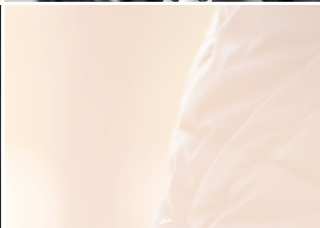
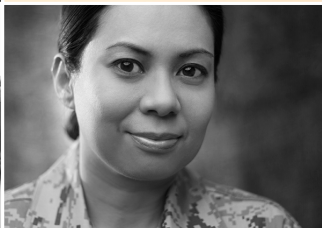
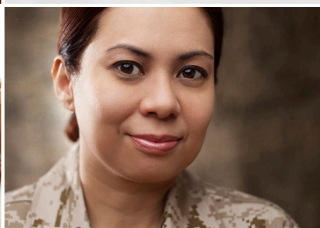
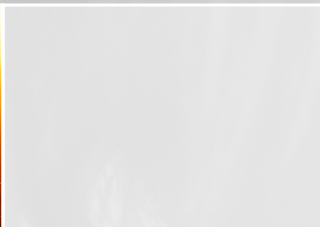


THE 2015-2016 STATE BUDGET:
ENSURING A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR ALL NEW YORKERS



THE 2015-2016 STATE BUDGET:
ENSURING A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR ALL NEW YORKERS



Dear Friend:

The Senate Republican Majority is committed to a brighter, stronger future for the Empire State, and to working together to give all New Yorkers the opportunity to succeed.

The new State Budget for 2015-16 reflects this commitment.

From a quality education for every child... to a stronger economy, with thousands of good job opportunities... to more vibrant local communities, with a clean, healthy environment and an outstanding quality of life -- these are the goals that the new State Budget for 2015-16 will help us realize.

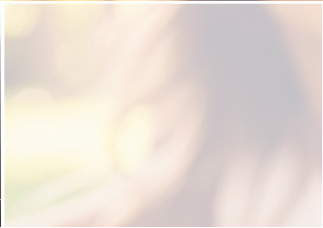
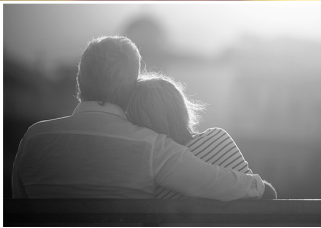
The following pages provide a brief overview of some of the new State Budget's highlights.

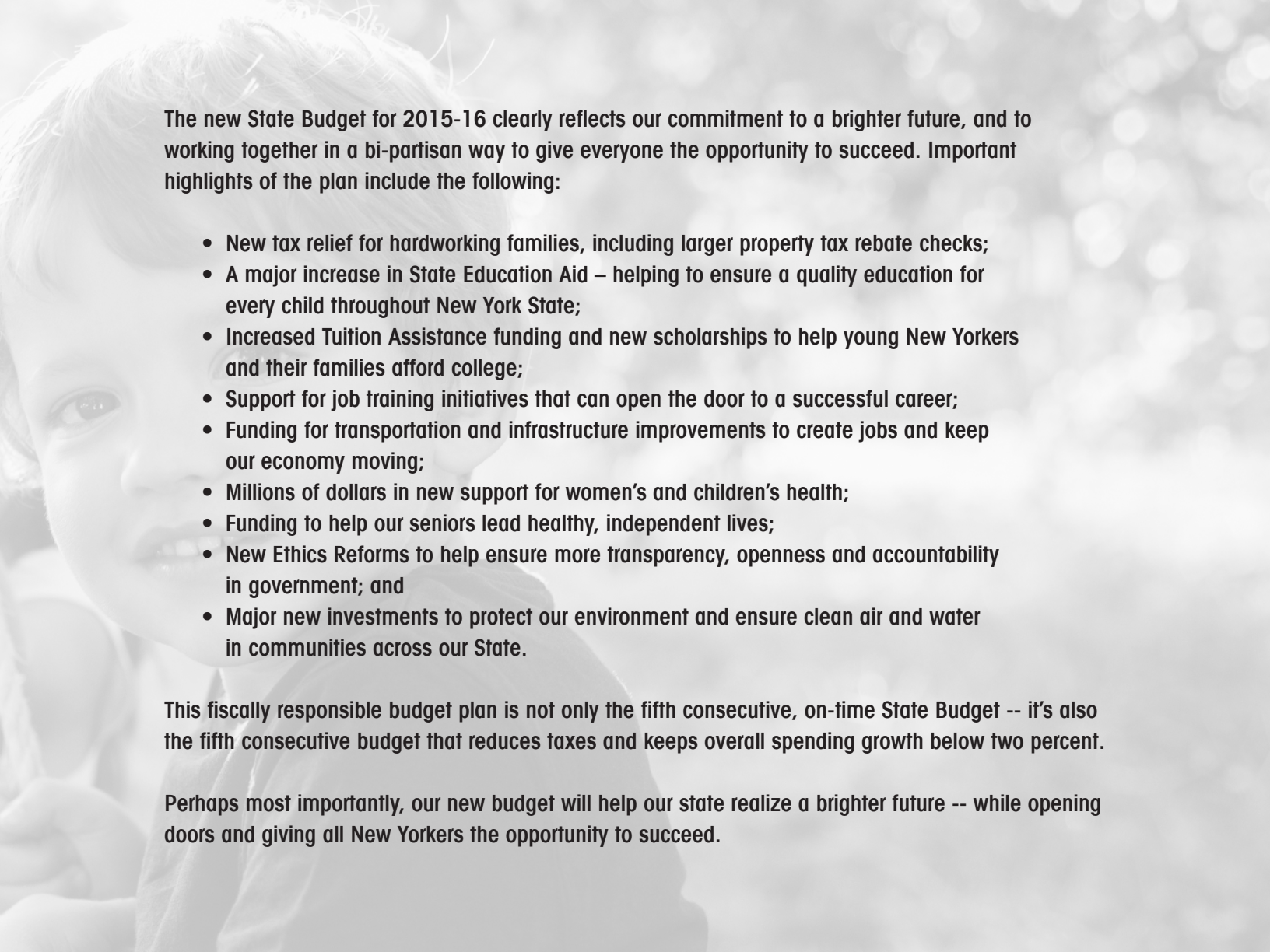
For additional details, please visit our NYSENATE.GOV website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dean G. Skelos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dean" and the last name "Skelos" clearly legible.

**Senator Dean G. Skelos
Senate President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader**

THE 2015-2016 STATE BUDGET: OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS



A young child with curly hair is looking towards the camera. The child's face is partially visible on the left side of the frame, with their hand near their chin. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of light spots.

The new State Budget for 2015-16 clearly reflects our commitment to a brighter future, and to working together in a bi-partisan way to give everyone the opportunity to succeed. Important highlights of the plan include the following:

- **New tax relief for hardworking families, including larger property tax rebate checks;**
- **A major increase in State Education Aid – helping to ensure a quality education for every child throughout New York State;**
- **Increased Tuition Assistance funding and new scholarships to help young New Yorkers and their families afford college;**
- **Support for job training initiatives that can open the door to a successful career;**
- **Funding for transportation and infrastructure improvements to create jobs and keep our economy moving;**
- **Millions of dollars in new support for women’s and children’s health;**
- **Funding to help our seniors lead healthy, independent lives;**
- **New Ethics Reforms to help ensure more transparency, openness and accountability in government; and**
- **Major new investments to protect our environment and ensure clean air and water in communities across our State.**

This fiscally responsible budget plan is not only the fifth consecutive, on-time State Budget -- it’s also the fifth consecutive budget that reduces taxes and keeps overall spending growth below two percent.

Perhaps most importantly, our new budget will help our state realize a brighter future -- while opening doors and giving all New Yorkers the opportunity to succeed.

CONTROLLING SPENDING TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS



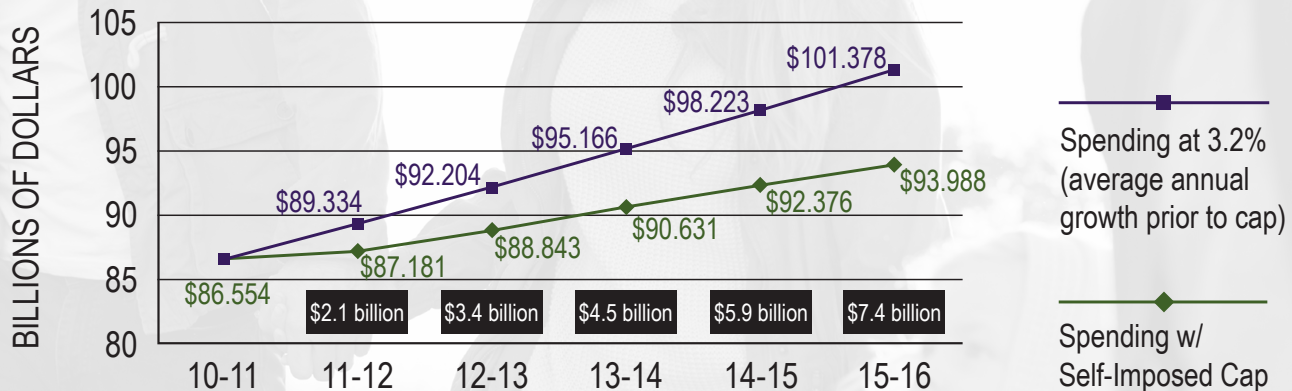
In order to protect taxpayers and keep our state moving in the right direction, the new State Budget keeps spending growth below two percent. This marks the fifth consecutive year that spending growth has been below two percent, which is consistent with the local spending cap that applies to school districts and local governments.

Overall, this 2% cap has now saved state taxpayers nearly \$23 billion on a cumulative basis -- ensuring that hardworking New Yorkers can save more of what they earn.

The new budget reflects our commitment to spending restraint, because we fully recognize that the only way to reduce the tax burden on New Yorkers is to control spending.

And while this year's budget keeps a tight lid on spending, the Senate Republican Conference also wants to help ensure ongoing spending discipline in the years to come. That's why we have consistently supported a constitutional amendment to cap state spending going forward.

THE SELF-IMPOSED SPENDING CAP HAS ALREADY SAVED APPROXIMATELY \$23 BILLION



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR FAMILIES

Working together to help families pursue their dreams and aspirations has always been one of the Senate Republican Conference's top priorities.

The new State Budget for 2015-16 helps realize this important goal in several key ways:

- **An increase in State Education Aid of approximately \$1.4 billion -- helping to ensure that our communities have great schools that help our kids learn, grow and succeed;**
- **An increase in funding for our local parks, and \$177 million for the Environmental Protection Fund to help ensure clean air and water in communities across the state;**
- **New assistance to help families and young New Yorkers afford college;**
- **Major new investments in day care and pre-K opportunities statewide;**
- **Property tax relief to help families across New York State save, invest and pursue their dreams;**
- **Record funding for women and family health initiatives, and full funding for the EPIC prescription drug program that serves New York's seniors; and**
- **Strong support for local road and bridge improvements, helping to improve the local quality of life in communities all across our state.**



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR HOMEOWNERS:
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
IS ON THE WAY



From the creation of STAR, to the landmark 2% property tax cap, the Senate Republican Majority has always led the effort to reduce property taxes and provide real relief for our local families and seniors.

The new 2015-16 State Budget will build upon this progress in four important ways -- ensuring that millions of hardworking New Yorkers and their families will see meaningful property tax relief this year -- helping them save, invest in their futures, and pursue their dreams and aspirations:

1. Larger Property Tax Relief Checks

Homeowners across the state will receive larger property tax freeze rebate checks this year.

2. Record Funding for STAR

The new 2015-16 State Budget provides \$3.2 billion to help fully fund STAR and Enhanced STAR – two outstanding programs which deliver major tax relief to millions of middle class families and seniors each year.

3. Additional School Aid

The new budget provides an increase in State Education Aid of approximately \$1.4 billion. This major funding increase is not only great news for our local schools, teachers and children across the state – but it will also help to reduce pressure at the local level for property tax increases.

4. Ongoing Pension and Medicaid Savings

The Senate Republican Majority has always led the effort to help our partners at the local government level hold down property taxes. As a result of ongoing savings from pension and Medicaid reforms we've enacted, local governments will be protected from hundreds of millions of dollars in higher costs this year.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NEW YORK'S CHILDREN: RECORD INVESTMENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS

Outstanding schools and a quality education are the keys to ensuring a brighter future for our children. That's why the Senate Republican Majority fought to secure an increase in State Education Aid of approximately \$1.4 billion in the new State Budget.

This new funding, which reflects an increase of hundreds of millions of dollars over the original Executive Budget, will support important programs and services that help educate our children.

In addition, we worked to ensure that these critical education dollars were distributed fairly and equitably

to various regions of the state. Overall, the new budget helps deliver:

- **More funding for our schools;**
- **More relief from the GEA budget cuts / The GEA will be slashed more than 50%;**
- **Fair and equitable funding for each region; and**
- **A blueprint for significant, new reforms designed to improve performance in the classroom, reduce over-testing and promote excellence in teaching.**

These are all real positives for our schools, our community, and — most importantly — our children.





REDUCING THE DAMAGE OF THE DEMOCRATS' GEA BUDGET CUTS

The Gap Elimination Adjustment, also known as the GEA, was first imposed on New Yorkers in 2010 by former Governor David Paterson and the Democrats who controlled the Senate and Assembly.

The Senate Republican Conference voted against the GEA because we knew that it would result in severe budget cuts that would hurt schools, taxpayers and children all across the state. And since it was first approved in 2010-11, our Conference has been leading the charge to abolish the GEA.

While the Governor initially proposed no new GEA relief in this year's budget, and the State Assembly only proposed a partial reduction, the Senate Republican Conference approved a one-house budget plan that would have completely eliminated the GEA.

Through our efforts, the final 2015-16 State Budget will cut the remaining size of the GEA by more than 50%. While this funding represents another major step forward, we will continue leading the charge in Albany to eliminate the notorious GEA once and for all.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG NEW YORKERS: MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

The new State Budget makes major new investments in New York's higher education system, ensuring strong support for tuition assistance programs, public and private universities, and community colleges across the State. Specific elements include:

- **Increased Support for Community Colleges:** The new budget increases full-time equivalent (FTE) funding by \$100. Base aid will be \$2,597 per FTE for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. This represents a \$20 million increase for SUNY and CUNY community colleges combined.
- **Tuition Assistance:** The budget increases funding for TAP by \$45 million from last year, helping thousands of young New Yorkers afford a quality higher education.
- **New Scholarships:** The budget also establishes a new merit scholarship program, with \$500 scholarships going out to 5,000 eligible students.


A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES: HELPING NEW YORK EMPLOYERS SUCCEED

The new State Budget is not only on-time for the fifth consecutive year, it's also a solid budget for small businesses – the engine of New York's private sector economy.

To help New York's small businesses succeed, grow and create new jobs, the new State Budget:

- **Controls overall spending growth to below two percent;**
- **Avoids new tax increases;**
- **Continues lowering energy costs by reducing the 18-a surcharge on utility bills; and**
- **Makes major new investments in New York's infrastructure.**





A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR ECONOMY:
INVESTING IN NEW YORK'S
INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2015-16 State Budget will build on the progress we've made in revitalizing the state's economy by making major new investments in capital infrastructure projects that will help create new jobs and economic activity in every corner of the state. Specifics include:

- **Investing Settlement Funds to Create Jobs:** The budget plan will prudently target several billion dollars in lawsuit settlement funds to help create new jobs throughout all regions of the state by investing in major economic development projects, transportation projects, expanding broadband access, and more.
- **DOT:** Approximately \$7.5 billion in State Department of Transportation capital funds over two years -- ensuring a state-of-the-art infrastructure to carry people, goods and services, and to keep our economy moving forward.
- **CHIPS:** \$488 million is provided for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program to support important local highway, road and bridge repair projects. This \$50 million increase over the Executive's proposal will help local governments address this year's severe winter weather conditions.
- **Mass Transit:** \$4.8 billion will be used to support the operation of public transportation systems across New York State.



JOB TRAINING: PREPARING ALL NEW YORKERS FOR SUCCESS



The Senate Republican Conference wants to ensure that every New Yorker -- in every region of the state -- has access to job training services that can help them succeed in a rapidly changing economy. That's why we've just approved a new State Budget that includes strong support for successful job training and workforce development initiatives. Highlights include the following:

- **Next Generation Job Linkage Program:** \$5 million for the Next Generation Job Linkage Program that works with employers to: identify the job; define the skill; and provide the training for it.
- **SUNY / CUNY Workforce Development Initiative:** This initiative provides targeted training to help employers refine the skills of their new hires, and enable more experienced employees to upgrade their skills.
- **Workforce Development Institute (WDI):** \$5.6 million is provided for the WDI, which is a not-for-profit that works with businesses and the AFL-CIO to provide focused training for workers, and workforce transition support to help prevent jobs from being outsourced to other states.
- **Community Colleges:** A \$20 million increase for SUNY/CUNY community colleges -- a \$100 per FTE increase.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Healthy families and healthy communities depend on clean air, clean water and the quality of our natural environment.

The 2015-2016 State Budget reflects the Senate Republican Conference's strong commitment to protecting and enhancing New York's natural resources. It does so by making major new investments in key environmental initiatives that will benefit communities throughout the entire state.

It includes \$177 million for New York's vital Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), a major increase of \$15 million. This EPF funding will be used to support a wide array of essential projects that help protect open spaces and ensure clean air and water for millions of New Yorkers.


It also includes \$152.5 million in new funding for additional environmental infrastructure improvements in areas such as flood control, clean-ups and restoration projects.

A BRIGHTER, HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our families and loved ones. The 2015-16 State Budget will help keep New Yorkers healthy by providing record support for a wide array of lifesaving health care services in communities across the state. In addition to investing billions of dollars to ensure quality hospitals and nursing homes throughout New York State, the new budget also includes:

- \$25.3 million for Cancer Services Programs;
- \$9 million for chronic disease prevention (including diabetes, asthma & hypertension);
- \$26.3 million for Nutritional Information for Women, Infants and Children;
- \$2.3 million for the Prenatal Care Program;
- \$628,000 for Maternal and Child Health, including the Safe Motherhood Initiative;
- \$1.8 million for the Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visitation Program;
- \$1.4 million for Women's Health Services;
- \$10.6 million for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention;
- \$4.6 million in increased funding for Rape Crisis Centers, bringing total funding to \$6.5 million;
- \$283,300 for the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Program;
- \$26.6 million for Elder Health / Alzheimer's Programs;
- \$1.5 million in additional funding of the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board; and
- An additional \$2 million for the Doctors Across New York Program.



A photograph of an elderly couple embracing from behind, silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a striped shirt. The background is a soft, glowing orange and yellow sky.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NEW YORK'S SENIORS

After devoting their lives to building up our local communities, and our state as a whole, New York's seniors deserve all the support we can provide. The new State Budget reflects the Senate Majority's strong commitment to our seniors, and includes:

- **EPIC Program:** New York's outstanding Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage program will be fully funded at \$126.5 million to cover the prescription drug needs of our seniors.
- **Property Tax Relief:** The budget will provide property tax rebates to seniors, and includes full funding for the Enhanced STAR program which provides crucial tax relief to thousands of New York's seniors. The budget also includes millions of dollars in additional funding for our local schools -- helping to hold down property taxes.
- **Senior Initiatives:** The budget also increases support for a wide array of programs and initiatives that serve seniors, including additional funding for the following:
 - \$27.8 million for Community Services for the Elderly Program;
 - \$26.6 million for Alzheimer's programs;
 - \$945,000 for Lifespan for Elderly Abuse, Education and Outreach;
 - \$172,000 for the New York Foundation for Seniors Home Sharing and Respite; and
 - \$63,000 for the Senior Action Council Hotline.



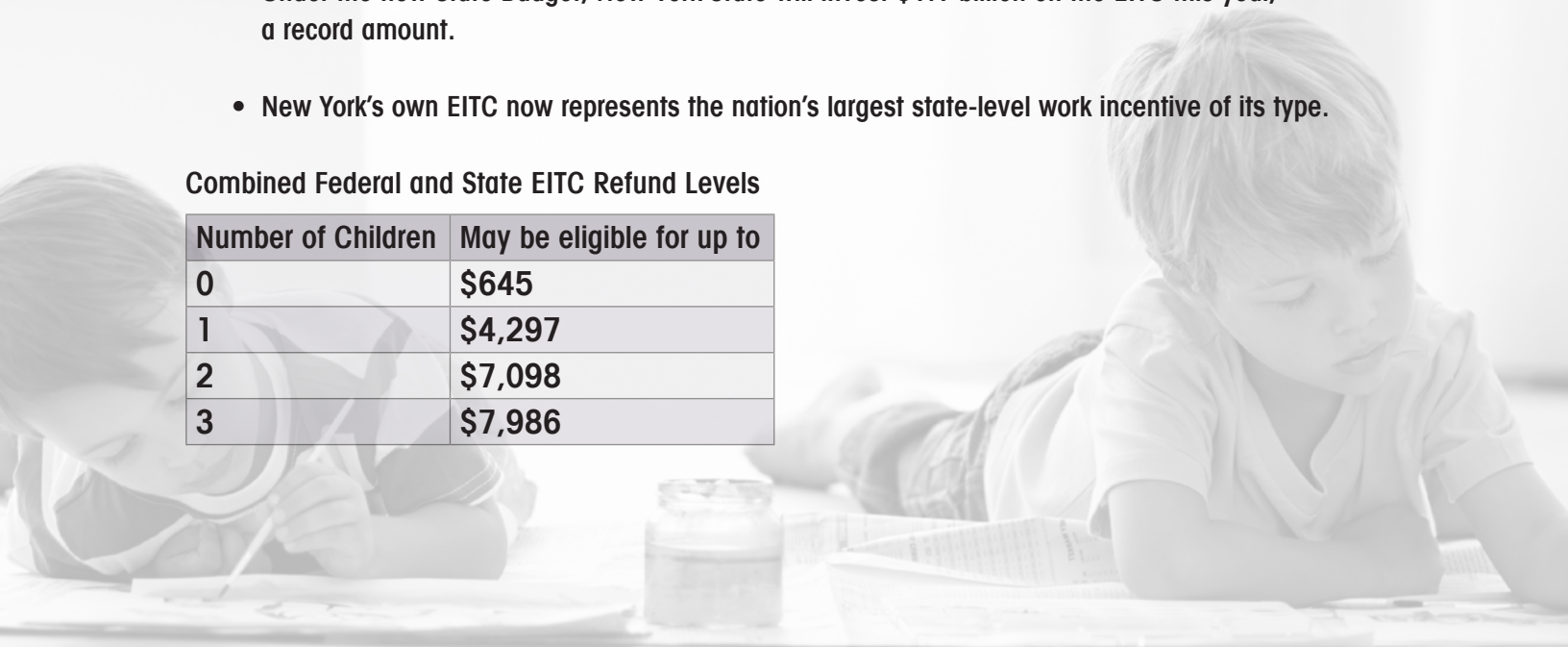
EARNED INCOME TAX
CREDIT FOR FAMILIES
(EITC): \$1.1 BILLION

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a combined federal, New York State and/or New York City tax credit program that can total as much as \$4,462 for a single parent with one child, \$7,371 for two children, and \$8,293 for three or more with incomes up to \$46,997. It has proven to be one of the nation's most effective tools at increasing labor force participation of low skilled workers, as well as an efficient means of supplementing the low wages paid to such workers.

- Under the new State Budget, New York State will invest \$1.1 billion on the EITC this year, a record amount.
- New York's own EITC now represents the nation's largest state-level work incentive of its type.

Combined Federal and State EITC Refund Levels

Number of Children	May be eligible for up to
0	\$645
1	\$4,297
2	\$7,098
3	\$7,986



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR FAMILY FARMS:
KEY INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE



An abundance of fresh, quality food and farm products is not only good for our families -- it's also great for New York's economy. In the 2015-16 State Budget, the Senate Republican Majority has once again led the way in supporting New York's vital agriculture industry by providing record levels of funding for key research, marketing and education programs.

The 2015-2016 State Budget includes:

- \$7.5 million - Agribusiness Children Development Centers;
- \$750,000 - Apple Growers Association;
- \$500,000 - Apple Research and Development Board;
- \$1 million - Beginning Farmers Grant Program;
- \$320,000 - Berry Growers Association;
- \$125,000 - Christmas Tree Growers;
- \$75,000 - Corn and Soybean Growers Association;
- \$5.4 million - Cornell Diagnostic Lab;
- \$50,000 - Cornell Honeybee Research and Extension;
- \$125,000 - Cornell Maple Research;
- \$50,000 - Cornell Onion Research;
- \$1.2 million - Cornell Pro-Dairy;
- \$220,000 - Dairy Profit Teams at Farm Viability;
- \$250,000 - Dairy Quality Assurance and Control Program;
- \$200,000 - Deer Fence Matching Grants;
- \$175,000 - Eastern Equine Encephalitis/Mosquito Control;
- \$250,000 - Farm-to-School Program;
- \$1.9 million - Farm Viability Institute;
- \$800,000 - Farm Family Services;
- \$500,000 - Farmers Market Subsidies for Seniors;
- \$392,000 - Future Farmers of America;
- \$100,000 - Genesee Agriculture Academy;
- \$100,000 - Grown on Long Island;
- \$200,000 - Hops and Barley Research at Cornell;
- \$20,000 - Island Harvest;
- \$160,000 - Local Fairs;
- \$25,000 - Low-Cost Vaccine Program;
- \$213,000 - Maple Producers Association;
- \$600,000 - Northern NY Agriculture Development Program;
- \$100,000 - Precision Agriculture Studies;
- \$610,000 - Rabies Programs at Cornell;
- \$1 million - Regional Food Hub Development;
- \$1.1 million - Taste NY;
- \$250,000 - Tractor Rollover Prevention program;
- \$150,000 - Turfgrass Association;
- \$100,000 - Vegetable Growers Association;
- \$1.1 million - Wine and Grape Foundation; and
- \$100,000 - Wood Products Council.



A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NEW YORK'S HEROES: STRONG SUPPORT FOR VETERAN'S INITIATIVES

The new State Budget for 2015-16 reflects the Senate Majority's unwavering support for the heroic service men and women who have sacrificed so much to serve our nation. The new budget includes funding for the following:

- \$3.2 million for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer-to-Peer Program
- \$800,000 for post traumatic stress treatment and support
- \$500,000 for the NYS Defenders Association Veteran's Defense Program
- \$200,000 for Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project
- \$250,000 additional for the Veterans Outreach Center in Monroe County (\$500,000 total funding)
- \$200,000 for Warrior Salute
- \$100,000 for the Veterans Justice Project
- \$100,000 for the SAGE Veterans Project
- \$250,000 for American Legion Department of NY Indigent Burial Expenses
- \$75,000 for Veterans of Foreign Wars NYC Field Service Office
- \$50,000 for Veterans of Foreign Wars Buffalo Field Service Office
- \$25,000 for Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council



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