

**AN OVERVIEW OF STATE FUNDING:
HOW THE BUDGETING PROCESS
WORKS, AND HOW TO ENGAGE
WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES**

OFFICE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER RYAN



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INTRODUCTION

Sen. Christopher J. Ryan represents New York's 50th Senate District, covering parts of Onondaga and Oswego counties. He took office on Jan. 1, 2025, and chairs the Cities 2 Committee while serving on the Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Economic Development and Small Business, Energy and Telecommunications, and Labor Committees.

Previously, he was Minority Leader in the Onondaga County Legislature, serving since 2011, and chaired the Public Safety Committee. He also served on the Geddes Town Board, including as deputy supervisor.

A longtime trade unionist, Chris had been a CWA Local 1123 member for 28+ years before being elected as a State Senator, serving as president and advocating for workers' rights.

He holds degrees in criminal justice from Buffalo State College and Onondaga Community College and he attended the Cornell University School of Industrial Labor Relations. A lifelong Central New Yorker, he lives in Geddes with his wife, Erin, and their four children.



PRESENTERS



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OBJECTIVES

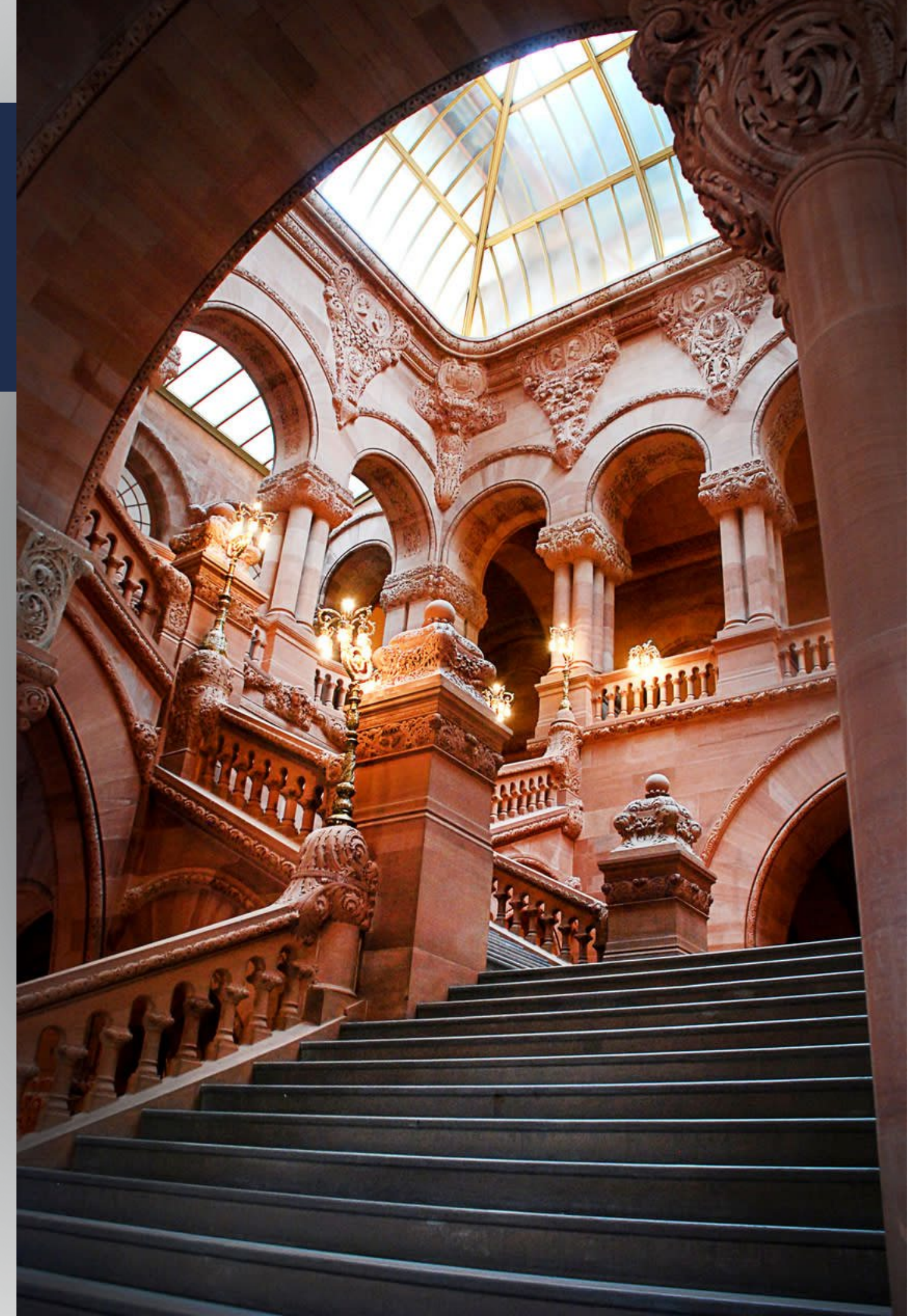
By the end of this webinar, you should be able to:



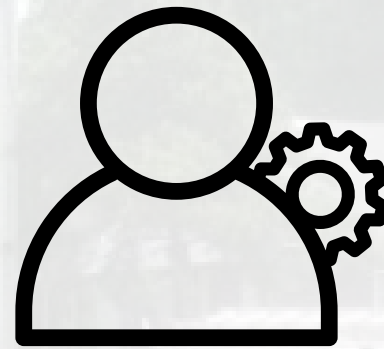
Have a general understanding of the New York State budget process.



Know who to contact when you receive a CNYArts regrant, when you have an upcoming event you would like your local representative to attend, and when you are requesting support or assistance at the State level and how to do so.

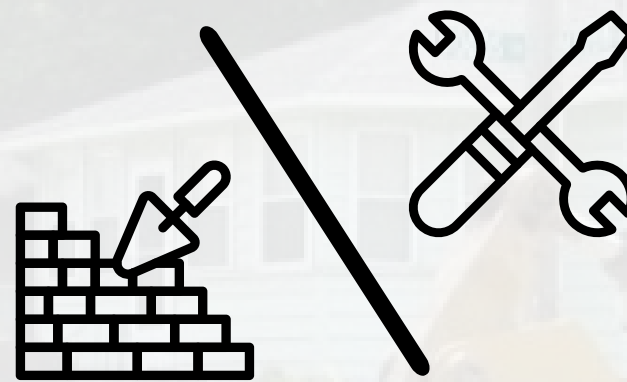


THE BASICS OF FUNDING



Operational Funding

- Everyday needs (payroll, programming, leases, utilities, subscriptions)
- Usually budgetary or LIF (depending on the amount)



Capital Funding

- Construction and major tangible purchases
- Usually grants or budgetary (depending on the amount)



Budgetary Funding

- Initiated through budget letters and are included in the official NYS budget
 - Can include operational and capital expenses
- Typically larger pots of money

VITAL PLAYERS

Division of the Budget



Division of the Budget

- “DOB”
- Plays a major role in the creation of the NYS Budget and reviews and approves major grants

Council on the Arts



New York State Council on the Arts

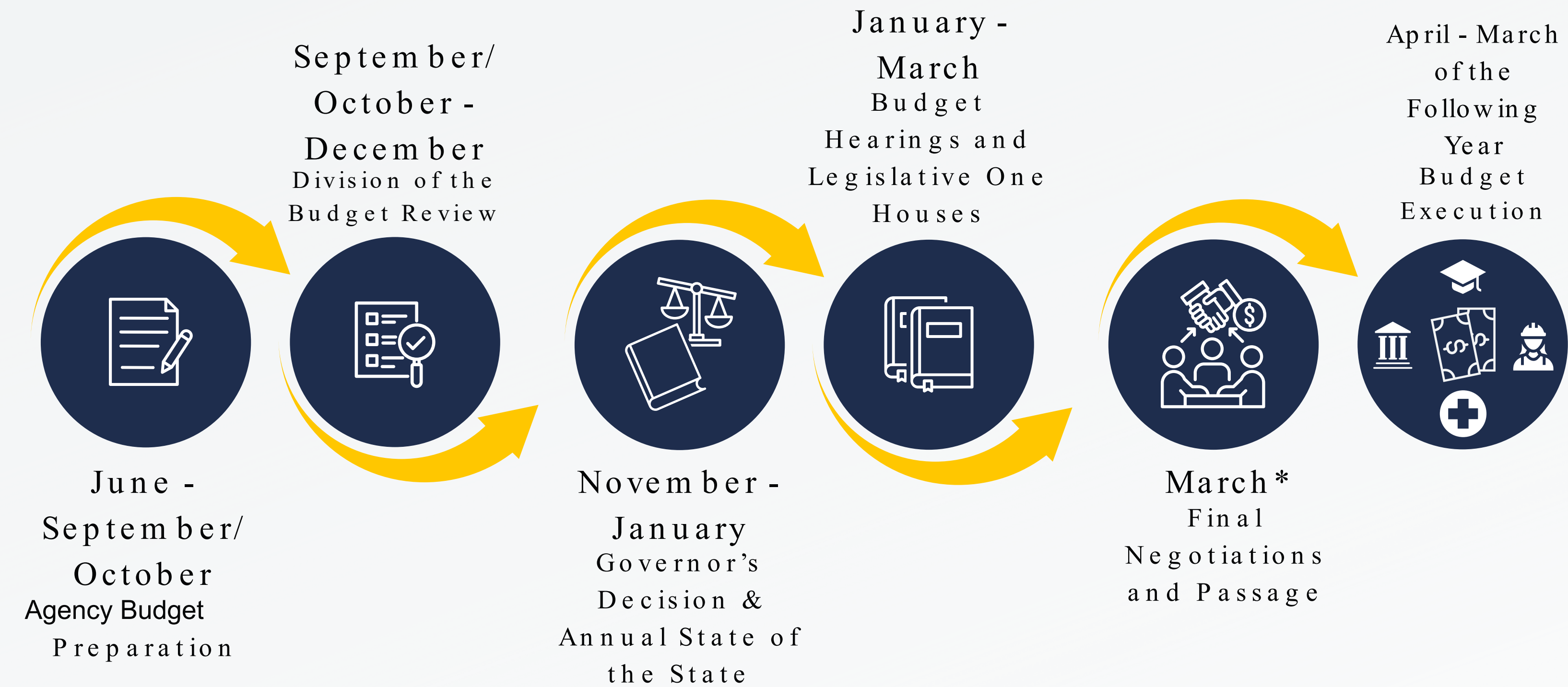
- “NYSCA”
- Offers capital and operational funding for organizations. Also provides funding for regranting.



NYS Legislature and Executive

- All play vital roles in the negotiation and creation of the NYS budget.
- Executive office offers funding through NYS agencies, Legislative Offices offers funding through Legislative Initiatives and grants.

GENERAL TIMELINE OF THE NYS BUDGET PROCESS



AGENCY BUDGET PREPARATION

JUNE - SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Call Letter - Policy memorandum, lays out Governor's priorities, expected constraints, and provides agencies with a timeline.

This year: "Flat", no new programs, no cuts.

Agencies build out their program packages, beginning at the subdepartmental/program level to prepare individual program/staff needs.

By fall, a final program package is prepared and assembled, guided by the instructions set by DOB and reviewed for consistency with the call letter.

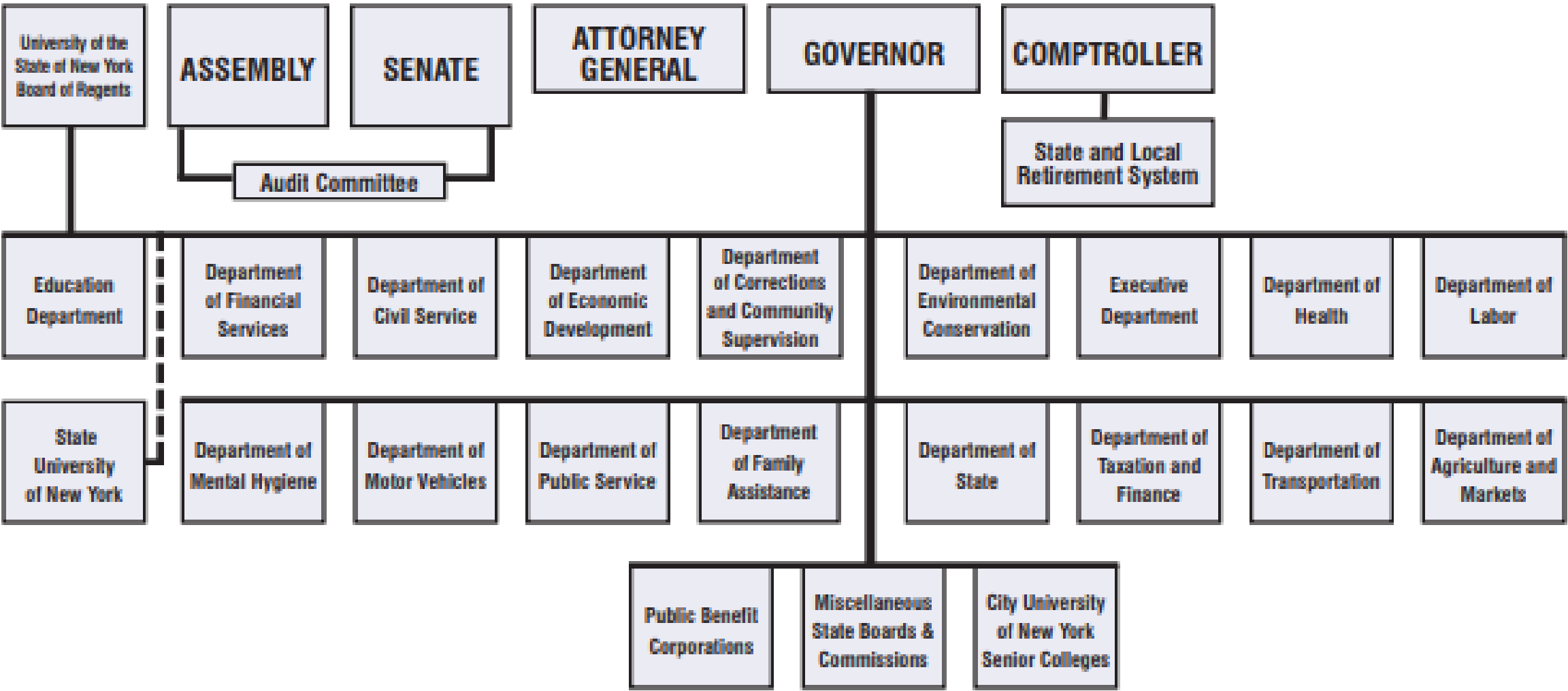




LEGISLATURE

EXECUTIVE

JUDICIARY



511NY
Adirondack Park Agency
Authorities Budget Office
Battery Park City Authority
Board of Elections
Bridge Authority
Canal Corporation
Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
City University of New York
Commission of Correction
Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government
Commission on Judicial Conduct
Commission on Prosecutorial Conduct
Corcraft Products (Department of Correctional Services, Division of
Industries)
Council on Children and Family Services
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Council on the Arts
Department of Agriculture and Markets
Department of Civil Service
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Financial Services
Department of Health
Department of Labor
Department of Motor Vehicles
Department of Public Service
Department of State
Department of Taxation and Finance
Department of Transportation
Department of Veterans' Services
Division of Consumer Protection
Division of Criminal Justice Services
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services
Division of Human Rights
Division of Military and Naval Affairs
Division of State Police
Division of Tax Appeals and Tax Appeals Tribunal
Division of the Budget
Dormitory Authority
Empire State Development
Energy Research and Development Authority
Environmental Facilities Corporation
Financial Control Board
Gaming Commission
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

NEARLY 100
ORGANIZATIONS AND
AGENCIES OF VARIOUS
SIZES AND SCOPES ALL
HAVE TO PREPARE THEIR
REQUESTS IN LINE WITH
THE CALL LETTER

Housing Finance Agency/State of NYMortgage Agency (SONYMA)
Hudson River Park Trust
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs
Liquidation Bureau
Liquor Authority, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
MTA Inspector General
New York Assembly
New York State Insurance Fund
New York State Law Revision Commission
New York State Senate
NYC 311
Office for New Americans
Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
Office for the Aging
Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
Office of Addiction Services and Supports
Office of the Attorney General
Office of Cannabis Management
Office of Children and Family Services
Office of Counter Terrorism
Office of Emergency Management
Office of Employee Relations
Office of Fire Prevention and Control
Office of General Services
Office of Information Technology Services
Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications (OIEC)
Office of Mental Health
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Office of State Comptroller
Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
Office of the Governor
Office of the Medicaid Inspector General
Office of Victim Services
Offices of the Inspector General
Olympic Regional Development Authority
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Power Authority
Roosevelt Island Operation Corporation of the State of New York
(RIOC)
South Shore Estuary Council
State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA)
State University Construction Fund
State University of New York (SUNY)
Teachers' Retirement System

DIVISION OF THE BUDGET REVIEW
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER - DECEMBER

DOB receives agency budgets and copies are sent to the legislature. By the end of October, it is usually determined what funding is needed to keep programs at current levels.

In late November, following a formal hearing, DOB staff take agency requests and turn them into a preliminary budget and begin drafting legislation.

By December, preliminary recommendations are revenue and expenditures are completed and presented to the Executive’s Office, along with each agency’s “budget story.”

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)		
Agency	Available FY 2024	Appropriations Recommended FY 2025
Addiction Services and Supports, Office of	1,340,867,000	1,161,467,
Additional Statewide Counter-Terrorism	0	
Adirondack Park Agency	6,566,278	6,638,
Aging, Office for the	324,269,733	368,323,
Agriculture and Markets, Department of	308,154,597	324,551,
Alcoholic Beverage Control, Division of	83,211,000	84,663,
Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement	20,000,000	50,000,
Arts, Council on the	105,026,000	49,999,
Audit and Control, Department of	557,564,000	563,483,
Budget, Division of the	50,721,000	50,184,
Children and Family Services, Office of	5,930,086,224	5,537,445,
City University of New York	6,329,085,425	5,800,376,
Civil Service, Department of	89,192,104	99,811,
Commercial Gaming Payment Reduction Offsets	17,000,000	17,000,
Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology Program	385,000,000	
Consolidated Capital Projects Program	0	
Correction, Commission of	4,072,574	4,101,
Corrections and Community Supervision, Department of	3,566,926,671	3,589,942,
Criminal Justice Services, Division of	874,320,500	787,855,
Data Analytics	0	
Debt Service	15,568,500,000	13,458,000,
Deferred Compensation Board	998,411	1,005,
Developmental Disabilities, State Council on	4,760,000	4,760,
Economic Development, Department of	108,011,768	100,387,
Education Department, State	44,312,649,822	45,773,597,
Elections, State Board of	82,797,000	158,431,
Empire State Development Corporation	1,583,908,000	2,258,238,
Employee Relations, Office of	12,455,202	15,978,
Energy Research and Development Authority, New York State	225,800,000	25,800,
Environmental Conservation, Department of	2,587,575,947	2,215,772,
Ethics and Lobbying, Independent Commission on	7,787,000	8,066,
Executive Chamber	23,303,000	23,303,
Financial Control Board, New York State	3,497,000	3,497,
Financial Services, Department of	526,665,400	593,947,

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Available FY 2024</u>	<u>Appropriations Recommended FY 2025</u>	<u>Change From FY 2024</u>	<u>Reappropriations Recommended FY 2025</u>
Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement	20,000,000	50,000,000	30,000,000	81,521,000
Arts, Council on the	105,026,000	49,999,000	(55,027,000)	103,450,000
Audit and Control, Department of	557,564,000	563,483,000	5,919,000	35,683,000
Budget, Division of the	50,721,000	50,184,000	(537,000)	0

All of DOB’s recommendations are broken down by agency and are available on their website.

Appropriations = New funds for fiscal year.

Reappropriations = Funding that was allocated in years past but was not spent.

- Budget Highlights for NYSCA 2025
- The FY 2025 Executive Budget recommends nearly \$100 million in total funding for NYSCA, which is less than the FY 2024 Enacted Budget primarily due to the discontinuation of one-time investments.
 - The Executive Budget funding level includes \$6.0 million for agency operations, with a workforce of 31 FTEs, \$43.4 million for NYSCA's core competitive grant-making activity, and \$50 million to support capital grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$10 million. The \$50 million for arts capital projects is appropriated in the Arts and Cultural Facilities Improvement Program (ACFIP) agency.
 - The Executive Budget also provides a \$500,000 stand-alone appropriation for the Egg, an increase of \$280,000 from FY 2024 Enacted levels...

GOVERNOR'S DECISION NOVEMBER - JANUARY

Based on preliminary recommendations and the most current info of the economic and fiscal environment, the final budget recommendations are formulated in a series of meetings between DOB and the Governor's team.

These sessions focus on major fiscal and policy issues and may lead to significant revisions in Agency's budget. The initial Executive Budget is then formally presented during the State-of-the-State.

The Governor submits the Executive Budget, Five-Year Capital Programming and Financing Plan, and more to the Legislature. Priorities are publicly announced during the annual State of the State.



2026 State of the State Address

MEDIA ADVISORY: GOVERNOR HOCHUL
DELIVERS 2026 STATE OF THE STATE
ADDRESS

WHEN: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM

WHERE: Hart Theater at The Egg, Empire
State Plaza, Albany, NY 12220

GOVERNOR HOCHUL UNVEILS HIGHLIGHTS OF FY 2026 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

Governor's Affordability Agenda Will Put \$5 Billion Back in the Pockets of New Yorkers With a Middle-Class Tax Cut, Inflation Refund and Expanded Child Tax Credit

Governor Proposes Balanced Budget With No New Income Tax Increases; State has \$21 Billion in Reserves for a 'Rainy Day'

Prioritizes Public Safety With \$370 Million in Gun Violence Prevention, \$77 Million for Six-Month Law Enforcement Surge on New York City Subways; New Legislation Would Streamline Discovery Process

Tackles the Housing Crisis With Up To \$760.5 Million For Pro-Housing Communities, \$100 Million To Help First-Time Homebuyers; Governor Committed \$1 Billion to New York City's 'City of Yes' Initiatives

Focuses on Mental Health Care With Legislative Changes to Involuntary Commitment and Kendra's Law; Invests \$160 Million for 100 New Inpatient Forensic Psychiatric Beds on Wards Island

Directs the Largest Climate Investment in New York State's History: \$1 Billion To Accelerate Our Clean Energy Transition

Creates Distraction-Free Schools With Statewide Bell-to-Bell Restrictions On Electronic Devices in K-12 Classrooms; Delivers Over \$13 Million to Schools For Pouches, Cubbies or Other Necessary Infrastructure

Invests \$3 Billion in Safety Net Hospitals That Serve At-Risk New Yorkers; Assessment of Managed Care Organizations Will Deliver \$1.6 Billion in Federal Funding

Many of the top priorities discussed during the annual State-of-the-State become major areas of debate during budget negotiations.

BUDGET HEARINGS AND LEGISLATIVE ONE HOUSES JANUARY - MARCH

Fiscal committees in the Assembly and Senate analyze the Governor's spending proposals and estimates, hold public hearings, and seek further info from agencies and stakeholders.

After analysis, each house produces a report on the Governor's proposed budget.

Senate - The Blue Book

Assembly - The Yellow Book

Both houses then meet to organize deliberations, set priorities, and reach an agreement. These include new items added by the Legislature.



FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AND PASSAGE MARCH*

During separate and joint deliberations, the two houses reach agreement on recommendations, draft amended versions of the Governor's proposed appropriation bills and related legislation approved by both houses.

The Legislature and Governor then convene to come to a final decision regarding the budget. The agreed upon appropriation bills, except for those items which were added by the Legislature and other specific exceptions, become law without further action by the Governor.

The Governor must approve or disapprove all or parts of the appropriation bills covering the Legislature and Judiciary, and may use the line item veto to disapprove items added by the Legislature while approving the remainder of the bill.



Throughout the budget process, items and priorities may change.

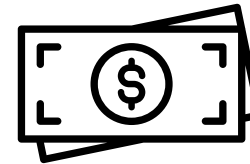
If the budget is not passed by the April 1 deadline, the current fiscal budget will have to be extended.



BUDGET EXECUTION

APRIL - THE FOLLOWING MARCH

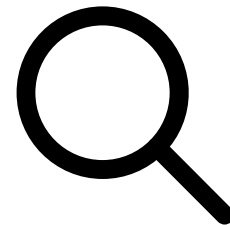
DOB approves “certificates of allocation” informing the Comptroller that accounts may be established as specified and that vouchers drawn against the checks may be honored.



DOB keeps a close watch throughout the year on the flow of revenue and the pattern of expenditures against its projections. DOB reports on its findings quarterly.



At the end of the fiscal year, DOB and the State Comptroller issue a report that compares unaudited year-end results with projections and summarizes the reasons for the annual change in receipts and disbursements.



THE GIST

The development of the NYS Budget is a process that begins nearly a year in advance. With numerous decision makers, stakeholders, and choices to make, it's contentious and it is vital to understand the process and players if you want to have your voice and priorities heard.



HOW TO ACCESS THESE STATE DOLLARS

01

Local Organizations / Regranting Organizations (CNY Arts)

02

State Agencies (NYSCA)

03

Elected Officials





01 - CNYARTS (REGRANTING ORGANIZATIONS)

Provides support and assistance through regrants to individual artists and arts and cultural organizations through access to grants, capacity assistance, education and training, and promotional services. Serves the counties of Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego. Eligible applicants may include nonprofits and individual artists, depending on the grant program.

- building

Sources:

Legislative Initiative Funding (pre-2026)

New York State Council on the Arts (post-2026)

Onondaga County

OFFERINGS

Microgrants, Festival fund, GRACE, Poet Laureate, , Onondaga County - Marketing for economic development, Onondaga County - Tier Three Project Support, Operating Support



02 - STATE AGENCIES (NYSCA)

NYSCA offers millions of dollars' worth of awards in both capital and support grants for small and large organizations.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FY2026 (DEADLINE IS 01/13/2026 AT 5PM)

- Small and Midsized Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture
 - Projects initiated by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations of any size, up to \$2 million grants that prioritize accessibility, artistry, cultural development, sustainability, health and safety, and structural and historical improvements.
 - No-match grants of \$10,000-\$99,000 for organizations with budgets <\$2 million.
- Large Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture
 - \$2 million to \$10 million for projects that have a total cost of \$4 million or more (grants support a maximum of 50 percent of the project's total cost)
- Capital Design Grants for Arts and Culture:
 - For arts and cultural nonprofits with operating budgets of \$10 million or less across in the early stages of design. Range from \$50,000-\$500,000, maximum of 50 percent of the design phase's total cost.
 - No-match grants of \$10,000 to \$99,000 for organizations with budgets <\$2 million.

SUPPORT GRANTS (CLOSED FOR FY2026)

- Support for 501 © 3's, Sponsored Organizations, Artists (with a 501 © 3 sponsor), Targeted Opportunities, Regrants and Services

2017 \$634,000 AWARD TO THE EVERSON

IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED:
NEW SEATING,
AN EXPANDED STAGE AND ADDITION OF SPRUNG
FLOORING,
NEW CARPETING AND WALL COVERINGS,
INSTALLATION OF WIFI
NEW PROJECTION, SOUND AND LIGHTING
EQUIPMENT
UPDATED BACKSTAGE DRESSING ROOMS AND
PUBLIC RESTROOMS
LIFE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY POWER SYSTEMS.



03 - ELECTED OFFICIALS

Elected Legislators (State Senate, State Assembly) have a number of tools available to them to assist local organizations in need. The same is true for local electeds, but often at a different scale.

NYS BUDGET

Can be used to cover both operational and capital costs, normally for large or regional projects. Any budget asks are subject to the budget process and are by no means guaranteed to be funded.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE FUNDING (LIF)

Primarily operational costs (rent, programming, utilities, small equipment or material purchases). Minimum of \$10,000. Awarded in a short window following the passage of the budget. Awarded to nonprofits and municipalities.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY, ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY, AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (CREST)

Covers capital projects (construction, renovation, equipment and vehicle purchases, etc.). Minimum of \$50,000. Awarded in a rolling fashion post budget.

SPECIFICS ON LIF AND CREST

Legislative Initiative Funding (LIF)

- Several different pots of funds (human services, public safety, education, etc.)
- Operational Funding (payroll, leases, utilities, programming, and minor material purchases)
- Minimum of \$10,000
- Window opens briefly after the Budget is passed (this year was just 10 days)
- Primarily handled by Senate Finance and a specified NYS Agency (varies by award).

Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program (CREST)

- One pot of funds.
- Capital Funding (construction, reconstruction, renovations, land acquisition, equipment, vehicles, etc.)
- Minimum of \$50,000
- Funding is awarded in a rolling basis following the passage of the Budget and the end of the Legislative Session.
- Primarily handled by Senate Finance, DASNY, and DOB.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS + STAFF MEMBERS

Your electeds are here to work for you, feel free to reach out to any of their offices and request a meeting to talk about your organization!

What info to present?

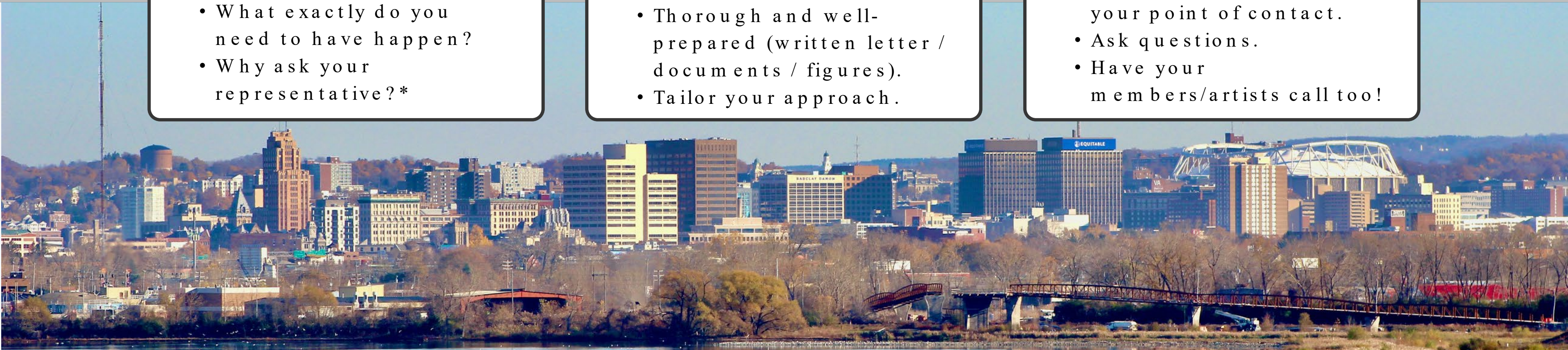
- Who you are?
- What do you do?
- What the problem is/what is impacting you?
- What exactly do you need to have happen?
- Why ask your representative?*

Be thoughtful with your ask.

- Time your ask (Earlier is usually better*).
- Be concise (15 - 30 minutes, 1 hour is rare).
- Thorough and well-prepared (written letter / documents / figures).
- Tailor your approach.

Follow -up!

- Budget is hectic, you may only get one one-on-one meeting during that period.
- Call the office, email your point of contact.
- Ask questions.
- Have your members/artists call too!





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THANK YOU!

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Oswego, NY 13126

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