

The New York Public Welfare Association presents:

The QUICKIE Report

EXECUTIVE BUDGET EDITION

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Highlights from the 2023-24 Executive Budget Proposal

Office of Children and Family Services

The state Division of Budget (DOB) indicates that appropriations for OCFS would increase by \$1.5 billion over last year—attributable to an additional \$1.1 billion in child welfare appropriations and an additional \$44 million in Adult Protective services funding. DOB states that the additional funding was “primarily to allow for better appropriation alignment with Federal fiscal years—not programmatic changes.”

Other OCFS budget highlights include:

- **Child Care:** a net State General Fund increase of \$128M over last year—reflecting market rate changes; other child care allocations include:
 - \$100M increase in Federal child care funding
 - \$4.8M for a new Employer-Supported Child Care (ESCC) pilot program
 - \$1M for a new Business Navigator program to encourage employer support for employee child care needs
 - \$2M more for child care union agreements
- **Child Welfare Services:** Funding unchanged (\$900M) and open-ended at a 62% share.
 - **Note:** an additional \$900M was separately allocated—DOB noted it would allow for “better appropriation alignment with Federal fiscal years”; the NYPWA is seeking additional information about this item.
- **Foster Care Block Grant:** \$4.8M over last year.
- **Foster Care Providers (IMD):** \$17M to assist providers in meeting new Federal requirements related to Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD).
- **Community Optional Preventative Services (COPS):** same as last year
- **Adoption Subsidies:** \$3.6M over last year
- **Post Adoption/Adoption Delinking:** \$7M over last year
- **APS & DV Funding:** funding unchanged (\$44M)
 - **Note:** as with child welfare, an additional \$44M was separately allocated under DOB’s “appropriation alignment” explanation
- **Consolidated Afterschool Programs:** Moves funding for Empire State Afterschool and Advantage Afterschool programs to OCFS.

- **Statewide Youth Sports:** Funding same as last year—a separate, related allocation (\$600,000) was added
- **Runaway & Homeless Youth:** Same as last year—there was a \$100,000 increase in a supplemental allocation for Runaway & Homeless Youth
- **Raise the Age:** Unchanged.
- **Indian Tribe Foster Care, Adult and CPS, Preventive, and Adoption Services:** Unchanged.

OCFS Education, Labor, and Family Assistance (ELFA) Article VII budget legislation includes the following (click links to read the full ELFA [memo](#) & [legislation](#) list):

- **Child Care Assistance Program Expansion** [[ELFA, Part U](#)]: Expands income eligibility for child care assistance from 300 percent FPL up to 85 percent the State median income; standardizes eligibility and benefits across all local social services districts.
- **Makes Permanent the Fiscal Responsibility for CSE Placements** [[ELFA, Part V](#)]: Permanently sets the current structure of financing CSE residential placements outside NYC.
- **Permanently Authorize Close to Home** [[ELFA, Part W](#)]
- **Authorize the Pass-Through of Federal Supplemental Security Income COLA** [[ELFA, Part Z](#)]: Authorizes Federal SSI benefits to be increased in 2024 to reflect federal SSI COLAs.

[Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance](#)

According to DOB, the Executive Budget recommends \$8.6 billion for OTDA—an increase of roughly \$1.2 billion—attributable, in part, to a \$1 billion investment for NYC for migrant services and assistance.

Other OTDA highlights include:

- **Safety Net Assistance:** Same as last year.
- **FFFS:** The regular FFFS allocation was same as last year (\$964M); however, there was a separate, additional FFFS allocation of \$774.2M, to better align it with the Federal fiscal year.
- **Summer Youth Employment Program:** \$1M over last year (\$47.1M total)
- **New Youth Employment Program:** \$18M, annualizing to \$37M, to provide year-round, part-time employment opportunities for youth statewide.
- **Housing:** The Governor looks to create 800,000 new homes over ten years—requiring localities to meet certain home creation targets; facilitating housing approvals; examining zoning and housing production data; offering planning and infrastructure grants; encouraging housing construction/rehabilitation; and addressing vacant properties.
 - **Homeowner Stabilization Fund:** created to finance home repairs in communities identified as having high numbers of low-income homeowners of color and homeowner distress.
 - **Tenant Protection Unit Expansion:** \$35M for “guidance, advocacy and legal assistance for tenants” outside of NYC.
- **Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI):** \$100M more (\$210M total).
- **Transitional Rent Supplement:** \$100M; same as last year.
- **Consolidated Homeless Services Programs:** \$50.8M (\$2.8M increase) for programs such as NYSSHP, STEHP, and OSAH.
- **Code Blue:** \$7M increase over last year (\$20M total appropriation).

- **HEAP:** \$100M increase over last year (\$600M total appropriation).
- **SNAP:** Same as last year.
- **Public Assistance Program Changes** [[ELFA, Part X](#)]: Eliminates the requirement for education to be combined with other activities after 12 months of post-secondary education; authorizes the disregard of all earned income of a PA recipient from participating in a qualified work activity or training program when calculating their PA benefit.
- **Assistance for Victims of Public Assistance Fraud** [[ELFA, Part Y](#)]: Establishes protections for PA recipients whose benefits have been stolen; requires LDSS to replace stolen PA benefits no later than five business days after district verifies the claim.

[Department of Health](#)

State Medicaid Takeover. The state will assume roughly \$5.5 billion in Medicaid cost increases as part of the continued takeover of local Medicaid growth.

Medicaid Admin Cap. No changes to the local Medicaid Administration Cap—the budget does include a proposal (HMH, [Part A](#)) to extend the two-year Medicaid Global Cap through FY25.

eFMAP Status. According to the DOB’s [Executive Budget Financial Plan](#), “the State expects to utilize the entirety of...Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) savings to offset growth in Medicaid costs borne by the State rather than counties (\$624 million).”

Detailed information on the Health and Mental Hygiene Article VII legislation can be found [here](#).

Next week, the Legislature begins [Joint Legislative Public Hearings](#) (Human Services-February 13) on the budget—and will likely release separate budget analysis reports soon. In the coming weeks, both houses will introduce and pass their respective budget resolutions containing any changes they believe necessary to the executive proposal. Following that, budget negotiations between the Governor and legislative leaders will intensify as they attempt to pass an on-time budget.

Detailed budget documents can also be found on the state [Division of Budget’s website](#)—including information on other state agencies, such as the [Office of Mental Health](#), [OASAS](#), the [Justice Center](#), [OPWDD](#), and the [Office for the Aging](#).