



Dear Friend:

Earlier this spring, the Senate and Assembly approved a \$209 billion budget for state fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022. Due to additional funding from the American Rescue Plan, we were able to reverse significant proposed cuts and past year withholdings while also making bold investments in

education, child care and rebuilding New York’s economy.

This newsletter includes high-level details of the enacted budget and a timely update on the rollout of New York State’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). You will also find information on upcoming events and services provided to constituents.

Sincerely,

Senator Roxanne J. Persaud  
SD-19

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ENACTED FY 2021-2022 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET

### 5% Cuts Restored

The enacted FY 2021-2022 budget restores proposed 5% across-the-board cuts to all agencies which, particularly for health & human services providers, would have added insult to injury in light of prior year 20% withholdings. Nonprofits have faced tremendous costs associated with personal protective equipment (PPE) and launching or expanding remote and/or tele-services for socially distant service delivery.

### A COLA, Finally

While it is not the full 3% that legislators and advocates have long been pushing for, the enacted budget includes a **1% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for human services providers** under the auspices of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the State Office for the Aging (SOFA), and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA).

### Greater Access to Affordable Child Care

Using **\$2.4 billion in federal funding**, the legislature is making a bold investment in childcare to ensure New Yorkers can return to work. Nearly \$200 million will help reduce child care copays for eligible households to just 10% of income above the federal poverty level (FPL), and \$225 million will be allocated through social services districts to expand affordable care for families earning up to 200% FPL. Nearly \$300 million will cover 12 months of services for many families, and \$100 million will help expand access in “childcare deserts”. When New York went on PAUSE, many daycare centers shut down for good, so \$1.26 billion is also being dedicated to grants to stabilize the sector. For employers, the budget includes **expanded child care tax credits** and allows for additional Excelsior Jobs participants to access child care. This budget recognizes that *childcare is economic development*.

### Investing in K-12

Legislators achieved a significant victory this year: full public school funding as mandated by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity

(CFE) decision. All school districts will receive their full foundation aid by the 2023-2024 school year (phased-in) and every district is guaranteed at least a 2% increase. Total state school aid is increased by \$3.1 billion or nearly 12% including \$1.4 billion for school foundation aid. Further:

- An additional \$3.85 billion from the federal CRRSA and \$8.2 billion from federal ARPA will be distributed statewide. The Legislature requires that these federal funds supplement, not supplant state funds;
- Fully funds expense-based aid at \$9.2 billion, a \$443 million increase over FY 2020-2021;
- \$105 million is provided to expand full day pre-k for four year olds;
- Fully restores funding for non-public school mandated services, provides \$40 million for non-public school STEM programs and various specialized programs for students with disabilities; and
- Provides \$7.8 million for Adult Literacy Education.

### Strong Investments in Higher Education

The enacted budget includes nearly \$1.2 billion dollars for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), including \$878 million to raise the maximum award from \$5,165 to \$5,665. This increase not only helps income-eligible students, but will eliminate (over four years) the “TAP Gap” funding disparity borne by campuses. The budget also restores BUNDY aid for private independent institutions as well as provides for a 20% increase to opportunity programs. CUNY received additional funding this year including a \$50-per- full-time equivalent (FTE) increase in base aid and continued investments in programs that help students of all ages: \$5.6 million for SEEK, \$3.7 million for the School of Labor and Urban Studies, \$250,000 for CUNY Pipeline, \$1.8 million for CUNY LEADS, \$1.6 million for College Discovery, \$2.5 million for the Accelerated Study and Associate Program (ASAP). There is also \$1.7 million for child care at CUNY campuses. CUNY will also receive nearly \$10 million in capital funding to advance education and training in the green energy sector. Senator Persaud was glad to champion this initiative.

SUNY also received strong investments, including a \$50-per-FTE increase in base aid, \$66 million for Educational Opportunity Centers, \$700 million for Small Business Development Centers, \$1 million for student tele-counseling, \$200,000 for the Institute for Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion, plus \$2.1 million for childcare to ensure parents continue to have access to education.

### Caring for our Seniors

The enacted budget provides critical funding for senior programs including:

- \$28.28 million for home-delivered meals through the Wellness in Nutrition (WIN) program
- Over \$9 million in funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood NORCS (NNORCs)
- \$2.5 million for the Settlement House initiative
- \$1.5 million for the Holocaust Survivor Initiative

### Protecting Critical Health Funding and Programs

As New Yorkers continue to recover from COVID-19, the enacted budget reverses more than \$400 million in proposed Medicaid cuts to hospitals and providers, \$113 million in cuts to public health programs and \$81 million in broader public health purposes. Your advocacy helped us save the safety net. Additionally, the Legislature was also able to delay, for two years, the transfer of special needs plan pharmacy benefits (340-b) to fee-per-service Medicaid.

### Lifting Up Our Most Vulnerable

**Young People.** Senator Persaud led the fight to reject a proposed merger of OCFS’ Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) and Community

Optional Preventive Services (COPS), which would have compromised funding for New York City's Nurse Family Partnership program and several statewide programs that improve childrens' lives.

The budget includes a number of positive investments in young New Yorkers:

- \$7.2 million for the Foster Youth Success Program;
- \$2 million in continued funding for the Substance Abuse Prevention & Intervention Specialists (SAPIS) program in NYC schools;
- \$1 million for the Fresh Air Fund;
- \$2 million additional for Child Advocacy Centers, for a total of \$7.3 million;
- \$2 million for Safe Harbour services for sexually exploited youth;
- \$2.2 million for Kinship Care; and
- Provisions allowing aging-out foster youth to remain in care for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ***New Yorkers Fighting to Leave Poverty.***

- New Yorkers fighting to leave poverty;
- \$1.5 million for the Disability Advocacy Program (for a total of \$4.13 million state share);
- \$3 million for Refugee Resettlement;
- \$800,000 for Welfare-to-Careers programs; and
- \$2 million for the United Way 211 system.

***Supportive & Homeless Housing.*** \$128 million in continued funding for the Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP).

***New Americans.*** The enacted budget continues our commitment to New Americans with \$10 million for the Liberty Defense Fund.

***Veterans.*** \$5 million for the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Services Program, with at least \$400,000 going directly to New York City.

### **Empowering New Yorkers To Stay In Their Homes**

***Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP).*** The enacted budget invests \$20 million in each of the next three years for HOPP, which helps New Yorkers avert foreclosure. HOPP is part of a larger \$600 million Homeowner Relief and Protection Program administered by the Housing Trust Fund Corporation.

***Medicaid and assistance liens eliminated.*** The budget

included language to overturn a long time government practice of placing liens on real property equal to the dollar amount of public assistance granted, which has long prevented many New Yorkers from achieving self-sufficiency.

***Real Property Tax "Circuit Breaker".*** Full-time New York residents who spend more than 6% of their income (up to \$250,000) on property taxes will be eligible for a state tax credit of up to \$350.

Additionally, funding was provided for many community-based housing organizations including Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Brooklyn.

### **Small Business Relief**

The enacted budget includes funding for various initiatives to lift up small businesses during these tough economic times including, but not limited to:

- COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Grant Program. \$800 million in grants will be available for eligible businesses impacted by shutdowns in 2020;
- \$25 million Restaurant Resiliency Program - the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets will fund meals prepared by participating restaurants for vulnerable New Yorkers; and
- The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce was provided with an \$800,000 grant to aid small businesses across the Borough.

### **Gun Violence**

***Community Violence Intervention Act.*** The Enacted Budget declares gun violence a public health crisis and creates a funding source for community and hospital-based violence intervention programs. This act ensures that 10% of the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) total award fund is allocated for gun violence intervention programs.



*Senator Persaud, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and colleagues honor retired Senator Velmanette Montgomery with the first Senate Majority Leader's Legislative Legacy Award, February 23, 2021.*



*Senator Persaud joins Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator John Liu and Senator Liz Krueger in the Senate Chamber.*



*Senator Persaud, serving as Madam President, signs budget legislation after being passed by the Senate.*

## News State Laws in Effect

**Rights to publicity (Chapter 304 of 2020).** This law enacts two key privacy provisions: 1) protects the image or likeness of a person deceased on or after May 29, 2021, from unauthorized dissemination. 2) creates a private right of action where an intimate image of a person is publicized or disseminated without authorization.

**Post-Incarceration Voting Rights Restored (Chapter 103 of 2021).** Individuals on parole after serving a sentence will have voting rights automatically restored, rather than being forced to wait until being discharged from parole or having reached the maximum expiration date of their sentence.

**Language Accessible NYC Housing Court Documents (Chapter 223 of 2020).** The NYS Office of Court Administration is required to circulate certain NYC housing court documents in the seven most common languages spoken in the City of New York.

**Telephone Bill “Cramming” (Chapter 226 of 2020).** This new law will protect consumers from the practice of “cramming”, wherein unauthorized charges or services appear on a telephone bill without express consent of the consumer.

**Additional Victim Transportation Services (Chapter 233 of 2020).** Under this new law **sponsored by Senator Persaud**, the NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS) will be authorized to reimburse crime victims for up to \$2,500 of eligible excess employment-related transportation expenses incurred resulting from a crime.

## Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance (OTDA) began accepting and reviewing applications for the \$2.4 billion **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** on June 1st. ERAP is a statewide program for eligible low-to-moderate income New Yorkers who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. The program provides rent and utility arrear payments as well as temporary rental assistance. Assistance is prioritized based on level of need until funds are exhausted. If you are just now hearing about ERAP, do not wait any longer to review the application and program requirements.

**ERAP Hotline:** (844) NY1 - RENT or (844) 691-7368

**ERAP website:** [www.otda.ny.gov/ERAP](http://www.otda.ny.gov/ERAP)

**New York City residents may not apply for ERAP through HomeBase or via AccessHRA.** One must apply to New York State OTDA, though NYC HRA has enlisted various ERAP Enrolling Organizations to guide applicants through the process, including:

**Black Veterans for Social Justice**  
(718) 852-6004

**Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty**  
(929) 292-9480

**Good Shepherd Services**  
(212) 243-7070

**RiseBoro Community Partnership**  
(718) 547-2800



*The Social Services Committee discussing critical services and programs with NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) Executive Director Kelli Owens.*

## COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline

NY Project Hope has launched a New York's COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline:

**(844) 863-9314**

**[www.nyprojecthope.org/](http://www.nyprojecthope.org/)**

## Upcoming Events

### Join Senator Roxanne J. Persaud for a Pre-Fathers' Day Giveaway.

**Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**Plymouth Congregational Church Parking Lot**  
**1223 East 96th Street, Brooklyn.**

Each adult male will get a goodie bag. We are offering free: HIV testing, haircuts, Johnson & Johnson COVID Vaccine, and disposable diapers for children (size 2).

### Shredding event at district office.

**Saturday, June 19th, 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.**  
 1222 East 96th Street, Brooklyn.

### Join Senator Persaud, NYS Homes & Community Renewal, the Governor's Office of Faith & Community Development Services, and SONYMA for an important webinar: New Pathways to Homeownership.

**Thursday, June 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m– 8:00 p.m.**

Information will be provided about:

- Programs aimed to increase home ownership in underserved markets

- Programs to increase down payment assistance grants for low-income New Yorkers

To be part of this important conversation, please register for the webinar via <https://bit.ly/3fLzSWo>.

**Save The Dates!** Senator Persaud is proud to collaborate with the **New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)** to provide remote legal consultation and assistance to constituents. Appointments are available on the following dates: Tuesday, June 29, 2021, Tuesday, August 24, 2021, and Wednesday October 20, 2021. Please call Senator Persaud's district office to request an appointment: (718) 649-7653.

Additionally, NYLAG has a hotline for NYC residents impacted by COVID-19. Call (929) 356-9582, Monday - Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. or visit [www.nylag.org/hotline/](http://www.nylag.org/hotline/).

**To receive information on more upcoming events: sign up for the weekly e-newsletter and check online at [www.facebook.com/SD19SenatorPersaud](http://www.facebook.com/SD19SenatorPersaud)**



## SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD'S

### Spring 2021 Newsletter: Budget and Legislative Update



**Senator Roxanne J. Persaud**

1222 East 96th St.  
 Brooklyn, NY 11236

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 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 NEW YORK SENATE

**Albany Office:**

409 Legislative Office Bldg.  
 Albany, NY 12247  
**Phone:** (518) 455-2788

**District Office:**

1222 East 96th St.  
 Brooklyn, NY 11236  
**Phone:** (718) 649-7653

**E-Mail:** [persaud@nysenate.gov](mailto:persaud@nysenate.gov)

**Website:** [persaud.nysenate.gov](http://persaud.nysenate.gov)

SD19SenatorPersaud  
 @SenatorPersaud



Senator Persaud would like to extend a huge, heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the various organizations, big and small, that have helped distribute food, essential toiletries, diapers, community resources and **HOPE** to our neighbors in need this year.

**THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER (TCAH), which has provided most of the food being distributed.** Also, American Bangladeshi Community Development (ABCD); Baitul Mamur Masjid and Community Center; Brooklyn Canarsie Lions Club; Brooklyn Scholars Charter School; CAMBA; Canarsie Islamic Services Inc.; CCA Metro; City Harvest; City Line/Eldert Block Association; Elite Learners; Emblem Health; Hebron Baptist Church; JETRO; Jimerson and Gorman Houses; Millennium Partners; New Lots Library; NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS); NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS); NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA); NYPD Community Affairs & Precincts; Plymouth Congregational Church; SABA Poultry; Salvation Army Brooklyn Brownsville Corps Community Center; Starrett City; St. Francis College; and Village Care Max.