

# STATE BUDGET FUNDING FAQ PAGE

From the Office of Sen. Jabari Brisport

## What is the state budget?

The NY State budget determines what services and supports in our state will receive funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget process begins with the Governor releasing an Executive Budget proposal, which outlines the anticipated income and expenses for the state for the fiscal year to come. This proposal is usually announced with an event hosted by the Governor known as “The State of the State.”

Next, New York’s Legislative committees open the Governor’s proposal to public review, calling on state agencies and stakeholders to deliberate over the proposed budget appropriations (these hearings are open for the public to view online).

After the executive budget is proposed, and legislative committees hold their hearings, the Governor meets with the NYS Senate and Assembly – as represented by the Senate Leader and Assembly Speaker – to begin three way negotiations on the proposed budget. These negotiations result in a series of bills that officially make up the state budget. The budget is ultimately voted into law by the Senate and Assembly. The state Constitution mandates the approval of the state budget by April 1.

One of the bills that is included in the budget every year is called “Aid to Localities.” This bill specifies which agencies and nonprofit organizations will receive funding for certain items.

## Who can request state funds in the budget?

Any nonprofit organization or government agency can request state funding through their state Senator. Please note that religious not-for-profits may encounter legal obstacles, as the state is not allowed to subsidize religious activities, even if the funds will be used for secular activities. In this process, I will prioritize organizations or agencies that serve my district, Senate District 25.

## When do I need to submit my request?

Please submit your request letter to our office via email by end of day on Sunday, February 13, 2023. We ask that you send these letters as PDF attachments to my Chief of Staff, Kara Clark, at [kclark@nysenate.gov](mailto:kclark@nysenate.gov)

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## **What can I request in the budget?**

Nonprofits and government agencies can apply for operating funds or capital funds.

Operating funds can be used for programming costs (i.e., staff, supplies, insurance, etc.).

Capital funds can be used to improve physical infrastructure (i.e., to buy a new sprinkler system, replace a roof, etc.).

## **How much funding can I apply for?**

You should apply honestly for the funding that you think you need. Even if the legislature doesn't end up funding the full amount, it is possible that during budget negotiations the request would be met at a lower amount.

## **How will I know if my request has been included in the final New York State budget?**

Our office will follow up with you after the final budget is approved. The state budget is due April 1, so be on the lookout for outreach from my office shortly after that date. If your request has been included in the final budget, you will also need to supply my office with your nonprofit's/agency's EIN Number and NYS Charities Number.

## **If my funding is included in the New York state budget, when will that payment be processed?**

It will take at least a few months for the relevant state agency to process your funding. Please also keep in mind that state funding is awarded on a reimbursement basis. For example, if you are awarded \$20,000 to hire a part time staffer, you must hire and pay them first, then submit paperwork to be reimbursed for the hiring costs.