of the floodplain and within New York City. In the Buyout Program alone, the State has closed on 485 damaged properties totaling $195 million. In New York City, the State also runs the Acquisition for Redevelopment Program, purchasing substantially-damaged properties at their post-storm value and reselling them at auction for resilient redevelopment. In the Program, the State has purchased 120 properties, totaling $35.8 million. At auction, the State has sold 51 properties, generating $8.4 million in program income. In addition, the State held an auction in May 2017 and now has executed contracts of sale for an addition 56 properties, totaling $10.6 million in winning bids.

Nassau and Suffolk Counties Rising: On Long Island, through the Acquisition for Redevelopment initiative, the State has closed on 418 properties at a total value of $164.8 million. This includes 215 properties in Nassau County valued at more than $83.8 million and 203 properties in Suffolk County valued at $81 million. At auction, the State has sold 380 properties, generating $49.8 million in program income. In addition, the State held an auction in May 2017 and now has executed contracts of sale for an addition 29 properties, totaling $5.5 million in winning bids. Through the Suffolk County Buyout Program, the State has closed on 152 properties at a value of $54.3 million.

NY RISING SMALL BUSINESS

Under the NY Rising Small Business Recovery Program, all eligible applicants may receive a grant of up to $50,000 (or a maximum of $250,000 if additional eligibility criteria are met) to cover eligible, unmet need to enable an impacted business to repair or replace damaged property, assets and inventory, cover eligible working capital expenses and/or mitigate against future damages as a result of Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee.

As of April 2017, the Program has awarded 1,054 businesses a total of more than $55.6 million and has provided disbursements in the amount of approximately $48.6 million to 1,037 businesses. As of April 2017, the Program has closed out over 400, or 30% of the total Small Business Program applications.

Additionally, through its Business Mentor NY initiative, the State offers free mentoring services across various sectors and industries for small businesses navigating the rebuilding process. As of April 2017, more than 4,125 small businesses and 1,348 mentors are participating in the innovative Program, having held 2,733 engagements and providing one-on-one counsel and guidance for establishments in need.
NY RISING HOUSING RECOVERY PROGRAM

The NY Rising Housing Recovery Program facilitates home repairs, rehabilitation, mitigation and elevation for the owners of single-family homes. The State has issued more than $916 million to help 11,987 rebuild residences damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Additional programs serve the owners of multi-family rental properties and individual owners of co-ops and condos. The rental properties program not only benefits property owners, but preserves essential affordable housing for New Yorkers in need.

In February 2014, the State began disbursing money through the Interim Mortgage Assistance program to families who have accrued housing costs beyond what was originally covered. Since that time, the State has provided mortgage assistance to 1,358 displaced homeowners at a cost of approximately $34.3 million.

NY RISING INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2017, the Infrastructure and Local Government Program continued to advance recovery-related initiatives that address damages from Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, and also make communities and public infrastructure more resilient to future storms. To date, the Match Program has provided over $190 million to cover the local match for over 750 impacted program applicants.

Working with the Environmental Facilities Corporation, GOSR has provided the match for nine projects that will make wastewater treatment facilities more resilient. These include the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Facility in Nassau County. As of April 2017 over $20 million dollars of the $101 million commitment for this project has been provided. Additionally, work on the $383 million Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency initiative to make four watersheds more resilient to future storms continued to advance, with over $300 million of the total cost being provided via grant financing.

INVESTMENTS TO REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

A fifth round of the Restore New York Communities Initiative has been approved for $70 million. Last year the program provided nearly $40 million in funding to 75 municipalities for projects that support municipal revitalization efforts, reinvigorate downtowns and generate economic opportunity across the state.

INCREASE IN MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Through the New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, communities across the state can apply for matching grants to re-imagine, redesign and revitalize their waterfront to energize economic growth, protect and restore natural resources and enhance community resilience towards the dangers of climate change. To make this program more accessible and flexible, the State Budget increased matching funds from up to 50 percent to up to 75 percent of eligible costs for all projects and up to 85 percent for projects in Environmental Justice Communities. With many municipal budgets already stretched thin, this increase in matching funds will ensure that this unique opportunity will be available to a whole new applicant pool to help them achieve their vision for their communities.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

ATTRACTING INVESTMENT IN SKILLS TRAINING

A skilled and adaptable workforce is vital for New York companies to thrive in the 21st century economy. To help employers invest in New York’s workforce, the FY 2018 State Budget makes important improvements to the Employee Training Incentive Program to incentivize companies to include incumbent worker training as part of their expansion and retention projects. Businesses will be eligible for Excelsior Tax Credits if they train incumbent workers as part of their project; companies will include training costs in the total project budget.

MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN NEW YORK

Two new programs were launched this year to increase MWBE participation in State contracting. The New York State MWBE Business Growth Accelerator Program enables participating MWBEs to receive intensive technical assistance and business development training through seminars and individualized one-on-one sessions from selected local providers with demonstrated experience in serving this business community. Training topics include marketing, finance, contracting, and sales - tailored to the capacity needs of each participating MWBE firm. The New York State MWBE Certification Assistance Program enables firms to work with local experts to identify deficiencies in their application which may affect the timeliness and ultimate outcome of MWBE certification.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND APPRENTICES
The FY 2018 State Budget extends the New York Youth Jobs Program with a $40 million annual allocation over the next five years as well as a $10 million annual allocation for the Empire State Apprenticeship Tax Credit Program, significantly expanding opportunities throughout the State. Since 2012, this highly successful program has connected more than 47,000 young adults to jobs at nearly 2,000 businesses. New York State has taken great strides in recent years to expand registered apprenticeships into new and emerging sectors. In May, the state announced $4.2 million in federal funding to create 800 new registered apprenticeship positions with a focus on high-demand fields like advanced manufacturing, healthcare and information technology. Submissions will be accepted through March 2018.

EXPANDING SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH
The 2018 Budget increases funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program by $5 million, bringing total funding to $36 million. In 2016, approximately 18,750 youths were employed through the program. With the increased funding, the program will serve more youth seeking meaningful summer employment opportunities.

ADVANCING THE TECH WORKFORCE TRAINING FUND
The FY 2018 State Budget provides for Governor Cuomo’s first-ever New York Tech Workforce Training Fund, a $5 million fund designed to support innovative training and education solutions delivering New Yorkers into tech jobs, from software engineers to data scientists. The Training Fund will be disbursed to training providers through an RFP process, reviewed and informed by industry leaders through the New York Tech Workforce Development Task Force. Applications submitted this spring are currently under review.

EXPANDING CAPACITY AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MWBES AT DASNY
DASNY’s surety bond training program, announced in January 2017, includes 23 classes where MWBE firms partner with surety bond providers to study best business practices that will help them access larger surety bond capacity, and larger roles on construction projects.

There are two types of surety bonds required on most DASNY construction projects: performance bonds and payment bonds. Performance bonds protect project owners (like DASNY) against risks associated with the contractor’s performance. Should a contractor fail to meet its obligations under the contract, the surety company is obligated to make sure the work is completed. Payment bonds, on the other hand, ensure that subcontractors and suppliers are paid what they are owed by the contractor in accordance with their contract.

DASNY’s training program provides MWBE firms with the tools, such as improved business operations, that they need to obtain larger surety bonds. This in turn helps them play a larger
For the first time, DASNY selected an MWBE firm as its broker of record for its general and excess liability insurance program. J.P. West and its team will help oversee DASNY’s General Liability insurance program for construction projects by finding insurance carriers who will write policies with total limits of $80 million.

EXPANDING THE UNEMPLOYMENT STRIKEFORCE

Governor Cuomo launched New York’s Unemployment Strikeforce in 2014 with a pilot program in the Bronx, which was subsequently expanded to the ten areas of the state with the highest unemployment rates. Due to the continued success of the Strikeforce model, the Governor announced the creation of the Western New York Employment Strikeforce in March 2016. As of June 2017, the Strikeforce program had served nearly 70,000 individuals in the ten original counties, with over 52,500 of them finding employment. The Western New York Employment Strikeforce has served over 13,800 people so far, with nearly 4,300 of them finding employment.

DEFENDING UNION JOBS AS A PATHWAY TO THE MIDDLE CLASS

The FY 2018 State Budget creates a union dues deduction, allowing full union dues to be deducted from New York State taxes. Prior to the enactment of this law, a floor applied in which only amounts in excess of 2 percent of taxpayers’ adjusted gross income were deductible. The new deduction applies both to New Yorkers who currently receive a partial deduction only for the amount of their union dues beyond this floor, and to those who currently receive no deduction because their dues and related deductions fall below the 2 percent floor. The new measure is expected to save approximately 500,000 New York taxpayers $35 million annually.
INCREASING DIRECT CARE PROFESSIONAL SALARIES

The FY 2018 State Budget provides New York’s 120,000 direct care professionals with a 6.5 percent raise over the next two years. These increases will help state-funded non-profits that specialize in the care of vulnerable New Yorkers not only recruit and retain employees, but continue to provide the same level of excellent care that have made them the backbone of New York’s developmentally disabled and behavioral health system.

ENACTING COMPREHENSIVE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION REFORM

The FY 2018 State Budget includes meaningful workers’ compensation reforms that provides cost savings for businesses and better protections for injured workers. The new reforms ensure that: the most significantly injured workers have the right to be considered for lifetime benefits; swift access to hearings is provided for injured workers not receiving benefits; a clear formulary is created for prescription drugs; relief is provided for first responders exposed to a traumatic event at work; more definitive limits on caps are established; and medical guidelines are updated to reflect advances in modern medicine. Based on these reforms, together with general system savings spearheaded by the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board, the New York Compensation Insurance Rating Board submitted an overall workers’ compensation rate decrease of approximately 4.5 percent, which will save New York employers about $400 million this year in reduced premiums.
To strengthen equal pay protections and women’s rights across New York State, Governor Cuomo signed two Executive Orders, prohibiting state entities from evaluating prospective candidates based on prior wage history and requiring all state contractors to disclose data on gender, race, ethnicity, and salary. The Governor also directed the Department of Labor to launch a gender wage gap study and make recommendations that include industry-specific steps to eliminate wage disparity. The State will accept written submissions and hold public forums, along with smaller discussions, across the state to solicit testimony from academic experts, workers, business owners and the general public. These measures, part of Governor Cuomo’s New York Promise Agenda, have placed New York on the fast track to eliminate the wage gap and set a national standard for protections against all forms of discrimination.
CRACKING DOWN ON WAGE THEFT

When bad actors knowingly profit by taking advantage of their workers, it hurts law-abiding businesses by creating an uneven playing field. Governor Cuomo’s Joint Task Force on Employee Misclassification and Worker Exploitation has launched approximately 15,000 cases across 15 industries, impacting nearly 130,000 workers and returning more stolen wages to workers than ever before. Over the first quarter of 2017, these stepped-up wage enforcement efforts resulted in an increase of 63 percent over the first quarter of 2016 in returned wages to workers.

TOURISM

INVESTMENTS TO REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

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ATTRACTING MORE VISITORS TO NEW YORK

New York State’s tourism industry set new high marks in 2016. A record 239 million visitors traveled to New York State, 36 million more than when Governor Cuomo took office in 2011. Those visitors generated a record economic impact of $104.8 billion— an increase of nearly $18 billion compared to 2011 and exceeding $100 billion for the third straight year. Direct visitor spending was an all-time high $64.8 billion, up almost $11 billion from 2011. Tourists paid more than $8 billion in state and local taxes, saving each New York household an average of $1,133. And tourism supported 914,000 jobs and nearly $21 billion in direct wages, a 25 percent increase from 2011.
$70 MILLION FOR PHASE TWO OF THE UNPRECEDENTED REVITALIZATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS

The 2018 State Budget allocates $70 million for phase two of the historic redesign and transformation of the New York State Fairgrounds. Phase two of the capital program includes $50 million to develop the fairgrounds into a year-round destination and a $20 million investment from the Upstate Revitalization Initiative which will allow for the construction of a new on-ramp to I-690 West and other improvements to the Orange parking lot. Other fair enhancements will include constructing a new Aerial Sky Ride and offering new, diverse events to attract visitors year-round.

PROMOTES THE TASTE NY CULINARY TRAIL SYSTEM

To support the growing craft beverage and culinary tourism industries in New York, Governor Cuomo launched the Taste NY Cuisine and Craft Beverage Trail webpage on May 18, 2017. The site provides consumers with a map of the State’s 20 beverage trails and information on the participating wine, beer, spirits and cider producers. The site also includes a step-by-step guide for producers seeking to start a new craft beverage or culinary trail, including application information from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York State Department of Transportation. The craft beverage industry has experienced unprecedented growth under the guidance and direction of Governor Cuomo, who has approved several measures and implemented significant reforms to promote and expand the industry. New York State is now home to more than 900 wineries, breweries, distilleries and cideries. This new website provides a one-stop shop for consumers seeking authentic regional food and drink experiences and demystify the application process for producers.

INVESTING IN NEW YORK STATE OLYMPIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The FY 2018 State Budget includes $28 million in new capital funding to transform ORDA facilities across New York State. This includes $20 million to enhance the current facilities at Gore and Whiteface Mountains, as well as $8 million in upgrades at Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, to create state-of-the art skiing, lodging, dining and retail opportunities and year-round activities.

MASTER PLAN FOR “GATEWAY TO THE ADIRONDACKS” AT NORTHWAY EXIT 29

In a big boost to both tourism and the economy of the North Country, the State has prepared a Master Plan to establish a Gateway to the Adirondacks at Exit 29 of the Northway, in the town of North Hudson. Located in the heart of the Adirondacks, the State will work with public and private partners to secure an estimated $32 million to create the world-class tourism destination, which will create a recreational and hospi-
tality experience that enhances economic activity. This development will highlight the natural offerings of the region and serve as a launching off point for the exploration of the Adirondack Park. It will be complemented by public camping along Schroon River, an equestrian camping facility, a variety of recreational trails and day use areas for public recreation and access.

**EXPAND THE NYS GROWN & CERTIFIED PROGRAM**

The FY 2018 State Budget expands the NYS Grown & Certified program to further promote and provide a boost to some of New York’s best producers and support the states important Agriculture industry. Dairy products are now included in the program to promote New York’s dairy industry and improve business for dairy producing farmers. Since creating the NYS Grown & Certified Program in 2016, the State has certified dozens of produce farms and dairy processors and formed a variety of partnerships to expand access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food in New York schools, hospitals, and even correctional facilities.
EXPANDING NEW YORK PRODUCTS

MAXIMIZING AGRICULTURE AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTION

New York State Schools spent $1.4 million on New York State produce during the 2016-17 school year through the United States Department of Agriculture’s Pilot for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables managed by the Office of General Services’ Food Distribution Program. Through the program, schools procured fresh fruits and vegetables for 330,000 school children in 236 school districts. The number of participating vendors in New York State that have been approved by the USDA has grown to 25, the largest number of approved vendors of any state participating in the pilot.

LAUNCH THE FIRST-EVER NEW YORK CRAFT BEVERAGE WEEK

This January, Governor Cuomo announced that the first-ever New York Craft Beverage Week will take place in New York City this September to showcase the diversity and quality of the State’s burgeoning craft beverage industry and connect upstate producers with new markets. Taste NY hosted a preview event at Pier a Harbor House in New York City to showcase more than four dozen of the State’s top wine, beer, spirits and cider producers in May.

The extraordinary growth of New York’s craft beverage industry is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit of New York’s skilled crafts men and women, and to the Governor’s commitment to growing awareness and consumption of New York State products. While these small breweries and distilleries are focused on creating the highest quality products, they face barriers in expanding beyond the state’s borders because their marketing is typically regionally-oriented.
On April 27, 2017, Governor Cuomo announced the completion of the first span of BUILDING THE NEW NY.
KOSCIUSZKO BRIDGE

The Kosciuszko Bridge project is replacing the existing 78-year-old bridge, which first opened in 1939 under President Roosevelt’s administration. The $555 million Phase I project is the largest single contract the New York State Department of Transportation has ever undertaken – resulting in the construction of the Queens-bound bridge, which includes three lanes of traffic in each direction until the completion of Phase II. The new bridge will benefit approximately 200,000 commuters each day and has a service life of 100 years, ensuring its viability well into the future.

Once the project is fully completed, the Queens-bound Bridge will carry five lanes of traffic and the Brooklyn-bound Bridge will carry four lanes, as well as a 20-feet-wide bikeway/walkway with spectacular views of Manhattan. Shoulders will be added to both bridges, where none currently exist. The new bridge will be lower than the original by 35 feet, decreasing the incline and allowing trucks and other large vehicles to maintain consistent speeds on the bridge, helping to ease congestion. This is the first new bridge constructed in New York City since the Verrazano Bridge in 1964.
SECOND AVENUE SUBWAY

On January 1, Governor Cuomo announced the on time opening of the Second Avenue Subway. Phase 1 of the Second Avenue Subway project, the system’s first major expansion project in more than 50 years, includes three new ADA-compliant stations at 96th Street, 86th Street and 72nd Street, and new entrances to the existing Lexington Av/63rd Street Station at 63rd Street and Third Avenue. It provides service from 96th Street to 63rd Street and will serve more than 200,000 people per day, reducing overcrowding on the Lexington Avenue Line and restoring a transit link to a neighborhood that lost the Second Avenue elevated subways in 1940. The existing Q line will continue through 63rd Street all the way to Coney Island. The new stations will provide transfers to other subway and commuter rail lines. The new line also features low-vibration track, for a smoother, quieter ride.

The Second Avenue Subway also features the largest permanent public art installation in New York State history commissioned through MTA Arts & Design. Four world-class installations help make the line an underground museum, and will provide a source of appreciation, inspiration and beauty to both customers and visitors for decades to come.
NEW GOVERNOR MARIO M. CUOMO BRIDGE

The project to replace the Tappan Zee bridge with the newly-named Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge continues to make remarkable progress on the Hudson River.

In March, Tappan Zee Constructors completed installing structural steel on the west-bound span of the bridge. The final steel section was the smallest assembly placed on the project to date, weighing 143,000 pounds – 10 times less than some other sections. Unlike the other sections of structural steel on the main span, the final assembly is not anchored with stay cables. Instead, the 24-foot section was carefully aligned and secured to the previously installed segments near the center of the 2,230-foot-long main span. Temperature played a crucial role in this alignment process, as the bridge’s roadway slightly expanded and contracted with the time of day. The steel was set during the early morning hours, when cooler temperatures contracted the roadway. As the sun warmed the area, the roadway slightly expanded to make for a precise fit. Ironworkers then installed bolts in the assembly to complete the connection.

The project remains on target and is scheduled to open in 2018 at a total cost of $3.98 billion. The economic impact of the project is being felt within the region and around the state. More than 694 New York State companies are involved (1,617 overall) – 192 based in Westchester and 90 based in Rockland. The Tappan Zee construction project has pumped $2.2 billion into the economy to date, employing more than 5,800 people overall with 1,100 working on the project in June of 2017 alone.
This summer, Governor Cuomo was joined by Senator Charles E. Schumer to open the expanded West End Concourse at Penn Station. The new, state-of-the-art concourse provides direct access to 17 of the station’s 21 tracks for LIRR commuters and intercity rail passengers, and offers an underground connection between the future Moynihan Train Hall and Penn Station via 33rd Street with a direct link to the 8th Avenue Subway (A/C/E). The opening of the West End Concourse completes the first phase of the transformational redesign of Penn Station, the nation’s busiest transportation facility, to a fully modernized, world-class transit hub for the 21st Century.

The new concourse increases passenger circulation and streamlines train operations by doubling the length and width of the original concourse, providing new stairways connecting with nine of Penn Station’s eleven train platforms, and adding an additional passenger elevator on each platform for comfort and increased ADA accessibility. These new vertical access points allow passengers to enter and leave the platforms faster and more easily, reducing train dwell time at these platforms during boarding and disembarking. The expanded West End Concourse also features state-of-the-art facilities and technology including digital media screens for train information, graphic way-finding to improve navigation for NYC tourists as well as regular commuters, upgraded high-tech and energy efficient LED lighting, and year-round climate control. New plazas and street level entrances at 8th Avenue into the century-old, landmarked Farley Building provide access to this new, lower concourse and streamline boarding and exiting for passengers. Public art and landscaping will also greet commuters accessing the trains via these new entrances.
GOETHALS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The first of the new Goethals’ twin spans, located next to the old bridge, opened to New York-bound traffic on June 10, 2017 following the permanent closure of the 89-year-old original Goethals. The second of the new Goethals Bridge’s twin spans will open in 2018. In this final configuration, the new state-of-the-art bridge will have three 12-foot lanes along with 12-foot outer shoulders and five-foot inner shoulders on each of its twin spans. The second structure also will feature a 10-foot shared use path for bicyclists and pedestrians. The twin spans also preserve a corridor for future mass transit. The complete bridge, with a total of 144 stay cables, each up to 450 feet long and 14 inches in diameter, will unite the roadways with four sets of soaring, V-shaped, 272-foot-tall concrete towers. It represents a significant improvement over the existing Goethals Bridge, now functionally obsolete with only four sub-standard 10-foot lanes, no shoulders and no shared-use pedestrian/bike path.

The Port Authority committed approximately $363 million of the $1.5 billion total cost, including prior planning, permitting, property acquisition, as well as design and engineering work. The agency will make another $150 million in payments to the developer upon completion of key milestones, including substantial bridge completion and the demolition of the old structure. Additional periodic payments will be made to the developer to cover capital and maintenance costs over the next 35 years, subject to deductions if NYNJ Link fails to meet certain performance criteria. The Port Authority will continue to operate the replacement bridge and retains control of the setting and collection of tolls.

BAYONNE BRIDGE NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCE PROGRAM

The $1.6 billion raising of the Bayonne Bridge roadway will allow the world’s ultra-large, environmentally friendly container vessels to pass beneath the span, gaining access to the Ports of Newark, Elizabeth, and Staten Island. Construction on the Bayonne Bridge in Staten Island began in 2013, after the project received fast-track environmental review status and a federal permit from the U.S. Coast Guard. An elevated roadway through the existing arch bridge and over the existing roadway was completed in February 2017, allowing the old roadway to be removed. The bridge will be built to its full width by 2019, providing motorists with a safer, wider roadway featuring four, 12-foot-wide lanes in each direction, shoulders and a shared use pedestrian-bicycle path.
This raising of the Bayonne Bridge – along with last year’s completion of a $2.1 billion, 50-foot navigation channel deepening project, $600 million of Port Authority investments in on-dock rail projects and billions of dollars in investments by private-sector terminal operators – will allow the port to continue to attract more cargo on fewer ships. The Port of New York and New Jersey is the busiest port on the East Coast and the third busiest in the country after Los Angeles and Long Beach.

I-684 REHAB, HARDSCRABBLE ROAD TO I-84

Serving approximately 75,000 vehicles daily, 4.3 miles (23 lane miles of pavement and nine bridges) of this interstate will be rehabilitated on this major commuter and commercial expressway. This $55.3 million project, with a State investment of $5.5M, is to pave I-684 between Exits 8 and 9 in the towns of Lewisboro and North Salem in Westchester County and the town of Southeast in Putnam County.

CROSS HARBOR FREIGHT PROGRAM

On May 5, 2017, Governor Cuomo and Congressman Nadler announced a major milestone for the Cross Harbor Freight Movement Project: issuance by the Port Authority of a RFP for consultants to conduct the Tier II Environmental Impact Study and complementary advanced planning and engineering work. The Tier II study will thoroughly explore the execution of a cross-harbor freight tunnel, identified in Tier I as one of the solutions to alleviate severe traffic congestion, reduce dependence on aging roads and bridges, and solve the region’s freight problem by finally connecting New York City directly to the national freight rail grid. The tunnel would run between an existing railyard in the Greenville area of Jersey City to connect with existing rail infrastructure.
ACCESS TO LAGUARDIA AIRPORT VIA AIRTRAIN

On May 8, 2017 Governor announced that $14.6 million will be invested to develop and analyze a proposal to connect LaGuardia Airport to the Willets Point transit hub in Queens by an AirTrain. The State aims to guarantee a 30-minute ride to the airport from Grand Central and Penn Station. The AirTrain would link the airport and the Willets Points stations on the Number 7 line and Long Island Rail Road. By 2030, the number of passengers at LaGuardia is expected to increase by more than 6 million passengers annually and the AirTrain is a key pillar of the airport’s strategy to accommodate this growth.

STEWART INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

On Thursday, June 15, 2017, the Mid-Hudson region welcomed an historic flight from Edinburgh, Scotland, by Norwegian. It was the first nonstop transatlantic commercial flight ever to land at Stewart International Airport (SWF). Norwegian, a new low-cost airline based in Europe, also began service from Stewart on July 1 to Dublin, Shannon & Belfast in Ireland and Bergen, Norway. The additional service offered by Norwegian will double the passenger usage of SWF within its first full year of operations.
In January 2017, Governor Cuomo awarded the Syracuse Hancock International Airport with $35.8 million in funding to drive forward a $45.1 million transformation of the airport. This is part of the second round of the $200 million Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition, which first launched last year. The Syracuse Hancock International Airport supports more than 7,500 jobs and generates nearly $597 million in economic impact throughout Central New York. This latest investment will increase economic opportunity, attract new businesses and visitors, and improve the overall passenger experience. This investment will turn an archaic facility into a state-of-the-art transportation hub that meets the needs of the 21st century traveler.

The overhaul of the airport’s aging infrastructure includes a wide-scale redesign of the grand hall, food, beverage and retail concessions, and the exterior façade. In addition, a new Regional Aviation History Museum, renovated glass pedestrian bridges, and eco-friendly roof will be built along with new flooring and furniture to provide a welcoming atmosphere for travelers from across the world. The project is expected to create more than 850 construction jobs. Project designers have been progressing through design, plan preparation and permit approvals. The first contract is expected to begin construction in fall 2017 and the scope is to demolish the roadside canopy. Substantial completion for the project is currently on schedule.

In September 2016, Governor Cuomo awarded $40M to activate the redesign, expanding capacity for passenger growth, improving passenger experience, and enhancing security. This is from the first round of funding through the state’s Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization competition. Once this $58 million project is complete, Airport’s terminal will include a landscaped courtyard, glass walls, a raised concourse and a new jet bridge to access larger aircraft, updated infrastructure and a renovated restaurant area. Projections have substantial completion ready by November 2018.
In September 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo awarded $39.8 million in funding to Greater Rochester International Airport to activate the airport’s $63.4 million transformation. The airport will be a state-of-the-art transportation hub with sustainable design, an improved passenger experience and increased economic opportunity. Breaking ground in April 2017, the project will overhaul the aging infrastructure of the airport with a wide-scale redesign of the terminal building, incorporating sustainable elements such as solar panels and rainwater collection, new signage at the I-390 entrance, enhanced security measures, new technology to improve accessibility, and premier shopping and dining options for a world-class passenger experience. This Airport supports nearly 10,000 jobs in the Finger Lakes Region. The Airport redevelopment plan projects 1,221 construction jobs will be created.

The project also consists of a state-of-the-art smart phone lot where family and friends can wait for passengers while monitoring up-to-the-minute arrival information on a...
The Smart Phone lot project continues to progress on schedule. Pavement markings are complete. Basic detailing of the lot will continue in June. Electric vehicle charging stations, flight information displays and wi-fi components of the program will be installed during the summer. Travelers will continue to see minimal construction equipment as they enter the Greater Rochester International Airport property. All parking lots remain open. The current cell phone lot remains open for use. The new Smart Phone Lot is Project designers have been progressing through design, plan preparation and permit approvals. The next project anticipated to be awarded will be the roadside canopy project. Project construction is expected to begin in the fall. Substantial completion for the project is expected by November 2018 and the project is currently on schedule.

PLATTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

In January 2017, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo awarded Plattsburgh International Airport $38 million through Round Two of the Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Competition to jumpstart the airport’s $43 million overhaul of the North Country aviation gateway. This project, which will take the currently underutilized former military facility and transform it into a state-of-the-art transportation and economic development hub, will create 825 construction jobs throughout its duration. The construction of a new air cargo receiving and distribution center will allow existing manufacturers to transport their own materials, create jobs, and attract new companies to the region. Additionally, the establishment of a new general aviation customs facility will expand international connectivity and allow foreign aircraft to use the North Country airport as a base of operations. A new multimodal facility will also improve mobility options for passengers and employees alike.

Project designers have been progressing through design, plan preparation and permit approvals. The next project anticipated to be awarded is demolition of eight buildings in order to create space for new construction. This project is expected to begin construction in late summer. The airport also currently expects to begin construction of a 60,000 square foot light industrial manufacturing facility in the fall. Substantial completion for the project is expected by November 2018 and the project is currently on schedule.
CASHLESS TOLLING

In the first six months of 2017, cashless tolling began at the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel, Queens Midtown Tunnel, Robert F. Kennedy Bridge, Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Memorial Bridge, and Cross Bay Veterans Bridge. Approximately 840,000 vehicles cross MTA bridges and tunnels each day. Cashless tolling is projected to save individual commuters up to 21 hours of drive time every year, approximately one million gallons of fuel and $2.3 million each year. Cashless tolling is scheduled to go by the end of this year at all MTA crossings.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE TESTING TO BEGIN IN NEW YORK STATE

On May 10, 2017 the Governor announced that New York is now accepting applications from companies interested in testing or demonstrating autonomous vehicles on public roads. Included in the FY 2018 State Budget, new legislation allows for testing autonomous technology through a year-long pilot program. In addition to the legislation, the new Department of Motor Vehicles application process is another step forward in making New York the epicenter of cutting-edge technology and innovation. The first successful vehicle demonstration occurred on June 13. On June 19th at the Council of the University Transportation Centers annual summer meeting, the University at Buffalo hosted the demonstration of an autonomous Cadillac SUV developed by Carnegie Mellon University. The vehicle was successfully able to drive itself at the Center for Tomorrow parking lot and service roads on UB’s North Campus.

WOODBURY TRANSIT AND ECONOMIC HUB

On February 26, Governor Cuomo announced the $150 million reconstruction of the Woodbury Transit and Economic hub will be completed five years ahead of schedule, moving up expected completion of the design-build project from 2024 to 2019. The transit and economic development hub project will improve access and reduce traffic congestion along busy corridor that serves more than 70,000 vehicles daily.
TRANSFORMATIVE INVESTMENTS ON LONG ISLAND

The FY 2018 State Budget invests $85 to enhance 16 Long Island Rail Road stations. These improvements will optimize system connectivity and enhance the overall passenger experience. The Budget also includes $20 million to develop a direct LIRR connection to MacArthur Airport. Additionally, the Budget includes $20 million to build a stop on the LIRR Ronkonkoma Branch at the center of Long Island’s innovation corridor at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The 16 enhanced stations:

- Great Neck
- Bellmore
- Stewart Manor
- Valley Stream
- Baldwin
- Merrick
- Syosset
- Farmingdale
- Northport
- Stony Brook
- Port Jefferson
- Wyandanch
- Deer Park
- Brentwood
- Ronkonkoma
- East Hampton

REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES AND EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

As part of Governor Cuomo’s efforts to improve New York’s business climate, expand economic growth, and revitalize downtowns, HCR’s Office of Community Renewal recently made available up to $26.2 million in funding through several programs including: New York Main Street, and Community Development Block Grant Microenterprise, Public Facilities, Public Infrastructure, and Community Planning. HCR is one of 12 state agencies providing community and economic development resources through the Regional Economic Development Councils and the Consolidated Funding Application, which allows businesses and organizations to apply to multiple agencies through a single application.
SECURING JUSTICE FOR ALL
SECURING JUSTICE FOR ALL

HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING
The FY 2018 State Budget provides $2.5 billion for affordable housing, continuing Governor Cuomo’s landmark $20 billion comprehensive, five-year plan to create or preserve 100,000 affordable and 6,000 supportive housing units across the State. This marks the largest State investment for the creation and preservation of affordable housing and efforts to end homelessness in the history of New York.

As part of the second phase of the Governor’s $20 billion plan, HCR recently made available more than $588 million to create and preserve a wide range of affordable housing, including up to $175 million for supportive housing as part of the Supportive Housing Opportunity Program. HCR’s Request for Proposals is part of $650 million in capital funding and $30 million in service and operating funding that HCR, the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance have advanced to further the Governor’s unprecedented investment in combatting housing insecurity and homelessness.

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN NEW YORK
To close out the State’s Legislative Session, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to end child marriage in New York. The legislation raises the age of consent to marry from 14-years-old to 18-years-old and amends the process to require parental and judicial consent for marriage of those between 17-years-old and 18-years-old. More than 3,800 minors were married in New York between 2000 and 2010. Now, the law expressly prohibits anyone under the age of 17 from getting married and provides guidance for judges who are tasked with making a determination as to whether or not a 17-year-old may get married.

$10 MILLION TO LIBERTY DEFENSE PROJECT
This year the Governor launched the Nation’s first public-private immigrant legal defense initiative. This $10 million legal defense fund will help ensure that all immigrants, regardless of residency status, have access to representation. The initiative is a public-private partnership between the New York Department of State, two dedicated philanthropic allies – the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Ford Foundation – and a statewide coalition of 182 advocacy organizations and legal entities. Private sector law firms, legal departments at universities, bar associations and advocacy organizations will be coordinated by the State’s Office for New Americans to provide pro bono legal and additional resources for immigrants threatened by recent changes in immigration policies.

ENSURING FAIRNESS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
All too frequently the criminal justice system produces mistaken eyewitness identifications, wrongful convictions for false confessions, and unfounded allegations of coercion by law enforcement. Instances of abuse or false allegations undermine trust in the criminal justice system and result in drastic consequences for individuals. From 2013-2016, the State awarded over $3.5 million in grants to over 150 local law enforcement agencies to purchase equipment
to video record interrogations and help prevent these abuses. Governor Cuomo built upon this effort by signing legislation requiring law enforcement agencies to video record interrogations for serious offenses and providing for the use of photo identifications made by witnesses at trial. These best practices allow for greater transparency into the criminal justice system and will ensure that juries have access to accurate and reliable evidence.

RAISE THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

New York State was one of only two states that automatically prosecuted 16- and 17-year-olds as adults at the start of this legislative session. Governor Cuomo took aggressive actions to improve juvenile justice during his tenure, including the creation of the Commission on Youth, Public Safety, and Justice in 2014, the passage of an Executive Order that transferred youth in prison to a juvenile facility in 2015, and the issuance of 100 acts of clemency to juveniles in 2016. This year, Governor Cuomo signed legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 18-years-old. As a result of this groundbreaking legislation, New York’s youth will no longer face the difficulties of the adult prison system and will be far more likely to rehabilitate themselves and successfully reintegrate into society.

ADVANCING AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

This year Governor Cuomo nominated, and the Senate confirmed jurists to the courts enhancing the excellence and diversity of the judicial system throughout New York State. Honorable Rowan D. Wilson was appointed to serve as an Associate Judge on the New York State Court of Appeals marking, at the time of his appointment, the first time in its history the New York State Court of Appeals had two African American jurists sitting simultaneously. Honorable Paul G. Feinman was also appointed to serve as an Associate Judge on the New York State Court of Appeals becoming the first openly gay judge to serve on the State’s highest court. All together in 2017, New York State appointed to the courts three members of the LGBT community, three members of the Hispanic community, two African Americans, a Chinese American, and an Indian American.

$65 MILLION IN FEDERAL VA PAYMENTS FOR VETERANS

The Division of Veteran Affairs Veterans Benefits Advisors, all of whom are Veterans accredited by the United States Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA), secure and maintain a substantial portion of the federal VA benefits paid annually to Veterans and their dependents in New York State. Since the start of 2017, Veterans Benefits Advisors generated $64,812,065 in new and recurring Federal VA benefits payments for Veterans and their dependents. Data indicates that DVA continues to file more Fully Developed Claims than other Veterans Service Organizations in New York State, significantly reducing the amount of time that the VA spends processing the application. Additionally, DVA’s Veterans Benefits Advisors help Veterans access the VA’s network of health care, State Veterans’ Homes, and nursing homes, as well as many local public assistance programs and private venues offering initiatives to assist Veterans and their families.
EQUALITY FOR VETERANS THROUGH LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

For the first time ever, New York State is offering funding to law schools assisting Veterans and their families. In recognition of the important work that law schools have already conducted through the Law School Consortium, New York State is providing five grants of $50,000 apiece to law schools helping Veterans and their families resolve unmet legal needs. This funding will allow recipient schools to augment the important work that they are already doing for Veterans and their families in practice areas ranging from health law to consumer protection to criminal defense work to discharge upgrades.

PEER-TO-PEER VETERAN MENTORING PROGRAM

In 2017, Governor Cuomo announced Veteran Mentoring Programs across New York State will receive $1 million in funding. Additionally, Governor Cuomo’s financial support will guarantee that the peer-to-peer mentor programs will continue to provide empathetic guides for Veterans on their pathways to recovery. The Division of Veterans’ Affairs continues to connect with these Veterans to ensure that they are receiving all of the benefits they are entitled to as a result of their service.

A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR VETERANS

Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will provide reimbursements of up to $2,000 to a Veterans Service Organization that provides interment services for an indigent Veteran. This reimbursement will help defray the costs to Veterans Service Organizations and ensure that all Veterans, regardless of their income, receive a final resting place. Previously, when a Veteran passed away in New York State without any means of funding funeral and interment expenses, Veterans Service Organizations often wound up paying the total cost out of their organization’s resources.

VETERAN OUTREACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

This spring, the Division of Veterans’ Affairs launched a digital campaign to reach out to Veterans across social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and their award-winning “New York State Veterans App” developed in collaboration with designers in the New York State Office of Information Technology. The mobile app now has the ability to “geofence”, giving the Division the ability to send notifications to targeted areas of the State about important Veterans events or services that are occurring in their local area.
THE NEW “AFFORDABLE NEW YORK” PROGRAM (FORMERLY 421-A)

The newly enacted “Affordable New York” program, a replacement for the New York City tax abatement program formerly known as 421-a, will spur housing construction by providing developers with a NYC property tax break in return for building affordable housing and providing fair wages for construction workers. The new program will generate about 2,500 units of affordable housing per year. Developers of new residential projects with 300 units or more in certain areas of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens will be eligible for a full property tax abatement for 35 years if the project creates a specific number of affordable rental units and meets minimum construction wage requirements. The units must remain affordable for 40 years.

ENCOURAGING HOMEOWNERSHIP, RETAINING AND ATTRACTING COLLEGE GRADUATE TO HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM IN UPSTATE

Despite being home to some of the nation’s leading colleges, many Upstate communities struggle to retain recent graduates. The new $5 million Graduate to Homeownership pilot program provides homeownership incentives to encourage graduates to put down roots in Upstate communities, bringing new energy and talent into their downtown centers, spurring development and increasing economic vitality. The Graduate to Homeownership Program works in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization Initiative to foster new regional magnets where businesses may access New York’s diverse and talented workforce, setting the stage for the entrepreneurial energy needed to continue revitalizing Upstate New York’s downtown areas.
STRENGTHENING TENANT PROTECTIONS

The Tenant Protection Unit, established by Governor Cuomo in 2011, plays an important role in preserving rent-regulated housing and proactively safeguarding the rights of rent-regulated tenants. Through the Tenant Protection Unit, the State has returned over 60,000 apartments to rent regulation and returned $3.8 million in overcharges to tenants. A recent New York State Supreme Court ruling upheld the creation of the TPU and additional renter protections advanced by this administration, which is a victory for the more than 2 million rent-regulated tenants across New York.

This spring, as a result of a TPU investigation and subsequent referral to the New York Attorney General, the owner of 140 apartment buildings throughout Manhattan pled guilty to fraudulently refinancing loans and committing tax fraud as part of a long running scheme to push rent-regulated tenants out of their homes. The owner will serve one year of jail and pay a $5 million tax settlement.

PROTECTING RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

Runaway and homeless youth face a lack of affordable, safe and stable housing. To provide Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs with increased flexibility so they can improve services, the FY 2018 State Budget includes reforms that provide counties with the ability to double the allowable length of stay in short-term RHYA crisis programs to 120 days and extend long-term RHYA transitional and residential independent living programs from 18 to 24 months. The reforms also allow counties to increase the maximum permissible age for young people in long-term RHYA programs to 24-years-old.

MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO EXISTING FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

About three-in-four households that receive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the nation’s main anti-hunger program, are also eligible for the Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides help with the cost of utilities. The federal government provides a higher amount of SNAP benefits to such families, but only if families apply for SNAP during the HEAP season. For households that apply for SNAP when the HEAP season is closed, this can result in up to nine months of reduced benefits, the equivalent of missing out on hundreds of dollars for food. To maximize access to existing federal benefits for needy families, Governor Cuomo has directed the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to keep the HEAP season open year–round, a win-win strategy that will incur no additional costs to the State while generating an additional $228 million annually in federal SNAP benefits to low-income households across New York.
SUPPORTING OPWDD’S TRANSITION TO MANAGED CARE

The FY 2018 State Budget applies ongoing Department of Health Global Cap resources to support the initial start-up costs of transitioning the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities service delivery system from a fee-for-service payment structure to managed care, which has shown enhanced quality outcomes and cost control for other Medicaid populations. The transition will begin with an enhanced care coordination model through the development of regional Care Coordination Organizations, which are expected to begin operations in 2018 and will be rolled-out on a regional basis.

PROVIDING QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

The constitutional right to an attorney in a criminal proceeding should be guaranteed to all New Yorkers regardless of income. That is why in 2014, Governor Cuomo reached a historic settlement in Hurrell-Harring et al. v. State of New York et al., which assured indigent defendants in five of the State’s counties would receive counsel at arraignment, assigned counsel in those counties would receive necessary training and would see a reduction in their caseloads.

Recognizing the need to extend these groundbreaking reforms across New York, Governor Cuomo prioritized the extension of the Hurrell-Harring settlement to the rest of the State this Legislative Session. This priority was realized with the passage of legislation effectively extending the terms of the Hurrell-Harring settlement to the entire State. This landmark legislation will ensure each and every New Yorker in a criminal proceeding is afforded the quality representation guaranteed by both the New York and United States Constitutions.

THE 2017 CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM ACT

NY.GOV/CRIMINALJUSTICEREFORM
GROWING THE EMPIRE STATE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The FY 2018 State Budget increases the state’s after-school investment with $35 million in new funding for public after-school programs in the state’s 16 Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative communities as well as in other communities in the state with high rates of child poverty. This new funding will create an additional 22,000 spots for students in after-school programs.

LEVERAGING FEDERAL FUNDS TO FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY

Approximately 25 percent of New Yorkers who are eligible for SNAP are not receiving benefits, including roughly 500,000 individuals in New York City alone. To educate and enroll more New Yorkers in SNAP, including those who are hardest to reach, Governor Cuomo has directed OTDA to develop a new SNAP Outreach Partnership Initiative, engaging foundations and community-based organizations in developing and implementing innovative ways to connect potentially eligible individuals with SNAP benefits. OTDA has issued a new RFP for SNAP outreach, with a goal of securing plans for a SNAP outreach campaign and private funding commitments totaling $5 million.

100 NEW NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION CHAPTERS ACROSS THE STATE

To connect more schoolchildren and young adults with opportunities in agriculture and spark interest in related careers, the State pledged $849,000 to support the New York FFA. Students who enroll in STEM-based agriculture education will be our next biotechnologists, environmental engineers, meteorologists, and food scientists who will improve our food supply by producing higher yields with greater food safety standards. New York FFA teaches more than 4,300 middle and high school students about agriculture through post-secondary agricultural programs through college visits, site visits to farms, and intra-curricular instruction. FFA students also develop leadership skills required for farm ownership or management through visits with legislative members, agricultural competitions at the New York State Fair and county fairs, and an annual leadership camp at the Oswegatchie Educational Center. New agricultural education incentive grants will be available in the fall for school districts seeking to establish a formal agricultural education program with an NY FFA chapter.
INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION
HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION AID EVER

New York State has invested more in education than at any other time in history and more per pupil than any other state in the nation. The FY 2018 State Budget increases education aid by $1.1 billion, including a $700 million increase in Foundation Aid, bringing the new education aid total to an historic $25.8 billion (an increase of 4.4%). Over the past six years, education aid across the state has increased by $6.2 billion, or 32%. The funding will support almost 700 school districts and 2.8 million students in Pre-K through 12th grades.

EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

The FY 2018 State Budget enacts the Governor’s landmark Excelsior Scholarship program to make college affordable for working- and middle-class families making up to $125,000 per year, when fully phased-in, at SUNY and CUNY two- and four-year colleges.

EXTEND MAYORAL CONTROL FOR TWO YEARS

This Legislative Session, the State expended mayoral control of New York City public schools for two years, until the end of June in 2019. Mayoral control has been a policy in New York City schools since 2002.

OVERALL SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

The FY 2018 State Budget provides $7.5 billion in total support for higher education, a $448 million, or 6.3 percent, increase over last year.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

The FY 2018 State Budget invests nearly $1.2 billion in strategic programs to make college more affordable and encourage the best and brightest students to build their future in New York. Highlights include:
OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES (OER)
For many students, the cost of textbooks can be prohibitively expensive. In many cases, students choose not to register for courses that require expensive textbooks, or they end up withdrawing or failing courses because they cannot afford the materials. This cost barrier to an affordable college education is unnecessary. To provide students with the tools they need to succeed along their academic pathway, the budget includes $8M ($4M SUNY and $4M CUNY) to expand the use of open education resources at SUNY and CUNY replacing expensive textbooks with low or no cost alternative learning materials. The return on investment and potential cost savings to students is substantial. Every dollar invested in the expansion of OER based materials returns $5 in student savings.

ENHANCED TUITION AWARD
A new Enhanced Tuition Award will enable students attending private not-for-profit colleges to receive financial assistance to complete their college degree. The program provides a maximum award of $3,000, requires private colleges to provide a match and freeze student tuition for the duration of the award -- maximizing the financial benefit to the student. The FY 2018 State budget includes $19 million for the program.

SUPPORTING NEW YORK’S PUBLIC COLLEGES
The FY 2018 State Budget provides $6.1 billion in support for New York’s public university systems, a $309 million (5.3%) increase over the 2016-2017 spending.

NYSUNY 2020 AND NYCUNY 2020 CAPITAL CHALLENGE GRANTS
To build a stronger future for SUNY and CUNY, the State Budget provides $110 million for a new round of competitive NYSUNY 2020 and NYCUNY 2020 capital challenge grants. These resources fund campus initiatives to improve academic outcomes, find efficiencies, and promote innovation and economic development.

SUNY AND CUNY CAPITAL PROJECTS
The State Budget includes $1.07 billion in appropriations for new capital projects at SUNY and CUNY campuses. This includes $834 million to maintain SUNY state-operated campuses and CUNY senior
colleges in a state of good repair of which $160 million is available for new campus initiatives; $100 million for SUNY hospitals; and $135 million for the State’s 50 percent share of community college capital projects with local sponsor support.

**DESIGN-BUILD SPEEDS RESIDENCE HALL CONSTRUCTION**

A $21 million, 256-bed residence hall at SUNY College at Brockport will be constructed using the design-build method to speed delivery and keep down costs. The project, announced in March 2017, is scheduled for completion in summer 2018. The hall will be designed and constructed to LEED-Silver standards under the U.S. Green Building Council’s sustainability and energy efficiency guidelines.

The project is financed through DASNY’s SUNY Dormitory Facilities Program and is being built by DASNY. The design-build method uses a procurement process that factors in both quality and cost, and ensures that the State’s MWBE participation goals are fulfilled.

**LOW-COST FINANCING FOR SUNY RESIDENCE HALLS**

Approximately $150 million in low-cost, tax-exempt bonds through DASNY’s SUNY Dormitory Facilities Program is financing residence hall construction and renovations across New York State. The financing supports campuses as they develop and upgrade residence halls, which help attract the best and the brightest students, growing New York State’s economy. The bonds are supported by student residence hall fees and help campuses keep down costs.

**AMONG THE MAJOR PROJECTS:**

1. More than $20 million to the Finger Lakes to support the new residence hall at SUNY College at Brockport and other dormitory renovations at the College.
2. More than $31 million to the Mid-Hudson Region, with approximately $13 million supporting the renovation of SUNY New Paltz’s Bevier Hall.
3. More than $37 million to the Western New York Region, including support for the $16 million renovation of Bishop Hall at Buffalo State College.

**SUNY STATE-OPERATED CAMPUSES**

The FY 2018 State Budget includes $3.6 billion for SUNY state-operated campuses, including $2.9 billion for campus operations and fringe benefits plus $772 million in debt service support for campus capital infrastructure. This funding reflects a $173 million increase in general operating support and employee fringe benefits. The FY 2018 State Budget also implements a predictable tuition policy capping tuition growth to $200 annually over the next four years. Revenue generated from the tuition increase ($55.6 million) will be used to invest in new classroom faculty, instruction, initiatives to improve...
student success and on-time completion and a tuition credit. The FY 2018 State Budget also includes a Maintenance of Effort to assist in meeting the operational needs of SUNY and CUNY.

CUNY SENIOR COLLEGES
The FY 2018 State Budget includes $1.6 billion in for CUNY senior colleges, including $1.3 billion for campus operations and fringe benefits plus $377 million in debt service support for campus capital infrastructure. This funding reflects a $40.3 million increase in general operating support and employee fringe benefits. The FY 2018 State Budget also implements a predictable tuition policy capping tuition growth to $200 annually over the next four years. Revenue generated from the tuition increase ($34.3 million) will be used to invest in new classroom faculty, instruction, initiatives to improve student success and on-time completion and a tuition credit. The FY 2018 State Budget also includes a Maintenance of Effort to assist in meeting the operational needs of SUNY and CUNY.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES AID
The FY 2018 State Budget increases base operating aid by $50 per full-time student from $2,697 to $2,747 and provides more than $745 million in State support for SUNY and CUNY community colleges.

ADVANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT CUNY
More than $520 million in energy efficiency upgrades across the City University of New York system are underway, a complement to the Governor’s reforming the Energy Vision strategy.

DASNY is delivering $380 million in projects as part of its partnership with CUNY and the New York Power Authority is financing and implementing more than $140 million in energy efficiency projects. The upgrades span 19 campuses and range from the addition of high-efficiency lighting to the replacement of outdated heating and cooling equipment. The energy-saving measures will reduce environmental impacts and operating costs.

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS
The FY 2018 State Budget includes $211 million in funding for higher education opportunity programs and training centers at SUNY, CUNY, and independent colleges - a $76 million increase since 2011-12.

• $81.7M for SED-administered programs (HEOP, Liberty Partnerships STEP, CSTEP)
• $63.5M for SUNY Educational Opportunity Centers, ATTAIN Labs, and CUNY Leads
• $32.2M for Educational Opportunity Programs at SUNY
• $29.4M for SEEK and College Discovery at CUNY
• $4.5M for the Foster Youth College Success Initiative established in 2015
LOW-COST FINANCING FOR PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

More than $1.4 billion in low-cost, tax-exempt bonds were issued to support the capital needs of private higher education institutions in New York State, helping them attract the best and the brightest students. This includes a $190.5 million revenue bond deal with Columbia University as well as a $43.4 million revenue bond deal with Teacher’s College.

PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM (PTS)

The FY 2018 State Budget includes $3.1 million for a new part-time scholarship program for students who attend a SUNY or CUNY community college on part-time basis.

CHILD WELFARE WORKER INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

The FY 2018 State Budget includes $100,000 for a new scholarship and loan forgiveness program for individuals who are employed at a not-for-profit child welfare agency in the State.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY STUDY

The President of the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) shall undertake a study and report on options to make college more affordable.

EXPANDING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FY 2018 State Budget provides an additional $50 million for a total of $150 million in community school funding, to transform failing and high-needs schools to community schools. Funding will support services that are unique to each school and address their individual needs including: before-and-after school programs, summer learning activities, medical care, dental care, and other social services. Providing students, parents, and communities with various supports is an investment that maximizes parent involvement and student achievement and builds stronger communities overall.

SUPPORTING PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, New York has more than doubled its investment in pre-kindergarten to ensure that our youngest learners get on the right track to lifelong success. This year, the State has allocated more than $800 million to support free universal pre-Kindergarten for over 120,000 3- and 4-year-olds across the state.

The FY 2018 State Budget includes an additional $5 million to support pre-kindergarten expansion in high-need school districts across the state that still do not have pre-kindergarten, as well as eased administrative barriers to help streamline the pre-kindergarten programs. In addition, funding for Quality Stars NY, the State’s quality rating and improvement system was continued.
AWARDING EXCELLENT TEACHERS IN THE EMPIRE STATE

Last year, Governor Cuomo launched the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Awards to honor teachers from every region of the state who embody the high standards that motivate and challenge students to reach their full potential. The Governor awarded 61 teachers across the state $5,000 to support their continued professional growth. This year, Governor Cuomo committed $400,000 to support a second round of Empire State Excellence in Teaching Awards. In addition, Governor Cuomo committed to a new $2 million investment in the successful Master Teacher program that honors highly effective STEM teachers with a $15,000 award for four years of teaching.

SUPPORTING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are an important, high quality education option for families across New York State. Today, 267 charter schools serve 128,000 students in the state. In order to hire top-tier teachers and staff, the FY 2018 State Budget increases charter funding by at least $500 per pupil. The FY 2018 State Budget increases facilities aid support for NYC charter schools ensuring adequate access to classroom space. Furthermore the FY 2018 State Budget ensures a predictable funding formula in future years that is directly linked to increases in district spending.

EXPANDING EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

For many students and families, a college education is beyond their financial reach. Early college high school programs in New York State have been providing students who are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education with the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school, free of charge. The FY 2018 State Budget provides $5.3 million to expand successful Early College High School programs, such as P-TECH. This year’s grants will include a preference for failing schools, or schools preparing students for careers in computer science or related fields.
TECHNOLOGY FUNDING FOR NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Consistent with spending under the Smart Schools Bond Act, the State Budget includes $25 million in capital funding to enhance classroom technology and connectivity projects that will benefit students attending non-public schools. This program will finance improved educational technology and infrastructure such as interactive whiteboards, computer servers, wireless access points, routers, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, and high-speed and wireless internet connectivity.

DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF CERTIFIED AG EDUCATORS 240 TO 480

Of the 864 public high schools in the state, only 195 offer agricultural education and a New York Future Farmers of America chapter. More than 70 local school communities across New York State have expressed interest in re-establishing or starting secondary agricultural education programs, but lack the resources and certified agricultural educators required for program approval. To address the statewide shortage of certified agricultural educators, the State is investing $416,000 in the New York Association of Agricultural Educators to attract and retain certified agricultural educators with recruitment outreach and professional development activities. School districts will be able to start the new school year with additional funds for marketing open positions, training to keep educators up to date with latest industry standards, and an expanded mentorship program to support newer educators and share best practices.
ACHIEVING STATEWIDE WELLNESS
PROTECTING NEW YORKERS FROM THE SOARING COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Under the FY 2018 State Budget, New York has established the first in the nation Medicaid Drug Cap to limit the growth of prescription drug spending in its Medicaid program, which has grown 25 percent over the past three years. The Medicaid Drug Cap establishes a cap on the growth of prescription drug spending with enforcement mechanisms to reduce spending on drugs with high launch prices, significant price increases, or an excessive price relative to its therapeutic benefit. In addition, the Department of Health will have a range of tools to encourage further negotiation of supplemental rebates with manufacturers for high cost drugs with a credible threat of penalties if those negotiations are unsuccessful. The FY 2018 State Budget also enables the Medicaid program to allocate more resources for other essential health services and ensures high-quality care across New York State.

EXPAND FRESHCONNECT CHECKS TO INCLUDE HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS FOR MEDICAL PATIENTS

Expand FreshConnect Checks to include healthy food options for Medical Patients

In the State of the State, Governor Cuomo announced a new pilot program in Brooklyn that will expand FreshConnect checks to be used at retailers for the purchase of fresh and healthy foods prescribed by a physician following a visit at a hospital. Residents of poor urban and rural areas typically have limited access to healthy food options. These populations can experience higher rates of obesity and diet-related diseases as a result of poor nutrition. The pilot program will launch later this year to support the Vital Brooklyn healthier community initiative.

INVESTING $1.4 BILLION FOR VITAL BROOKLYN

In March 2017, Governor Cuomo unveiled a $1.4 billion initiative - called Vital Brooklyn – enacted in the 2018 Budget that aims to transform the Central Brooklyn region and serve as national model for addressing health and wellness in high-need communities. The comprehensive plan focuses on increasing access to open spaces and healthy food, while transforming the healthcare system by increasing access and quality of health care services and preventive care. Vital Brooklyn will also create a stronger, more sustainable Central Brooklyn by prioritizing strategic investments in resiliency and affordable housing, as well as job creation, youth development, and community violence prevention.

Vital Brooklyn will strengthen local healthcare facilities to close current gaps and increase services and transform the healthcare system by increasing access to quality services and preventive care through a new, 36-site ambulatory care network, among
other steps. To promote healthy lifestyles, Vital Brooklyn will increase access to nutritious food through Farm-to-Table initiatives that connect Upstate growers with Downstate families, adding more than a dozen new farmer’s markets at community schools. Vital Brooklyn includes essential resources for economic empowerment, including financial literacy, entrepreneurship and job training and placement programs through the Brooklyn Unemployment Strikeforce, expanding the Green City Force AmeriCorps program and job programs for NYCHA youth, and expanded workforce training opportunities in the construction trades. To make neighborhoods safer, Vital Brooklyn will expand violence prevention programs, create new opportunities for youth engagement and increase support for victims. Vital Brooklyn will create new affordable housing opportunities that encourage active lifestyles and increase access to preventive care.

**COMBATING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

In 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law a comprehensive plan to combat the heroin and opioid epidemic in New York State. The FY 2018 State Budget builds on this progress by investing over $200 million to support prevention, treatment and recovery programs targeted toward chemical dependency, residential service opportunities, and public awareness and education activities.

**SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

The FY 2018 State Budget provides $500 million in additional capital support for essential health care providers, including a minimum of $75 million directed to community-based providers, to support capital projects and other initiatives that facilitate health care transformation. Included in this amount is $50 million that is directed to Montefiore Medical Center to expand the availability of affordable healthcare. This investment
will bring the total amount of capital support provided to health care providers for transformation efforts over the past four years to $3.3 billion.

**DELCERRING FOR UTICA HOSPITAL**

New York State is investing $300 million to build a modern and efficient hospital in downtown Utica. The Mohawk Valley Health System will construct a new 392 bed hospital in the City of Utica that will consolidate two outdated hospitals in a single facility, eliminating 155 unnecessary inpatient beds, expanding and consolidating ambulatory services, and improving the financial sustainability of the only hospital serving this urban community.

**REBUILDING THE LIFE SCIENCES INITIATIVE**

The FY 2018 State Budget includes $150 million to support rebuilding the capital region public health laboratory and to spur the growth of a new, world-class life science research cluster in New York. By investing in the facilities and improving access to talent and expertise, New York will significantly increase its share of industry-funded research and development, support the commercialization of existing academic research, and usher in the next generation of advanced technologies.

**LOW-COST FINANCING FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

The $19.5 million Community Health Care Revolving Capital Fund was established in February as a public-private partnership to improve access to capital for clinics and other organizations that have limited resources and are seeking to broaden access to primary care services. DASNY, in consultation with the New York State Department of Health, selected the Primary Care Development Corporation to administer the fund. Borrowers will be chosen by PCDC through an application process that is approved by DASNY and NYSDOH. The funds will be used to provide loans for projects at eligible facilities.

**REFORMING HEALTH CARE REGULATIONS**

New York State’s regulatory structure has not kept pace with the speed of health care innovation, resulting in outdated regulatory barriers to needed reforms. To address this, a stakeholder engagement process will review existing health care regulatory structures and recommend appropriate changes, with the ultimate goal of facilitating an environment where health care stakeholders are best positioned to deliver quality, coordinated care, improve patient outcomes, and lower costs. New York State’s regulatory structure has not kept pace with the speed of health care innovation, resulting in outdated regulatory barriers to needed reforms. To address this, a stakeholder engagement process, modeled off the successful MRT, will review existing health care regulatory structures and recommend appropriate changes, with the goal to: increase the speed with which providers can complete construction projects; support the delivery
of services across an integrated system of care; modernize regulations that serve the core purposes of ensuring access and protecting patient safety; use achievement of quality and other performance outcomes as factors in determining the frequency and extent of inspection activities; and create an environment where the State and providers can collaborate to further explore new and innovative models of care.

ADVANCING HEALTH ACROSS ALL POLICIES

At Governor Cuomo’s direction, the Department of Health’s Public Health and Planning Council and the Ad Hoc Committee to Lead the Prevention Agenda have joined with the NYS Departments of Economic Development, Environmental Conservation and Transportation; the NYS Offices of Aging, Parks, Mental Health, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse; NYS Homes and Community Renewal and the Energy Research and Development Authority, among others, to collaborate in improving the health and wellness of New Yorkers by incorporating health considerations into agency decision-making, while simultaneously pursuing other complementary goals. As a first order of business, the Governor has charged the effort with implementing actions to make New York the first Age-Friendly state.

STATEWIDE FARM-TO-SCHOOL SUMMIT

In the 2017 State of the State, Governor Cuomo announced the State will host a Farm-to-School Summit to bring together school nutrition officials, procurement officers, health and nutrition advocates, growers, and food producers to showcase successful programs and communicate best practices. With more than 700 school districts in New York State serving 2.5 million schoolchildren, there are enormous opportunities to foster relationships among local farmers, food hubs, producers, processors, and distributors to benefit school-age children’s nutritional intake. However, fewer than half of New York school districts participate in a Farm-to-School program and only a small portion of those take advantage of special procurement rules promoting purchase of local produce. Scheduled for Farm-to-School Month in October 2017, the Summit will help schools and farms address barriers to starting Farm-to-School programs, including lack of information and technical expertise, difficulty in connecting buyers with sellers, and inadequate equipment for distribution, preparation, and storage.
GROWING SCHOOLS’ COMMITMENT TO PURCHASING LOCAL PRODUCE

The Office of General Services has worked with representatives of the state’s agricultural industry and schools to increase participation in the United States Department of Agriculture’s Pilot for Unprocessed Fruits and Vegetables, which is managed by the OGS Food Distribution Program. New York State schools spent $1.4 million on New York State produce during the 2016-17 school year through the program, procuring fresh fruits and vegetables for 330,000 school children in 236 school districts. The number of participating vendors in New York State has grown to 23, the largest number of approved vendors of any state participating in the pilot.

PROCUREMENT TRAINING FOR FARM TO SCHOOL

On April 29, 2017, the State kicked-off a series of regional procurement training sessions for food service directors, with the first session in Buffalo. A partnership among the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, State Education Department, and industry leaders, the trainings will be held around the state over the summer and fall to connect school procurement officials and food service directors with local produce and share best practices about starting a Farm-to-School program. The Farm-to-School Coordinating Committee met on June 8, 2017 and discussed best practices for creating regional produce-buying networks. Building on the in-person trainings, this fall the State will publish an updated Farm-to-School procurement training tool kit to help schools navigate local purchasing.
FARM DONATION TO FOOD PANTRIES TAX CREDIT
The FY 2018 State Budget includes a new refundable tax credit for farmers that donate food to eligible food pantries in New York. The credit is equal to 25% of the fair market value of the donation, capped at $5,000 annually. This credit will help farmers get value from crops that would otherwise go unharvested while simultaneously improve access to healthy food for the needy.

EXPAND THE NEW YORK AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM
New York’s Agriculture in the Classroom program trains educators to integrate food and agricultural lessons into existing core curriculum and coordinates volunteers to read agriculturally accurate books to more than 52,000 second grade students in 2,700 schools. This year, the State invested $380,000 to expand the program and reach even more school children. With high rates of childhood hunger across the state, additional funds target communities with the greatest need for early nutritional education and access to low-cost healthy foods. Starting this fall, 40 schools districts will be able to purchase in-class grow systems to teach students about planting, growing, and harvesting, and to provide schools with fresh vegetables for lunch. The additional funds will also support purchase of additional interactive materials as well as field trips to farms, food hubs, and processing facilities to educate more children about where their food comes from and the value of eating more fresh produce.
CONNECT ALL NEW YORKERS TO HEALTHY OUTDOOR RECREATION

With an ever decreasing connection to nature and childhood obesity on the rise, the need for access to State Parks, land and outdoor recreation has never been greater. To help promote physical activity and encourage New Yorkers to take advantage of the State’s vast amount of green open space, the State has made several key investments such as doubling the funds to $1 million for the Connect Kids Program. Funded through the EPF, this program provides free or low-cost transportation to connect children living in underserved communities with Parks, education centers and DEC hatcheries throughout the State. In addition, the State will expand other programs that promote healthy outdoor recreation for school children and underserved communities such as the National Archery in the Schools program and the First-time Camper Weekend Program, which provides families who have never camped with free rental equipment and camping assistance at several state campgrounds throughout the summer.
ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY

STANDING UP TO HATE CRIMES

Governor Cuomo has taken aggressive actions to combat hate crimes and ensure that hate has no place in New York State. In February, the Governor announced a $25 million grant program for safety improvements at schools and day care centers at risk of being targeted by hate crimes, a $5,000 reward for any information that leads to an arrest and conviction for a hate crime, and the creation of a hate crime text line to report instances of abuse and discrimination. Additionally, the FY 2018 Budget included $1 million for the establishment of a Hate Crime Task Force jointly administered by the State Police, Division of Human Rights, and the Division of Criminal Justice Services. These agencies will collaborate to investigate and prosecute hate crimes as well as educate the public about the dangers of bias-motivated threats and attacks.

PROTECTING NEW YORKERS FROM CYBER ATTACKS

Cyber-attacks represent one of the most pressing threats to the economic and physical security of New Yorkers. To address this threat, the FY 2018 Budget allocated $1.3 million for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to create a Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) within its Office of Counter Terrorism to serve as a resource for non-Executive state agencies, public authorities, local governments, critical infrastructure, and schools and colleges to enhance their cyber security posture. This team will provide assistance in the event of cyber intrusions and will be supported by members of DHSES, the State Police, National Guard, and Office for Information Technology Services.

COMBATING GANG VIOLENCE

The brutal crimes perpetrated by the street gang Mara Salvatrucha, commonly referred to as MS-13, in Long Island this year served as a grim reminder of the horrors gangs are capable of inflicting on communities. In April and May of this year, Governor Cuomo announced aggressive actions to crack down on MS-13 as well as new anti-gang initiatives in Albany and Rochester. These actions included the addition of investigators to the FBI-led Long Island Gang Task Force, assignment of more Troopers to anti-gang units, expanded undercover operations in Brentwood and Central Islip, greater access to New York State intelligence and resources, nearly $1.2 million through GIVE and SNUG to the Albany area, and more than $2.25 million through GIVE and SNUG to the Rochester area.
205TH SESSION GRADUATION FROM THE STATE POLICE BASIC SCHOOL

In May, the New York State Police welcomed 192 new Troopers to its ranks at the 205th session graduation from the Basic School of the New York State Police Academy. These individuals will carry on the principles of professionalism, honor, and integrity exemplified by the State Police during its proud 100 year history.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

Under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, crime reached historically low levels, with firearm-involved violent crimes decreasing 10 percent between 2011 and 2015. The primary drivers behind this success are the Gun-Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) and SNUG (“guns” spelled backwards) programs. GIVE helps local law enforcement agencies implement strategies proven to be successful at reducing gun violence by targeting the small number of people and places responsible for a majority of violent crimes.

This year, the Division of Criminal Justice Services invested $13.3 million in the 17 counties that account for 83 percent of violent crimes in the State. SNUG utilizes New York’s expansive network of street outreach workers to promote community outreach, family engagement, and intervention to steer young people away from gun violence. The FY 2018 Budget includes $4.8 million in funding for SNUG programs, which is a $1.5 million increase over the $3.3 million provided for SNUG last year.

SAFEGUARDING NEW YORK’S AIRPORTS

Governor Cuomo created the John F. Kennedy International Airport Multi-Agency Security Review Team in 2016 in response to a false alarm “shots fired” incident at JFK that caused a panic, grounded all flights, and prompted the mobilization of emergency responders. Incidents such as this have real consequences that are costly and detrimental to public safety.

The Review Team found that the primary reason for the false alarm and resulting panic was that non-security airport personnel were not properly trained to effectively recognize and respond to emergencies. To address this concern, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that provided $3 million to DHSES to develop a training program for civilian airport employees to build their security awareness and emergency response capabilities. This training will enhance the security of an industry critical to the daily lives and economic well-being of New Yorkers.
PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO VICTIMIZATION

The FY 2018 Budget includes multiple initiatives to prevent domestic violence and provide resources for victims of crime. In 2015, New York State provided $400,000 in funding to Newburgh and Troy to implement the Risk Reduction Enhanced Response Pilot Program to combat domestic violence. This year, New York State will provide an additional $400,000 to expand this program to two more jurisdictions. Governor Cuomo also signed two pieces of legislation to expand funding opportunities for victims of certain non-physical injurious crimes and enable victim reimbursement for loss of savings for the incompetent and elderly. Victims of non-physical crimes often experience mental, emotional, or behavioral health issues as a result of their victimization. The extension of coverage for these individuals will ensure they receive the assistance they need to recover. The Office of Victim Services provides reimbursement for monetary losses caused by an individual’s victimization. Loss of savings were previously ineligible for this funding, which enabled the exploitation of certain vulnerable populations such as the elderly and incompetent. The expansion of funding to include loss of savings will help protect these groups that are at a higher risk of exploitation. These new programs demonstrate New York’s commitment to protecting those who, through no fault of their own, suffered physically, mentally, and emotionally from the crimes of others.

THE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE PROGRAM

To help better safeguard the health of the public and protect our environment, the Governor has launched the Household Cleaning Product Information Disclosure Program. This initiative, which is the first of its kind in the nation, will require manufacturers of household cleaning products sold in New York to identify and post on their websites all of the ingredients in their products, including those that are chemicals of concern, as well as their content by weight in ranges. In addition, DEC has proposed new restrictions which would greatly reduce the amount of perchloroethylene (a widely used chemical used in dry-cleaning that is likely a human carcinogen) released into the environment. These new initiatives will give New Yorkers the tools to make informed decisions for themselves and families and protect them from exposure to potentially harmful products and chemicals.
PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN FROM FURNITURE TIP OVER ACCIDENTS
The “Tip Over Prevention” campaign was expanded by partnering with the New York State Builders Association and its philanthropic not-for-profit organization, the Research & Education Foundation, to offer “Tip Over” prevention to educate consumers at Home & Garden Shows around New York State about the dangers of furniture and TV tip over accidents and how to prevent them.

PROTECTING CUSTOMERS FROM POTENTIAL BAD ACTORS IN THE DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES MARKET
The Department of State’s Utility Intervention Unit was instrumental in refining and advancing the Public Service Commission’s efforts to protect customers in the Distributed Energy Resources market. The Unit participated in the Value of Distributed Energy Resources proceeding and strongly advocated for the establishment of robust consumer protections in this emerging market. The Commission’s March 2017 Order on the Value of Department’s Phase One recognized the Unit’s recommendations as noted on page 141 of the following link and included a process for expediently establishing these vital consumer protections in a Uniform Business Practices for Distributed Energy Resources providers.

PROVIDING DIRECT CONSUMER ASSISTANCE
Thus far in 2017 the Department of State’s Consumer Assistance Unit has assisted almost 6,000 New York consumers, and educated consumers on how to avoid becoming a victim of consumer scams.
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP
$300 MILLION FUNDING FOR EPF

The Environmental Protection Fund advances programs that are vital to protecting New York’s rich environment. The FY 2018 State Budget matches the $300 million record funding level for the EPF from the previous year. The EPF will continue to provide funding to advance open space programs, municipal recycling, invasive species eradication and prevention, water quality improvement and climate change mitigation and adaptation programs. Further, the EPF provides a record $8 million devoted to Environmental Justice, which will go towards grants and popular programs that connect underserved communities to recreation opportunities throughout the state.

ENCOURAGING NEW YORKERS TO DRIVE CLEANER VEHICLES

This year the State is stepping up awareness efforts on incentives for the installation of new charging stations, employers to encourage employees to drive electric vehicles, and a $55 million rebate program that provides drivers up to $2,000 for the purchase of a qualifying electric vehicle. Together, these initiatives are putting more energy efficient cars on New York roads and reducing harmful emissions. The Charge NY initiative has installed more than 1,600 electric vehicle charging stations around the state to accelerate the growth of the electric vehicle market in New York.

PROMOTING INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING

New York Green Bank closed six new financing transactions in the first quarter of 2017, totaling $40.6 million in new clean energy commitments, and supporting New York’s nation-leading goal for half of the state’s electricity to come from renewables by 2030. This demonstrates New York’s commitment to growing the economy by expanding private sector participation in the clean energy marketplace and by providing financing for new projects that will bring clean energy to thousands of residents statewide. These latest transactions bring NY Green Bank’s total amount of committed funds to $346.1 million – which is expected to mobilize between $1 billion to $1.4 billion in total investments in clean energy projects in New York State.
NATIONAL LEADER IN CLEAN ENERGY INVESTMENTS

State-supported solar power in New York increased nearly 800 percent from December 2011 to December 2016, leveraging nearly $1.5 billion in private investment. These investments in solar power create jobs, reduce carbon emissions, support economic growth, and help build a cleaner, greener New York. 64,926 projects were installed through the end of 2016, compared with 8,989 through the end of 2011. That amount of electricity would be sufficient to meet the needs of more than 121,000 homes.

CLOSURE OF THE INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BY 2021

In January, Governor Cuomo announced the closure of the Indian Point nuclear facilities by April 2021 -- 14 years ahead of schedule. The nuclear power plant, located 24 miles north of New York City, has presented numerous threats to the safety of the nearly 20 million people who live or work in the New York metropolitan area and its environmental health. In February 2017, Governor Cuomo launched a task force to work with local governments and stakeholders to address employment and property tax impacts resulting from the plant’s closure, and develop new economic development and work force retraining opportunities.

LARGEST CLEAN ENERGY PROCUREMENT BY A U.S. STATE

In June 2017, the State issued record-breaking solicitations to invest up to $1.5 billion in large-scale renewable energy projects. The State will issue requests for proposals from qualified developers to build renewable energy projects that will generate 2.5 million megawatt-hours of electricity a year – enough to power approximately 350,000 homes. The RFPs are the first in a series of major procurements for renewables under the Governor’s Clean Energy Standard to get 50 percent of New York’s electricity from renewables by 2030.

LEADING ON CLIMATE CHANGE & PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

WWW.NY.GOV/ENVIRONMENT
PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE STATE GOVERNMENT

The Office of General Services launched the GreenNY website to help New York State agencies cut waste, costs. The website contains information on environmentally preferable purchasing, such as products and services that improve environmental quality and human health by increasing positive impacts or reducing negative impacts. The website also provides guidance on how state agencies can become more energy efficient in their energy sourcing and in the performance of state buildings and vehicle fleets. The GreenNY website also outlines opportunities for education and engagement by connecting state agencies to information and people who can help with greening operations, reporting, and training events, as well as finding useful case studies, tools, and tips.

METHANE ACTION PLAN

In another bold step in taking real action to address the threat of climate change, the Governor has proposed a suite of 25 actions to reduce methane emissions from the landfill, oil and gas, and agricultural industries across the state. The Methane Reduction Plan, which will be implemented by the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation, Agriculture and Markets, Public Service, and the Energy Research and Development Authority, in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Committee, will establish more stringent monitoring methods, seek both private and public stakeholder involvement and improve upon current regulatory and funding programs. These actions will complement New York State’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, from 1990 levels.

ADVANCING RESILIENT MICROGRID DEVELOPMENT THROUGH NYPRIZE

In early 2017, out of a field of nearly 30 competitors, eleven New York communities were awarded nearly $11 million to conduct detailed engineering, commercial and financial assessments to create resilient, community-based microgrids. Launched in 2015, NYPrize is a first-in-the nation competition to help communities create stand-alone energy systems that can operate independently in the event of a power outage. NYPrize helps communities reduce costs, promote clean energy, and build reliability and resiliency into the electric grid. A total of 82 microgrid feasibility assessments have been completed since the program’s launch.

NEW LOCALLY SOURCED MICROGRID TO POWER THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

This year, the Governor moved forward with plans to construct a new state-of-the-art, locally-sourced mini-power grid that will be connected to the statewide grid, and also be able to operate independently, to power the Empire State Plaza in Albany. The energy-efficient co-generation plant and microgrid will supply 90 percent of the power for the 98-acre downtown Albany complex and is expected to save the Plaza more than $2.7 million in annual energy costs. The project will also remove more than 25,600 tons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere each year – the equivalent of taking more than 4,900 cars off the road.
BRINGING OFFSHORE WIND TO NEW YORK

In January, Governor Cuomo announced an unprecedented commitment to develop up to 2.4 GW of offshore wind by 2030. Offshore wind is a clean, non-emitting energy source that will bring substantial investment and jobs to New York, from manufacturing facilities to the ports that support the on-site construction and maintenance of offshore wind farms. To meet the 2.4 GW goal, NYSERDA is developing the New York Offshore Wind Master Plan, to be released at the end of 2017, that will recommend additional offshore wind sites, provide guidelines to offshore wind developers to ensure efficient and responsible development, and outline offtake options for the purchasing of the renewable power. In January, the South Fork Wind Farm, the first in New York and the nation’s largest, was approved, and will provide enough renewable energy to power 50,000 Long Island homes.

EXPANDING PUBLIC SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES TO USE SOLAR

The Office of General Services Procurement Services team put into place Solar Power Purchase Agreement contracts valued at $436 million. This five-year contract includes site/metered ground systems, on-site/metered pole systems, and on-site/metered roof systems. There are eight contractors, including four NYS small businesses and one certified service-disabled veteran-owned business.
$2.5 BILLION CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2017

Investing in our State’s crumbling drinking and wastewater systems has never been more critical. To assist municipalities in making these key improvements, the State passed the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017. This historic act will invest a record $2.5 billion in drinking water infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure and source water protection actions with the goal of enhancing community health and wellness, safeguarding our most important water resources, and creating jobs. This funding builds on the Governor’s leadership in investing unprecedented resources to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to safe and clean drinking water.

ADDRESSING FLOODING ALONG LAKE ONTARIO AND ST LAWRENCE RIVER

Damaging floods caused by rising water levels have hit communities along Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River hard. To help ease the financial and personal toll on families in these communities Governor Cuomo declared a State of Emergency in Cayuga, Jefferson, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego, St. Lawrence, and Wayne counties in order to expedite repairs to impacted structures and construction of shoreline stabilization projects. The Governor and the Legislature authorized $45 million in funding to assist the communities impacted by the flooding and also provide up to $10 million in assistance for certain counties impacted by past extreme weather events.

Additionally, the Governor committed approximately $1 million to the Town of Greece and the Village of Sodus Point—to conduct emergency repairs and upgrades to flood-impacted wastewater treatment systems. Along with this funding the Governor instructed the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to deploy a temporary emergency dam system, and requested assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Advanced Measures program to immediately deploy protective measures and develop long term solutions. To prevent additional damage from recreational boaters, the Governor ramped up efforts to enforce no wake zones in the flood impacted area, which includes a multi-agency enforcement effort to support the local municipalities, which may issue tickets of $250 per infraction to boaters violating the 5 mph speed limit within 600 feet of shore.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR NY PARKS 2020 INITIATIVE

Building off the success of NY Parks 2020, a $900 million public-private partnership that aims to move forward hundreds of capital design and construction projects throughout the State Parks system by 2020, the State committed an additional $30 million to the annual $90 million which continues in the Five Year Fiscal Plan, providing a total capital appropriation of $120 million for FY2017-18. The additional $30 million is targeted at cooperative projects to leverage private concession and not-for-profit partners and expand amenities in our parks and historic sites. NY Parks 2020 projects will range from new visitor centers and gateways in Watkins Glen, Minnewaska and Walkway Over the Hudson State Parks to an environmental center at Green Lakes State Park, rehabilitation of historic structures at Saratoga Spa State Park, and construction of new cabins at several Long Island State Parks.
EMPIRE STATE TRAIL, THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION

The FY 2018 State Budget includes $200 million to build the Empire State Trail which will be the largest multi-use trail in the nation. When completed in 2020, the 750-mile trail bike and walking pathway from New York City to Canada and from Albany to Buffalo will attract visitors from across the globe, creating jobs and revitalizing downtowns across Upstate. This project includes “closing the gaps” in the Erie Canalway Trail, which is 80% complete, and creating major new rail-trails and improved bike trails to create the Hudson Greenway Trail. Approximately 350 miles of new or improved trails will be built by 2020.

ADVENTURE NY

With the launch of Adventure NY, a multi-year outdoor recreation campaign to connect more New York families and visitors to the great outdoors, DEC will complete 75 projects over the next three years. This initiative will be funded through NY Works and the State Environmental Protection Fund, and includes $50 million in FY 2017 to expand on existing efforts. DEC will use this funding to make strategic investments to improve access to state lands and waters, upgrade campgrounds and facilities, and create greater public awareness of all the outdoor recreation opportunities available in New York State. These strategic investments will continue to connect more New Yorkers to nature and boost local communities and economies.

COMPLETION OF CAPPING OF ONONDAGA LAKE

In another bold step in taking real action to address the threat of climate change, the Governor has proposed a suite of 25 actions to reduce methane emissions from the landfill, oil and gas, and agricultural industries across the state. The Methane Reduction Plan, which will be implemented by the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation, Agriculture and Markets, Public Service, and the Energy Research and Development Authority, in conjunction with the Soil and Water Conservation Committee, will establish more stringent monitoring methods, seek both private and public stakeholder involvement and improve upon current regulatory and funding programs. These actions will complement New York State’s commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, from 1990 levels.

ACQUISITION OF MORE THAN 6,000 ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND IN OSWEGO COUNTY

In an effort to preserve and conserve New York’s natural resources, the State has acquired more than 6,000 acres of protected lands in Oswego County. The acquisition, the largest addition to state lands in Central New York in 45 years, includes approximately 2,825 acres of lands along the internationally renowned fishing destination, Salmon River, and 3,236 acres of working forestland in the Tug Hill region. This commitment is expected to greatly increase access to outdoor recreation in the region, including hunting, angling and wildlife watching. The Salmon River and Tug Hill acquisitions build upon the State’s commitment from earlier this year to fund 50 new projects to provide access to 380,000 acres of existing State lands.
$70 MILLION TO CONTINUE SUCCESSFUL NY WORKS PROGRAM

The New York Works infrastructure program serves to improve DEC facilities and infrastructure state-wide. The FY 2017-18 Budget provides $70 million for NY Works, an increase of $30 million over the NY Works funding provided in FY 2016-17. This sixth round of NY Works funding will go for projects including but not limited to: air monitoring; remediation of legacy environmental contamination; e-business; dam safety projects and the demolition of unsafe structures on state-owned land; state owned flood protection projects; state land stewardship, public access and environmental and recreation infrastructure projects; vehicles & equipment; water quality improvement projects, fish hatcheries; DEC facilities rehabilitation and improvement; and well plugging.

PRESERVATION OF MORE THAN 5,900 ACRES OF PARKLAND IN THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS

In an effort to expand access to outdoor recreation and to further protect New York’s vast amount of open space, Governor Cuomo announced the preservation of more than 5,900 acres of parkland in the Hudson Highlands. The expansion of parkland includes a 3,777-acre conservation easement for Black Rock Forest in Orange County as well as large parcels abutting Bear Mountain, Rockland Lake, Goosepond Mountain, Harriman, Clarence Fahnestock, and Schunnemunk Mountain State Parks. Since coming into office, the Governor has added nearly 10,000 acres of parkland in the Mid-Hudson Valley Region, ensuring that visitors and locals alike can enjoy this scenic area for generations to come.

$40 MILLION TO BUILD LOCAL SEWER SYSTEMS IN SMITHTOWN AND KINGS PARK

The FY 2018 State Budget invests $40 million to build two local water treatment systems that will provide vital support for the continued development of two of the fastest growing areas in Suffolk County. The Smithtown Business District Sewer Improvement Area and the $20 million Kings Park Wastewater Treatment Facility will install sanitary infrastructure in each area’s respective business districts. These investments offer the opportunity to revitalize both areas downtowns, creating a vibrant atmosphere to further attract people to these communities.
PLANNING FOR RESILIENCY IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

To assist more communities in building resiliency, the Department of State solicited applications from Upstate counties that did not receive assistance through NY Rising to develop county-wide resiliency plans based on their unique climate, flooding and disaster needs. The plans will mirror the NY Rising plans, with an emphasis on using Smart Growth principles and tools to achieve resiliency.

STEP UP TARGETED AIR MONITORING AND MITIGATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

New York State boasts one of the most comprehensive air monitoring programs in the nation resulting in significant improvement in air quality across the state. Despite this, children of families that make $25,000 or less are 75% more likely to suffer from asthma than those of families earning $75,000 and higher, making air quality in environmental justice communities a paramount concern in New York.

To mitigate this issue, Governor Cuomo has proposed to commit as much as $2 million to the State’s EPF to conduct comprehensive air monitoring, develop inventories of potential pollution sources, and implement measures to improve overall air quality and reduce public health risks in vulnerable communities. This effort will complement DEC’s Operation ECO Quality, which works with small business owners in environmental justice communities toward compliance with all environmental regulations.

LAUNCH COMMUNITY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLEAN ENERGY CAPACITY GRANTS

The effects of climate change pose a threat to all New Yorkers, but with less capacity and resources at their disposal, environmental justice communities remain some of the most vulnerable areas in the State to its effects. In order to better prepare these communities in the fight against climate change, Governor Cuomo is investing in new grant programs through the Environmental Protection Fund. As part of the FY 2018 State Budget, the Capacity Building and Urban Environmental Education Centers grant programs will make available a total of $1.5 million to help non-profits develop their administrative and programmatic capacity to combat climate change and provide the capital to help community-based organizations launch environmental education centers focused on learning about the urban environment and improving environmental justice challenges respectively.
PROVIDE GREEN SKILLS TRAINING FOR YOUTH IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS

New York State has made significant strides to prepare the workforce for jobs in the emerging clean and green economy. To ensure that individuals living in environmental justice communities are fully prepared to take advantage of the boom of green jobs, Governor Cuomo has invested $1 million to support training programs targeting young adults. The program will have an emphasis on developing green infrastructure, green roofs, solar installations, and urban agriculture creating a new pathway to employment in underserved areas. The governor’s investment includes a redevelopment model to train residents in disadvantaged neighborhoods to redevelop their neighborhoods and transform them into energy-efficient, sustainable communities.

REUSING BROWNFIELDS ACROSS THE STATE

Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) designation is the end result of a planning process funded by a Department of State (DOS) grant that assists communities with identifying Brownfield sites in a defined area and develop a vision to reverse the blight caused by their presence. Fourteen new BOAs were designated in 2016-2017, bringing the total number of BOAs to 40 across the state.
NEW GREATER ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NEW AIRPORT AT LAGUARDIA

KOSCIUSZKO BRIDGE

NEW GOVERNOR MARIO M. CUOMO BRIDGE

JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER

ALBANY CAPITAL CENTER

HARBOR OF LIGHTS

NEW JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT