

Issues impacting older residents in the Proposed NYS Executive Budget Part 2

February 24, 2023

Gail Myers, Deputy Director



New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc.

Did you miss the briefing on issues in the Aging budget?

The powerpoint and recording of our February 3rd briefing can be found on our website.

www.nysenior.org

Our Education Channel can be found on “Video Library” tab

Call your legislators to support StateWide's Patient Rights Helpline

Make your phone calls right away!

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Questions? **800-333-4374**



Governor's Proposed Budget

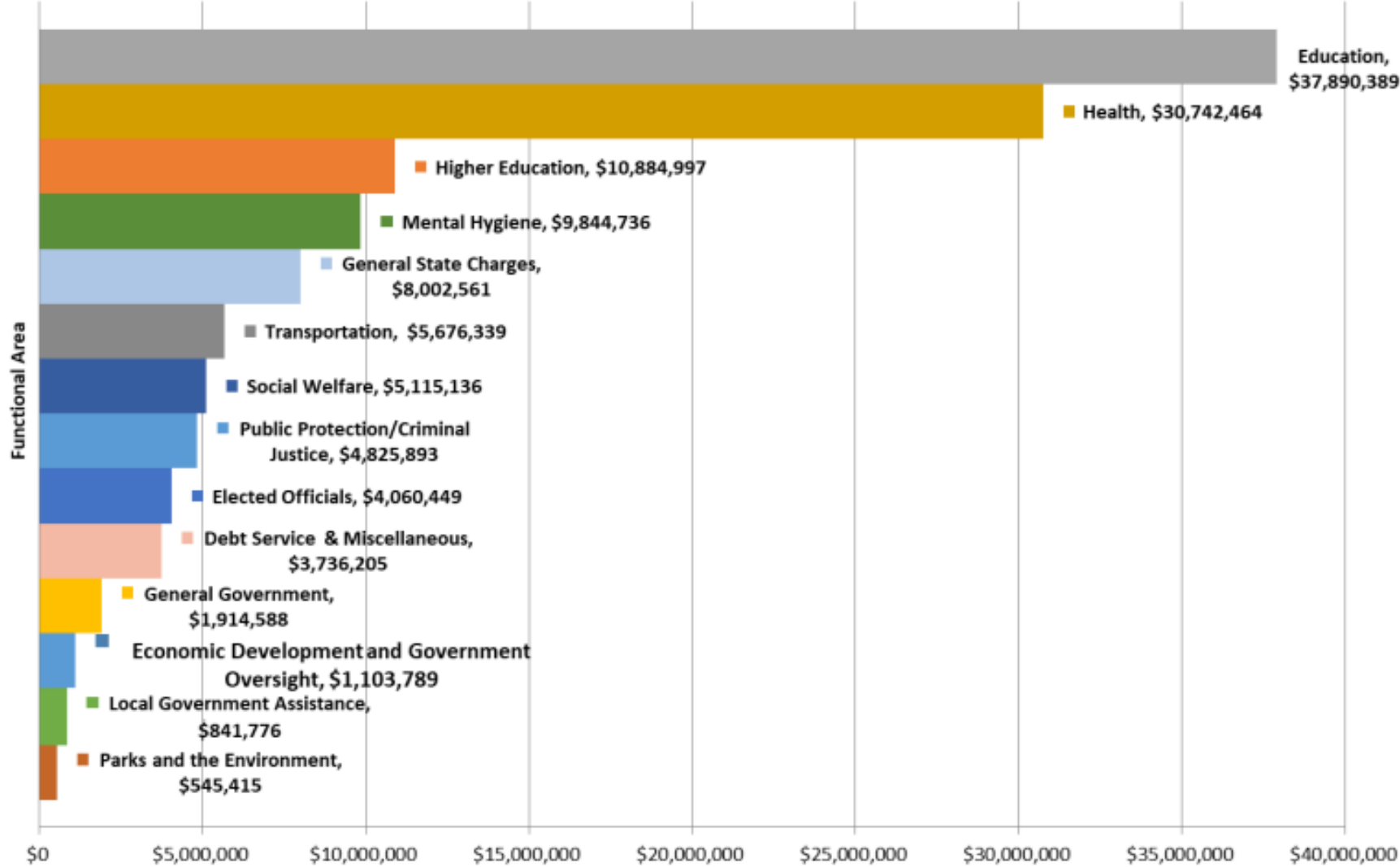
- total spending of \$227 billion
- an increase of \$5.4 billion over SFY 2022-23
- 2.4 % increase

- Expect: less federal relief (almost \$1.1 billion lower)
- Possible recession
- Surplus of \$8.7 billion in the current fiscal year
- Governor proposes improving the “rainy day” fund, adding \$20 billion by the end of this fiscal year, bringing reserves up to more than 15 % of state spending.

A BUDGET
is
A MORAL DOCUMENT.

WHAT WE FUND
is
WHAT WE VALUE.

SFY 2023-24 Executive Budget State Operating Funds Disbursements (\$ thousands)



Medicaid

- The Executive Budget proposes an increase of \$4.8 billion compared to SFY 2022-23.
- This includes \$59.3 billion in Federal-Share and \$27.8 billion in DOH State-Share, an increase of \$2 billion
- 7.7% growth compared to SFY 2022-23.
- 4.9 % increase in state funds
- 6.3 %, increase to Global Cap Medicaid Spending





- Good news!
No proposed cut to Medicaid Spousal Impoverishment protections



- Bad news!
Proposed cut to Medicaid Prescriber Prevails



- Proposed Reduction in Home Care Workers wage growth

Medicaid Advocacy Action needed

- Stop the cut to “Prescriber Prevails”
- Medicaid Home Care – number of Activities of Daily Living (elimination of housekeeping only) (Support Senate bill - S328)
- Medicaid Home Care Look Back
- Elimination of Medicaid Asset Test



Medicaid Advocacy

Action needed

Address discrimination in Medicaid eligibility

MEDICAID INCOME LIMIT AND ASSET INCREASES	
2022	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current Income: \$954/month individual, \$1,387/month couple• Current assets: \$16,800 individual, \$24,600 couple	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Estimated Income: \$1,677/month individual, \$2,268/month couple• Estimated assets: \$30,180 individual, \$40,820 couple

Eliminate the Asset Test.

Alternatively – increase it from 150% FPL to 600%

Medicaid benefit expansion proposed

- The Governor proposes expanding Medicaid services to include:
- (1) care and services provided by a nutritionist and certified dietitians;
- (2) arthritis self-management training services for individuals living with osteoarthritis





Provider reimbursement increases

- Hospitals,
- nursing homes &
- assisted living programs
- funded through Medicaid would see a 5% increase
- **Home care rates not increased**

Hospitals/Medical Debt

- Indigent Care Pool. These funds provide monies to hospitals to assist in paying for the cost of care for low-income individuals.

Needs to be better targeted to support safety net hospitals which provide services to persons who are uninsured, under insured, or covered through Medicaid.

Protect true safety-net hospitals!

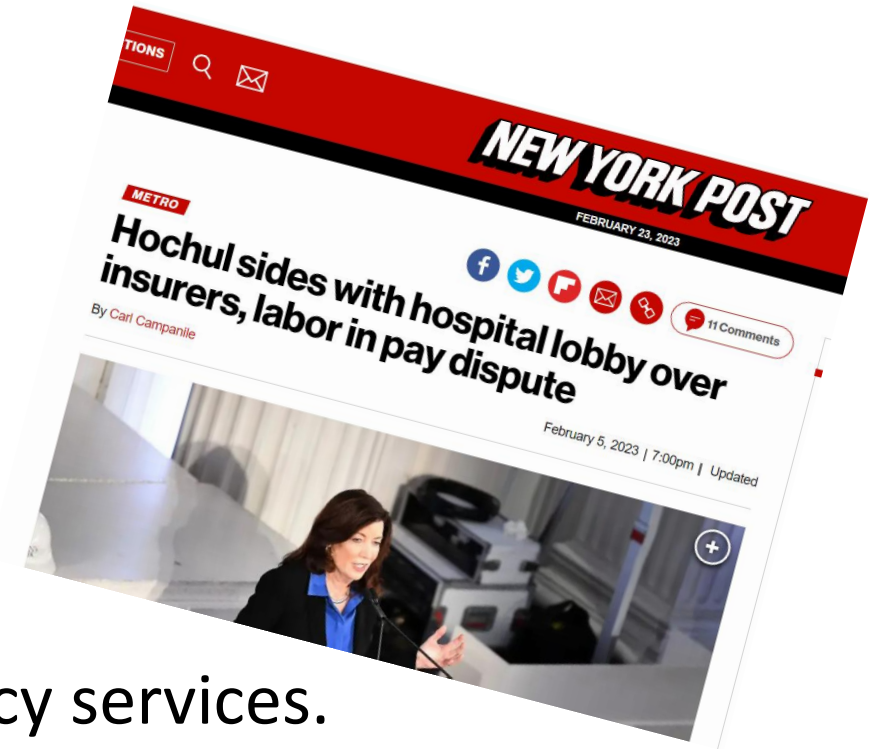
Hospitals/Medical Debt

- The Governor proposes creating a uniform financial assistance form created by DOH.
- Needs to go further: Increase the amount of income to be eligible
- Support Senate bill S1366



“Pay and Pursue”

- The Governor proposes a pay-and-resolve mechanism for emergency services and inpatient admissions resulting from emergency services.
- This would require insurance companies to pay claims from these hospitals when they are medically necessary.
- A joint committee between the hospital and the health plan will review the claims for post-payment audit if requested by either party.



Assisted Living oversight

- 1. Changes in DOH survey schedule**
“Advanced Standing facilities” will only be surveyed every 12-18 months.
- 2. Exemptions from survey**
Facilities that obtain accreditation from a nationally recognized accreditation organization exempt from DOH inspection
 - Quality measures (determined by DOH) self reported by facility - first report due on January 31, 2024.
 - Posting of the monthly service rate, staffing numbers, approved admission or residency agreement and a summary of all service fees starting January 31, 2024.



Health Department - miscellaneous

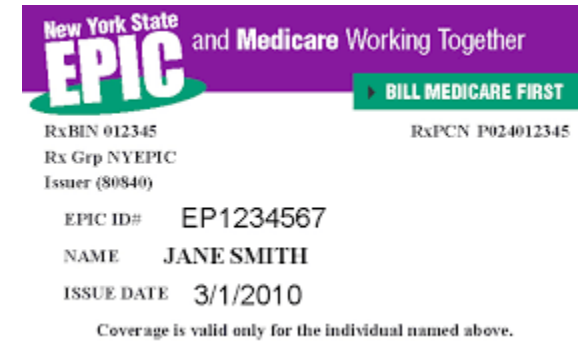
- Adds funding to Dept. of Health programs to provide respite care for caregivers of high need individuals
- Invests \$2.1 million in FY 2024 (\$6.3 million annually) in care teams to provide care for low-income adults in their home, helping to ensure New Yorkers can age in place;
- Quality improvement initiatives in nursing homes: promote transparency and make it easier for New Yorkers to make informed choices
- Amend Certificate of Need application review process for the establishment of hospitals, nursing homes, and diagnostic and treatment centers.
- Health Care Facility Transformation Capital Program: proposes \$1 billion to support grants for capital improvements for health care providers, technology, ambulatory care infrastructure, telehealth, and innovating nursing home models.

Reining in Drug Costs

- reporting pay for delay agreements
- additional reporting requirements for drug manufacturers when prices go up



“OUR” EPIC: Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage



- No change in funding – expect savings as more people enroll in Medicare Savings Program and automatically get Extra Help
- Advocacy needed –Support legislation (S3005) to expand EPIC by including persons with disabilities younger than age 65, so that EPIC works for everyone on Medicare regardless of age
- A New and Different EPIC
the Extended Prosperity and Innovation Campus (“EPIC”) Initiative
Renames the SUNY Tax-Free Areas to Revitalize and Transform Upstate New York (“START-UP NY”) program to the EPIC Initiative.

Crisis in Emergency Medical Services

- Updating the definition of emergency medical service to expand the role of EMS in responding to emergencies & non-emergencies
- centralized access and emergency medical
- dispatch,
- training for EMS practitioners
- development of a Statewide Comprehensive Emergency Medical System Plan
- empowering EMS agencies to establish a “mobile integrated healthcare program,” allowing EMS to deliver community paramedicine services.
- allowing EMS providers to administer immunizations



65+ undocumented immigrants

- Delay in implementation of the Undocumented Coverage Expansion for individuals ages 65+ to late SFY 2023-24
- Need Coverage For All: support A3020/S2237



Proposed Child Care Support

Child Care Subsidies: The Governor proposes to expand the income eligibility for child care subsidies from 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (approximately \$83,250 for a family of four) to 85 percent of the State Median Income (approximately \$93,200 for a family of four).

Create a Tax Credit for Child Care Creation and Expansion: The Governor proposes to establish a two-year, \$25 million refundable tax credit program for certain businesses that create or expand childcare slots for the children of their employees

Important for workers – but so is Elder Care!



Health Care Workforce



- **There is no proposal to increase wages.**
- Increases in Medicaid rate to hospitals & nursing homes COULD be used to address wages and staff to patient ratios.
- Minimum wage changes negatively impact home care worker wages.



Home Care Crisis

- Governor's minimum wage increase proposal would eliminate the gains made in 2022 budget that increased home care worker minimum pay. Once home care worker wages reach \$18 per hour, home care worker wages will increase with the minimum wage indexing of the region ONLY AFTER the region reaches \$18 per hour.

Ends the guarantee that home care workers will always make at least \$3/hr over minimum wage

- Governor achieves savings of \$77.6 million on the back of the consumer directed workforce – eliminating wage parity in NY/Metro area. (\$4/hour cut.)
- SOLUTION: **Fair Pay for Home Care** is free standing legislation to increase the pay of home care workers to 150% of the minimum wage. (Senate Bill S3189)



Housing

- The Governor has set a goal that 800,000 housing units will be build across the state. Local governments will work on targets to mitigate the housing crisis. Communities will have the autonomy to determine how they'll reach their respective housing goals and the type of housing they'll build.
- **3% housing growth target every 3 years:**
 - New York City,
 - Nassau,
 - Suffolk,
 - Westchester,
 - Rockland,
 - Orange,
 - Putnam, &
 - Dutchess counties
- Rest of the State would have a 1% growth target over 3 years

Housing (cont'd)



- Homeowner Stabilization Fund : The Governor proposes \$50 million to finance home repairs in communities statewide that have been identified as having high levels of low-income homeowners of color and homeowner distress.
- Provide a Property Tax Exemption for Accessory Dwelling Units : The Governor proposes an opt-in property tax exemption on the increase in value resulting from the creation of an accessory dwelling unit.



Environment

- **Protecting Drinking Water Quality:** 1) The Governor proposes \$10 million to create a new program under the Department of Health to assist underserved communities achieve NYS drinking water quality standards. 2) Last investments of 5 year funding for municipal drinking and wastewater infrastructure projects
- The Governor proposes \$200 million for energy efficiency and clean energy projects for low-income New Yorkers, including clean heating and cooling projects.
- **All Electric Buildings:** The Governor proposes a prohibition on installation of new fossil fuel heating equipment and all other fossil-fuel-based equipment in several stages, with complete phase out by January 1, 2035.

State Retirees



- There is NO change in benefits for NYS retirees.



- State retirees should get the same coverage they had when actively employed so they don't face limits on skilled nursing facility care. The Governor vetoed a bill in 2022 because it wasn't funded.....but failed to include in the budget!



New options after life ends

- A new law starts June 2023, allowing for Natural Organic Reduction, a process of reducing human remains through biological decomposition, also known as human composting.
- Only Cemeteries can perform this function.
- The budget proposes to expand the law to allow other authorized businesses, including funeral homes, to provide this service.
- The NYS Department of State will issue rules and provide oversight.



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