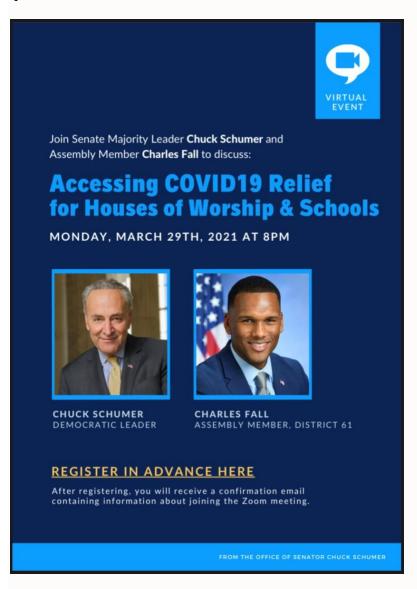


Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall March 19, 2021

Upcoming Events

Join me and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Monday, March 29 at 8 PM for an information session on Accessing Covid 19 Relief for Houses of Worship and Schools. <u>To register in advance, click here.</u> Contact my office at <u>718-442-9932</u> or sibrir@nyassembly.gov with any additional questions.



District 61 News

Community Food Giveaways

My office partnered with Project Hospitality and the Muslim American Society to distribute food to community members. If you know of anyone that may be in need, kindly reach out to my office.



Updates From Albany

This week the New York State Assembly debated and we passed the One House Budget Resolution. The next step is for the Joint Assembly and Senate Budget Conference Committees to convene and present the Legislature budget to the Governor.

The Assembly proposes General Fund spending of \$91.6 billion in SFY 2021-22. This is an increase of \$16.9 billion or 22.6% over SFY 2020-21. The proposed spending is \$8.7 billion or 10.6% higher than the Executive Budget proposal.

The Assembly proposes All Fund spending of \$208.3 billion in SFY 2021-22. This is an increase of \$15.6 billion or 8.1% over SFY 2020-21. The proposed spending is \$12.2 billion or 6.3 percent higher than the Executive Budget proposal.

Revenues

- The Assembly budget proposal includes increased revenues that total nearly \$7 billion in SFY 2021-22. Earlier this week, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan which included \$23.8 billion in federal funding to help New York State and local governments to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, rebuild the economy and get people back to work.
- The Assembly proposal would increase the top income tax rate from 8.82% for single filers earning more than \$1 million and couples earning more than \$2 million, to 9.85%. It would also establish two new brackets as follows: 10.85% for taxpayers between \$5 million and \$25 million and 11.85% for taxpayers over \$25 million. This would generate at total of \$4.3 billion.
- A new one percent surcharge on capital gains for taxpayers earning more than \$1 million per year would generate \$700 million.
- A new 18% surcharge would be applied to corporate franchise taxpayers, corporate utility taxpayers and insurance taxpayers, generating \$1 billion.
- To ensure that businesses with large capital resources but relatively low taxable income pay a fair amount of corporate tax, the Assembly proposal would reinstate the minimum business tax on corporate capital that will generate \$150 million.
- Owners of high value second homes in New York City will be subject to a progressive state tax generating \$300 million. An additional \$171 million will be generated from a recording tax on mezzanine debt and preferred equity investments.
- Finally, the top rate of the state's estate tax will increase from 16% to 20%, resulting in an additional \$130 million.

Getting New Yorkers Back to Work

- The Assembly's proposed budget includes \$1 billion for a new Small Business Reopening and Relief Grant Program to help small businesses that have struggled to keep their doors open over the last year. It would also set aside \$500 million of the fund for companies that fall into priority categories.
- The proposed spending plan would invest \$100 million in a new Arts Recovery and Revitalization Program to assist with reopening efforts of various arts organizations and to provide financial support for the conversion of new outdoor venue spaces.

- The Assembly budget would direct up to \$1.8 billion in anticipated federal childcare to priority areas, including expanding access to families earning up to 85 percent of the state median income and other groups not currently eligible for subsidies.
- The Assembly plan also includes \$50 million for the COVID-19 Recovery Workforce Initiative to ensure that funds are directed toward those who have been most impacted by the economic fallout due to the pandemic, including women, minorities, and those who have been receiving unemployment benefits for an extended period of time.

Rent Relief and Investments in the Social Safety Net

- The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis have forced New Yorkers to struggle financially, making it hard for them to pay their rent or mortgages. The Assembly budget includes \$3.125 billion in combined federal and state dollars to provide rent relief for tenants and landlords.
 - o \$400 million for prospective rent.
 - o \$200 million to reduce homelessness.
 - o \$100 million to supplement \$575 million in federal mortgage relief in the most recent federal stimulus, for a total of \$675 million for mortgage relief.
- The Assembly's spending plan proposes \$2.1 billion to create a fund for New Yorkers who do not have access to unemployment, federal stimulus funds and other assistance programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Assembly budget would provide \$935 million in capital funding to housing authorities across New York State, including \$750 million for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The proposal also includes \$100 million for state- and city- supervised Mitchell Lama Housing.
- Under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, New York received \$1.3 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance to aid eligible renters with rental arrears, utility and home energy costs or arrears, future rent and other housing expenses.
- The spending plan includes a \$100 million carve out in rental assistance for distressed landlords whose tenants failed to pay rent, or otherwise did not qualify under the parameters of the rent relief program. It would also increase homelessness vouchers to \$200 million.

Education

- Investing in our schools, from foundation aid to funding for technology and mental health care, is more important than ever after our students have had two school years disrupted by COVID-19.
 - The proposed budget increases Foundation Aid by \$1.4 billion and fully phases Foundation Aid in over three years. As part of this increase, the Assembly's plan would provide that school districts receive at least 60 percent of their Foundation Aid funding for SY 2021-22. Foundation Aid would be funded for a total of \$19.8 billion.
 - The Assembly's spending proposal would ensure that transportation standby costs are added to pandemic related reimbursable costs included in the Executive Budget.
 - The Assembly's budget also includes critical funding for our most vulnerable students and to address the mental health challenges they are facing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan includes \$10 million for homeless students and \$10 million to support mental health in schools.

The proposed budget also includes \$75 million to create new prekindergarten slots across the state.

Higher Education

- With so many New Yorkers struggling to make ends meet, it is more important than ever to ensure that tuition costs do not put higher education out of reach for New York's students. The SFY 2021-22 Budget rejects proposed tuition increases for SUNY and CUNY, provides \$23 million to SUNY and \$26.3 million to CUNY to begin to pay off the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) gap, and includes almost \$180 million for opportunity programs.
- The plan also increases the TAP funding award by \$1,000, bringing it from \$5,165 to \$6,165.
- SUNY community colleges would receive \$33 million and CUNY community colleges would receive \$10 million in additional funding to keep community college funding level with academic year (AY) 2020-21.

Transportation

- Investments in transportation are critical to getting the economy moving again. It provides important jobs in construction and ensures New Yorkers can get where they are going safely and efficiently.
 - o The Assembly budget invests in these transportation projects, providing \$11.3 billion for the state's transportation network, including a \$504 million increase in funding for the Department of Transportation's (DOT) two-year capital plan.
 - o It will also restore \$137 million in operating aid for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).
 - The spending plan includes \$503.1 million for the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs), which includes \$65 million for extreme weather recovery.

Human Services

- The Assembly spending plan directs \$1.8 billion in federal funding to expand access to childcare, including \$500 million to support childcare providers and families to expand eligibility and access to subsidies.
- Additionally, the plan includes \$59.8 million in local assistance for programs that provide services critical to the wellbeing of New York's children, including childcare, child welfare services, foster care, adoption subsidies, adult protective and domestic violence services.
- The plan also provides \$10 million for homeless students, including funding for trauma informed practices in schools.
- The Assembly budget would create a \$32 million fund to support crisis services, problem gambling, and chemical dependence outpatient and treatment support services.
- The Assembly spending plan provides \$94.2 million for the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to create new service slots, including an expansion of certified housing supports, community habilitation, respite services, housing subsidies, self-direction of services and an expansion of day programs and employment options.

Health

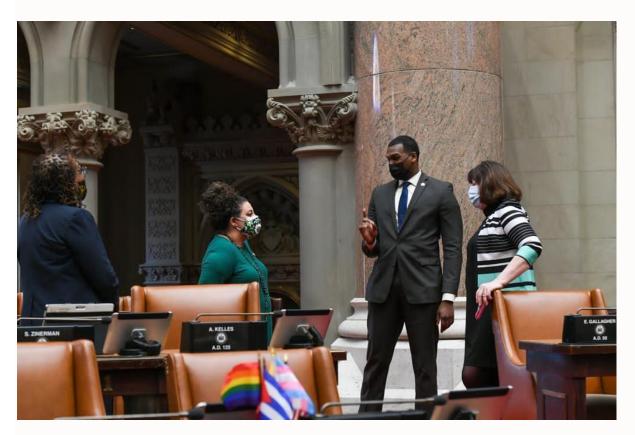
• The COVID-19 pandemic has put incredible stress on our healthcare system and demonstrated just how important it is that New Yorker's have quality, affordable healthcare.

- The Assembly spending plan would make \$376 million in restorations to the Medicaid program, including \$73.9 million for hospitals and \$74.25 million for Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC) programs.
- The proposal also includes \$393 million in restorations to public health programs that were eliminated from the Executive Budget.

Environmental Protection

• The Assembly spending plan provides \$400 million for the Environmental Protection Fund, which includes \$100 million in anticipated federal funding. The budget also includes \$500 million for clean water infrastructure projects.

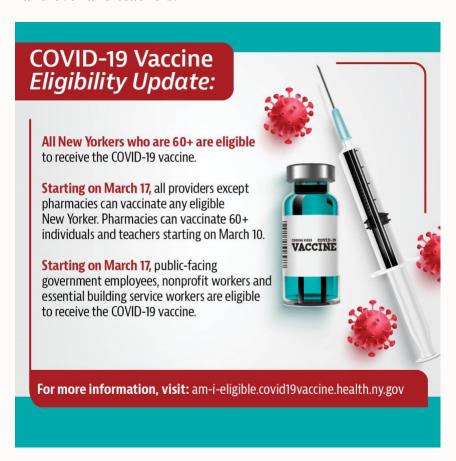
I along with my colleagues, Assembly leadership have ironed out a budget proposal that makes critical investments in our communities, in our people and in helping our state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. From funding for education to quality affordable healthcare, housing to transportation infrastructure, the Assembly Majority remains dedicated to ensuring that our budget improves the lives of all New Yorkers.



Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

- 1. New York's Major League Baseball teams, the New York Mets and New York Yankees, can resume play with spectators in the stadiums, beginning April 1. Professional sports in large outdoor stadiums that hold 10,000 people or more will be allowed to reopen at 20% capacity.
- 2. <u>Blended learning students in grades 9-12 will return to their school buildings beginning March</u> 22. Like elementary and middle schools, as well as District 75 programs, high schools will follow the strong practices that have been established to help keep school communities healthy and safe, and to

- maximize in-person learning time. This includes weekly random testing of students and staff for COVID-19, physical distancing, masks, and nightly deep cleaning.
- 3. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed legislation (S.2588-A/A.3354-B) granting public and private employees time off to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Under this new law, employees will be granted up to four hours of excused leave per injection that will not be charged against any other leave the employee has earned or accrued.
- 4. <u>Beginning April 2</u>, arts and entertainment venues can reopen at 33%capacity, up to 100 people indoors and up to 200 people outdoors. If all attendees present proof of negative test prior to entry, capacity can increase up to 150 people indoors and up to 500 people outdoors. Social distancing and face coverings will be required by all attendees, as well as strict adherence to all applicable Department of Health guidance.
- 5. New York State is launching a new pilot program to begin administering the Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine to eligible New Yorkers during the overnight hours at the Yankee Stadium, Javits Center and New York State Fair Mass Vaccination Sites. Following a discussion with the White House COVID-19 Task Force, New York is taking measures to distribute the state's allocation of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as quickly as possible, as states have been informed there will be a lag in the following week's allocation. As part of this effort, thousands of new appointments will be made available at each of the three sites in the coming days. Counties, pharmacies, and Federally Qualified Health Centers will also be receiving Johnson & Johnson allocations this week.
- 6. As of Wednesday, March 17th, all providers except pharmacies can vaccinate any eligible New Yorker with the Covid 19 vaccine, public facing government employees, nonprofit workers and essential building service workers are now eligible. Pharmacies can now vaccinate seniors 60 and over and teachers.



- 7. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - o The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here
 - o The NYS hotline at <u>888-364-3065</u> or clicking here
 - o SOMOS, a community health provider at <u>833-766-6769</u>
 - Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category. Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you and to schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.
 - Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.



8. Veterans enrolled in the VA Care system can call and schedule an appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Call <u>1-877-877-9267</u>. If you are not yet eligible call <u>877-222-8387</u> to enroll.



- 9. Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.
- View the Test-and-Trace corps <u>COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard</u> for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
 - Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.
 - <u>Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.</u>
 - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM 9 PM.
 - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. <u>Click here to learn more</u> or call (844) 692-4692. <u>Please click here if you have any further questions.</u>

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

- 1. SCORE Staten Island is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping both aspiring and established entrepreneurs get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through cost-free education and confidential mentorship. The organization is Chapter 476 of the nationwide SCORE, and as a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. It has both local mentors, who have proved to be successful in their fields, and a network of 10,000 volunteer mentors across the country providing web-based seminars and resources. It can provide:
 - Volunteer mentors who share their expertise across many different industries
 - Free, confidential business mentoring in person, via email, phone or by video
 - Free business tools, templates and tips online
 - Inexpensive or free business workshop/webinars(locally) and webinars (online 24/7)
 - For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, SCORE-Staten Island may be visited here. Or you call them at 718-727-1221; email at info@scoresi.org and visit on Facebook and LinkedIn.
- 2. Need free tax assistance? Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation offers a free tax preparation program that provides NYC residents with assistance filing their returns and maximizing their credits and refunds. Call NAMIC's hotline Monday – Wednesday 11am – 7pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am – 5pm. Contact Maria Guzman-Colon at taxhelp@nmic.org or 929-415-8745 with any questions.



PREPARATION

How do I sign up? Book an appointment online at www.nmic.org/taxes

Who is eligible? People who earned less than \$68,000 in 2020

Additional questions? Contact us at taxhelp@nmic.org or

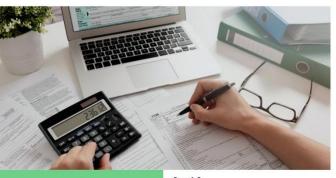








NYC FREE TAX PREP



PREPARACIÓN GRATUITA **DE IMPUESTOS**

Lunes, Martes y Miercoles de 11 AM a 7 PM

Sábado, Domingo 9 AM - 5PM

¿Cómo me registro?

Haga una cita en línea en www.nmic.org/taxes

Personas que ganaron menos de \$ 68,000 en 2020.

¿Preguntas adicionales? Contactenos taxhelp@nmic.org o (929) 415-8745



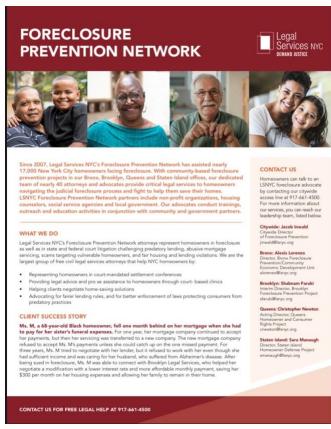
45 Wadsworth Avenue New York, NY 10033 www.nmic.org 212-822-8300





3. **Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you**. For matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice and more. If you need **free legal** help during the Covid-19 crisis **call them at** 718-233-6480.



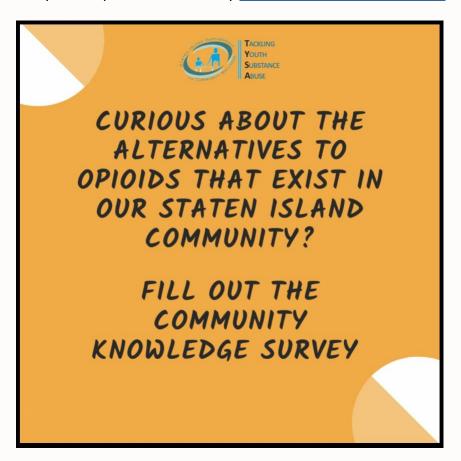


4. Small Business Resources:

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides loans to help businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus crisis. The PPP application for all lenders is now open. There are limited funds, so applicants are advised to apply early! Click here for more information and to find the right application for your business.
 - o In preparation for your application, gather your documentation. For a complete list of required documents and additional PPP information, **click here.**
 - List of participating lenders:
 - Lower East Side People's Credit Union- North Shore Branch, for PPP inquiries, email lending@lespfcu.org or apply directly online on their website.
 - TruFund, <u>click here for an application</u> or email Mark Brazier (English)
 at MBrazier@trufund.org or Marcos Reyes (Spanish) at mreyes@trufund.org.
- **Free Digital Ordering Program**, food businesses who join Ritual ONE through March 31, 2021, will have their commission, credit card processing fees, and subscription fee waived. **Click here to apply.**

Useful Events and Opportunities

1. As part of the CADCA non-opioid choices project, **Tackling Youth Substance Abuse is surveying community members about their thoughts and knowledge on the availability of alternatives to opioids in the community**. There are no wrong answers. The survey is short and can only be completed electronically. Click here to fill out the survey.



2. In honor of Womens History Month the Staten Island District Attorney's Office partnering with Soroptimist International of Staten Island for their "Dream It, Be It" program. This is a career support program for young women that aims to equip them with the necessary tools to achieve their education and career goals. For questions, or to sign up contact Morgan at Morgan.Mazzarella@rcda.nyc.gov



District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Soroptimist International of Staten Island are proud to announce their partnership for the "Dream It, Be It" program

What is "Dream It, Be It?"

"Dream It, Be It" is a career support program for young women that aims to equip them with the necessary tools to achieve education and career goals.

Topics We Cover

- Career opportunities
- Setting and achieving goals
- Overcoming obstacles to success
- Moving forward after setbacks or failures

How to Register for the Program?

To find out more or to register for the program, email
Jennifer Bollinger at jb4587@yahoo.com or
Morgan Mazzarella at Morgan.Mazzarella@rcda.nyc.gov

This award-winning program helps teen girls grow up to be confident, happy, successful adults by providing access to professional role models, career education and the resources to achieve their dreams.







3. Join the NYC Women's Business Centers and the SBA on March 25 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for their 4th Annual Women's Business Conference. This conference caters to women business owners and offers a great opportunity to connect with other women businesses, develop professional strategies, and get expert advice from leading executives and decision makers. RSVP here.

4. **BJ** House of Community & Aquila's Voices are joining forces to bring you Autism Awareness Chronicles, Different is Beautiful. This 10-week program begins on Wednesday, March 17th at 7pm and offers virtual parent support group sessions with a host of guest speakers, healthcare professionals and organizations whose specialty is none other than children on the spectrum. **Register here.**



5. **2020WON Women EntreprenueHER ROCK** is a 2-day conference, both virtual and in-person for female entrepreneurs who want to learn about resources, opportunities, and connections. **Wednesday, March 24th at 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (virtual) and Sunday, March 27th, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (in person). For more information email tdonegan@centralfamilylifecenter.org or call (718)273-8414.**



- 6. Citizens Committee for New York City is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to grassroot organizations responding to the immediate needs of struggling New Yorkers to open food pantries, distribute surgical masks, arrange elderly check-ins, or design other projects to meet their neighborhoods' urgent needs amid the COVID-19 crisis. Applications are open and there is a rolling deadline. Click here to learn more.
- 7. Are you a non-profit organization looking for volunteer support from a dedicated student? Students from Wagner are searching for volunteer/internship opportunities as part of their senior capstone class. Please send your job posting or volunteer information to Tara Chiari at this email cace@wagner.edu so she can help connect with the students to apply.
- 8. During these difficult times, the Northfield Bank Foundation is offering a grant opportunity for COVID-19 emergency related requests for health and wellness and feeding the hungry initiatives. The mission of the Northfield Bank Foundation is to promote charitable purposes within the communities in which Northfield Bank operates Staten Island, Brooklyn and Central New Jersey. Click here to learn more about the grant process.
- 9. Richmond County Savings Foundation Nonprofit organizations may request funding for program or project support, journal ad or event sponsorship. Grant requests are reviewed throughout the year for amounts up to \$5,000. See here for more information.

Sincerely,

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Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY <u>12248. 518-455-4677</u>, FAX 518-455-5946

DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York <u>10310. 718-442-9932</u>, FAX <u>718-442-9942</u>