

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MISSION

The Department of Labor is New York State's primary advocate for job creation and economic growth through workforce development. The Department administers New York's unemployment insurance system, labor exchange system, and Welfare-to-Work programs. The Department also oversees State worker protection programs, including enforcement of safety and health regulations in the public sector, State labor laws and Federal statutes related to working conditions, wages and hours, and laws related to public work. The Department of Labor serves as the State's principal source for labor market information and offers a variety of services designed to help businesses find workers and people find jobs.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Department is headed by a Commissioner with a central office located in Albany. This office oversees the work of 8 employment service regional offices and 71 Employment Service Centers located throughout the State. In addition, through nine worker protection district offices, the Department enforces child labor laws, fosters workplace health and safety, and ensures that employees are paid in accordance with provisions of the Labor Law. Offices are staffed based upon the workload in each geographic area.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Department of Labor will have a workforce of 4,352 employees in SFY 2002-03. Approximately 85 percent of these positions are financed by Federal grants, 12 percent are supported by fees and assessments; and the remaining 3 percent are paid by State tax dollars from the General Fund.

General Fund appropriations will provide partial support for Agency administration, job training, welfare employment services, and enforcement activities as well as funding for the Employment Relations Board (ERB). ERB helps to mediate disputes between private sector employers and employees to avoid and settle strikes. The increase in State operations appropriations primarily reflects additional authority for the payment of Unemployment Insurance benefits. Aid to localities appropriations reflect additional authority for potential Federal grants.

General Fund and Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block grant appropriations totaling \$9 million will support the Youth Education, Employment and Training program (YEETP) contracts that serve economically disadvantaged youth. In addition, General Fund and TANF appropriations totaling \$2.3 million will continue support for Green Teams program contracts that provide vocational training and work experience for approximately 400 youth and 50 adults.

Excluding the \$4.8 billion appropriation for the Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund, Federal funds support approximately 93 percent of the Department's remaining budget. Specific programs and activities include re-employment services for persons who may be affected adversely by international trade agreements and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) job training services. Federally funded local assistance appropriation authority includes \$349 million for WIA services.

Under the State Welfare Reform Act of 1997, the Department is responsible for supervising social services district operation of welfare employment programs. The programs are supported by the General Fund, TANF block grant dollars, and Federal Food Stamp Employment and Training money. In SFY 2002-03, new TANF funding, totaling \$129 million, will be made available in the form of a block grant to social services districts and State agencies to support work activities and transitional services through Department of Labor and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). This new funding will complement prior-year set-asides for initiatives, such as the New York Works Block Grant, which will

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remain available for expenditure in the forthcoming fiscal year. The new funding, as well as these existing programs, is structured so that services can be provided to eligible individuals and families with incomes that do not exceed 200 percent of the Federal poverty level, thus providing an important focus on avoiding welfare dependency through work. Funding of \$15 million is also provided for the 2002 summer youth employment program and reflects the continued phase-out of temporary support to localities as they implement WIA year-round youth program requirements.

Federal appropriations also include funding to assist families that are the victims of natural disasters.

Fee revenues support approximately 1 percent of the Department of Labor's overall budget, funding worker protection and compensation enforcement activities and job training programs. These accounts are financed by fees for health and safety inspections, revenue from Workers' Compensation Board assessments, and interest on overdue Unemployment Insurance taxes owed by employers. The Unemployment Insurance benefit appropriation of \$4.8 billion comprises 83 percent of the Department of Labor's overall budget. These benefits are funded from Unemployment Insurance taxes paid by employers.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

JOB SERVICES

Consistent with requirements under the WIA, the Department of Labor and local governments have worked together to open 62 local One-Stop Centers across the State that offer access to a variety of employment services including job referral and placement, education and training, resume preparation, employer services, human resources consultation, and support services such as child care and transportation. The Centers benefit employers by providing them with access to worker resumes and information on tax credits, workplace safety issues and apprenticeship services. Department of Labor employment services also help move individuals from welfare to work and help prevent public assistance dependency by focusing on disadvantaged youth, displaced homemakers, and persons who may lose their jobs because of plant closings or relocations.

Through the use of job orders, forms on-line, America's Job Bank and America's Talent Bank available through the Internet, the Department of Labor has made it easier for job seekers and employers to use and benefit from Agency services. For example, employers and job seekers can immediately access relevant information without assistance from Department staff.

In addition to the opening of One-Stop Centers across the State, the Department continues to work with other State and local agencies, community colleges and others to ensure that New York's workforce development system provides access to information and services across agency lines regardless of where a person may initially go for assistance — State office, local government office, community service agency or college placement office.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)

WIA provides job training to youth, adults, and dislocated workers. WIA also upgrades the skills of those currently working, thus helping employers meet the changing needs of their business operations. Eligible participants access WIA services through a network of local One-Stop Centers for the delivery of employment and training services. WIA also improves customer choice and program effectiveness, as participants can choose training providers based on past performance through the use of individual training accounts.

The State Workforce Investment Board, established in 1999, assists in the development of the State's plan for using WIA funds.

WORKER PROTECTION

Worker Protection functions are carried out by two Department of Labor programs: Occupational Safety and Health, and Labor Standards/Public Work.

The Occupational Safety and Health program is responsible for health and safety inspections and granting licenses to qualified persons to operate or handle dangerous equipment or substances. Statistics for recent years show that the Division inspected 23,140 amusement park devices, 868 ski lifts, 7,160 places of public assembly (e.g., bleachers at concerts), and 33,975 commercial boilers. It also reviewed applications for 852 radioactive materials licenses and 54,987 asbestos licenses and certificates.

The Labor Standards program enforces the Labor Law in such areas as minimum and prevailing wage, child labor, and garment industry registration. Statistics for recent years indicate the Division inspected 892 businesses for compliance with child labor laws and collected nearly \$15 million in back wages, unpaid fringe benefits, and minimum wage underpayments for approximately 24,452 employees.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The Unemployment Insurance program makes weekly payments to eligible unemployed workers who have lost a job through no fault of their own. These temporary payments, available for up to 26 weeks, help workers and their families pay bills and buy basic household items while looking for work.

To help unemployed workers find work as quickly as possible, the Department of Labor operates a Self-Employment program to help workers establish businesses and become self-employed. Workers whom the Department identifies as least likely to find another job without such assistance are referred to this program. The program serves an average of nearly 1,400 workers a year. In addition, the Department also operates a re-employment services program to further strengthen efforts to move individuals back to work.

As part of Governor Pataki's continuing efforts to make government more efficient, the Department of Labor operates a telephone claims system that uses computer technology and information received over the phone to determine if applicants are eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance benefits and handle all other processing issues related to an individual's benefits. The system operates through three Tele-Claims Centers located in Troy, Endicott, and New York City, and replaces the less efficient process of requiring DOL staff to determine eligibility from paper forms filled out by applicants at local Department of Labor offices. In addition, the Department is currently piloting programs for filing Unemployment Insurance claims and employer registration through the Internet.

**ALL FUNDS
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Category	Available 2001-02	Appropriations Recommended 2002-03	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2002-03
State Operations	3,865,984,900	5,408,996,000	1,543,011,100	1,109,499,300
Aid To Localities	317,295,900	358,244,000	40,948,100	1,179,358,600
Capital Projects	0	0	0	0
Total	4,183,280,800	5,767,240,000	1,583,959,200	2,288,857,900

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ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		
	2001-02	2002-03	FTE Change
	Estimated FTEs 03/31/02	Estimated FTEs 03/31/03	
Administration			
General Fund	72	72	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,700	3,700	0
Employment Relations Board			
General Fund	16	16	0
Employment and Training			
General Fund	43	43	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	74	74	0
Labor Standards			
General Fund	21	0	(21)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	211	232	21
Occupational Safety and Health			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	215	215	0
Total	<u>4,352</u>	<u>4,352</u>	<u>0</u>

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
General Fund	10,862,500	10,583,000	(279,500)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	554,430,900	546,046,000	(8,384,900)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	50,691,500	52,367,000	1,675,500
Fiduciary Funds	3,250,000,000	4,800,000,000	1,550,000,000
Total	<u>3,865,984,900</u>	<u>5,408,996,000</u>	<u>1,543,011,100</u>

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) From	
Labor, Department of General Fund	(1,069,800)
Transfer(s) To	
Labor, Department of Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,069,800
Appropriated 2001-02	<u>3,865,984,900</u>

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
Administration			
General Fund	5,509,600	5,534,000	24,400
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	518,830,900	508,086,000	(10,744,900)
Employment Relations Board			
General Fund	2,156,500	2,220,000	63,500
Employment and Training			
General Fund	3,196,400	2,829,000	(367,400)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	0	860,000	860,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	12,284,000	11,075,000	(1,209,000)
Labor Standards			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	14,170,500	16,122,000	1,951,500
Occupational Safety and Health			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	24,237,000	25,170,000	933,000
Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	35,600,000	37,100,000	1,500,000
Fiduciary Funds	3,250,000,000	4,800,000,000	1,550,000,000
Total	<u>3,865,984,900</u>	<u>5,408,996,000</u>	<u>1,543,011,100</u>

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2002-03 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	4,037,000	164,200	4,037,000	164,200
Employment Relations Board	1,251,000	67,100	1,234,000	66,800
Employment and Training	954,000	38,800	954,000	38,800
Total	6,242,000	270,100	6,225,000	269,800

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Administration	0	0
Employment Relations Board	17,000	300
Employment and Training	0	0
Total	17,000	300

**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2002-03 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	1,497,000	(139,800)	118,000	1,700
Employment Relations Board	969,000	(3,600)	19,000	(200)
Employment and Training	1,875,000	(406,200)	35,000	1,000
Total	4,341,000	(549,600)	172,000	2,500

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	74,000	600	1,000,000	15,500
Employment Relations Board	65,000	(900)	383,000	(2,400)
Employment and Training	26,000	500	17,000	900
Total	165,000	200	1,400,000	14,000

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	105,000	1,400	200,000	(159,000)
Employment Relations Board	2,000	(100)	500,000	0
Employment and Training	26,000	800	1,771,000	(409,400)
Total	133,000	2,100	2,471,000	(568,400)

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**STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND
SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2002-03 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	508,086,000	(10,744,900)	0	0
Employment and Training	11,935,000	(349,000)	0	0
Labor Standards	16,122,000	1,951,500	11,593,000	1,022,000
Occupational Safety and Health	25,170,000	933,000	12,149,000	494,900
Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund	4,837,100,000	1,551,500,000	0	0
Total	5,398,413,000	1,543,290,600	23,742,000	1,516,900

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	0	0	508,086,000	(10,744,900)
Employment and Training	0	0	11,935,000	(349,000)
Labor Standards	4,529,000	929,500	0	0
Occupational Safety and Health	13,021,000	438,100	0	0
Unemployment Insurance Benefit Fund	0	0	4,837,100,000	1,551,500,000
Total	17,550,000	1,367,600	5,357,121,000	1,540,406,100

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Fund Type	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
General Fund	4,690,700	4,691,000	300
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	312,360,200	353,308,000	40,947,800
Special Revenue Funds - Other	245,000	245,000	0
Total	317,295,900	358,244,000	40,948,100

**AID TO LOCALITIES
ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM
APPROPRIATIONS
(dollars)**

Program	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
Employment and Training			
General Fund	4,690,700	4,691,000	300
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	312,360,200	353,308,000	40,947,800
Occupational Safety and Health			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	245,000	245,000	0
Total	317,295,900	358,244,000	40,948,100