

# Public Safety

State Commission of Correction  
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision  
Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services  
Office of Indigent Legal Services  
Division of Military and Naval Affairs  
Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence  
Division of State Police  
Office of Victim Services

## Overview

The Executive Budget supports continued progress toward making New York more ready for and resilient to future emergencies. Equally important, it reflects an approach to public safety that is tough, smart and fair. These priorities, taken together, ensure the safety of all New Yorkers.

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The State spends \$4.7 billion annually to protect New York's residents. The public safety agencies assist local communities with crime prevention, supervise criminal offenders both in prison and in the community, patrol the highways, protect critical State assets, and respond to natural disasters and terrorist threats.

## Focusing on Emergency Preparedness and Crime Prevention

### Emergency Preparedness

Within the last three years, New York State sustained damage from Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, and Superstorm Sandy – three powerful storms that crippled entire regions. Acknowledging that future extreme weather events and natural disasters are likely, the Executive Budget supports a series of emergency preparedness initiatives to prevent loss of life and damage to our communities. These initiatives include establishing a state-of-the-art weather detection system, equipping gas stations with back-up power, expanding the State's strategic fuel reserve, preparing citizens for emergencies, and developing interoperable public safety communications. In addition, the Executive Budget creates a new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity within the State University of New York. With these actions, New York is building a world-class emergency management and response network.

### Criminal Justice

New York has one of the lowest crime rates in the country and also has the lowest imprisonment rate of any large state. From 2003 to 2012, the number of crimes committed in New York declined 13.1 percent. In 2011, the number of major crimes committed reached the lowest levels ever recorded, when there were 70,738 fewer major crimes reported statewide than in 2003. In 2012, the number of major crimes increased by 2,786, indicating the persistent need to invest in crime-fighting efforts, especially the prevention of gun-related violent crimes.

Simultaneous with this significant decline in crime, the State's prison population has fallen from a peak of 72,600 in 1999 to fewer than 54,200, currently – the lowest level in more than two decades. To produce further population declines, the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS)

continues to focus efforts on programs to better prepare offenders for a return to the community and enhance their chances of success once released. Despite nine prior closures, eliminating nearly 4,300 excess beds and saving \$132 million, the prison system continues to have excess capacity.

Spending for public safety agencies is projected at \$4.7 billion for 2014-15, reflecting no growth in spending for the operations of all public safety agencies. Modest increases in the budgets for Division of State Police and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services are attributable to planned capital investments. The reduction in the Division of Criminal Justice Services primarily reflects the elimination of spending on non-recurring items directed by the Legislature and transferring the cost of certain technology services to the Office of Information Technology Services.

**Summary of Spending (All Funds)**

Category	2013-14 (\$ in millions)	2014-15 (\$ in millions)	Change	
			Dollar (in millions)	Percent
Public Safety	4,685	4,684	(1)	0.0
Department of Corrections and Community Supervision	2,957	2,949	(8)	(0.2)
Division of State Police	676	692	16	2.4
Division of Criminal Justice Services	261	226	(35)	(13.4)
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services	522	533	10	1.9

In addition, the Executive Budget also reflects \$5.5 billion in Federal aid which will flow to local governments, public authorities, and not-for-profits over the next three years to continue the State's recovery from Superstorm Sandy. The State will also receive \$80 million in reimbursements for funds advanced during the immediate response and aftermath of the storm.

**Proposed 2014-15 Budget Actions**

**Disaster Recovery and Preparedness**

- Establish a State-of-the-Art Weather Detection System.** The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) will collaborate with an academic partner to secure a private entity to establish and operate a state-of-the-art weather detection system – one of only six such systems in the nation. The number of weather stations will be increased from the current 27 to over 100, creating a highly sophisticated real-time weather reporting network which will accelerate and improve information sharing, thereby assisting emergency responders in responding to extreme weather events. An initial capital investment of \$15 million is being sought from Federal funding related to Superstorm Sandy.
- Create the SUNY College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity.** The Executive Budget provides \$15 million to initiate establishment of an advanced degree, interdisciplinary college, specializing in both academic and professional aspects of law enforcement, security, public and international affairs, counterterrorism, emergency management, cybersecurity and forensics. The world class curriculum provided by the college will ensure that aspiring emergency managers, first responders, and other professionals graduate with the skills required to uphold New York State’s status as a leader in state and national security.

- **Equip Gas Stations with Back-up Power Capacity.** New York is the first state in the nation with a comprehensive plan to ensure that power is maintained at strategically located gas stations in an emergency. In 2013-14, the State made \$17 million available to Downstate gas stations near highways and evacuation routes, as well as additional chain gas stations throughout the region, to install back-up power capacity. In an energy emergency, all strategically located Downstate gas stations will have back-up power in place within 24 hours. In 2014-15, this program is being extended to include approximately 241 Upstate gas stations within a half mile of exits on critical highways. Another \$3.1 million will be made available through Federal funding related to Superstorm Sandy.
- **Expand State Strategic Fuel Reserves.** On Long Island, the State has created the nation's first state-based strategic fuel reserve. To prevent future supply disruptions, the reserve will be expanded statewide to serve emergency responders. The estimated \$10 million cost is expected to be supported by the New York Power Authority.
- **Prepare Citizens for Emergencies.** The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, in collaboration with the National Guard, will offer emergency preparedness courses throughout the year to interested citizens, with a goal of training 100,000 citizens by March 31, 2015. Support for this initiative will come from Federal homeland security funds.
- **Achieve Statewide Interoperable Communications.** DHSES is assisting counties in developing a single public safety communications network that will allow all of the State's emergency responders to seamlessly communicate with each other. The State leads this effort by developing the overall strategy and setting standards to guide regional communications consortia as they create their own systems. These systems, supported by State grants, are also available for use by State agencies. DHSES has already awarded \$200 million in grants to counties, and will invest another \$75 million toward this initiative in 2014-15. This includes a new program distributing \$10 million in annual formula-driven grants to counties to support ongoing operations of public safety communications centers. The results of an analysis of the State's progress toward full interoperability are expected in May, and will identify critical projects to close gaps in the statewide system.

## Criminal Justice

- **Protect Against Gun Violence.** Established in 2004, Operation IMPACT has been the State's primary tool to promote the use of data-driven crime-fighting approaches in Upstate communities, focusing law enforcement resources where they are most needed. While crime in IMPACT jurisdictions is down 14 percent since the initiative began, most of this decline is due to reductions in property crime. The Executive Budget revitalizes and refocuses the program on reducing gun violence in Upstate communities. A total of \$15.2 million will be invested through a new initiative called GIVE – Gun-Involved Violence Elimination. This program will be offered to the same communities currently receiving Operation IMPACT funding. Through GIVE, local law enforcement will adopt proven strategies to prevent gun violence, ensuring that New York remains the safest large state in the nation.
- **New York State Protection Cloud.** Accurate and timely information is at the core of today's effective policing, and up-to-date technology tools are needed to deliver that information efficiently. Over the next three years, the State will invest \$10 million in shared technology for State and local law enforcement. By making a single solution available to all law enforcement agencies, the State will increase local crime-fighting capabilities, eliminate barriers to effective

information sharing, and support coordinated responses across jurisdictions. As local law enforcement agencies join the system over the next four years, savings to these participating agencies are expected to grow to \$12 million annually.

- **Continue Right-Sizing Prison Capacity.** To realign the prison system's capacity with continuing declines in the inmate population and to achieve recurring savings for taxpayers, the Executive Budget reflects the closure of four prisons. The planned closures were announced in July 2013, ensuring that this action complies with the statutorily-required one year notification process for staff and impacted communities. The closures are expected to reduce capacity by more than 1,300 beds, and will save \$30 million annually. The combined annual savings for taxpayers of these four closures and the 9 prior closures is \$162 million. As has been the practice in the past, these communities will be eligible for economic development grants to ease the economic impact resulting from the closures. The Executive Budget makes \$24 million in new capital funding available for this purpose.
- **Stop Drunk Drivers.** Drunk and drug impaired driving remains a persistent problem that poses a serious threat to highway safety – there are 47,000 drivers with three or more drunk-driving convictions who still have their licenses. Under a proposed new law included in the Budget, drivers found guilty twice of driving while intoxicated or driving while impaired by drugs or alcohol within a three-year period will have their licenses suspended for five years. Drivers who have three such convictions in their lifetime will have their licenses permanently revoked. In addition, fines for certain violations related to DWI/DWAI will be increased, which could produce a small amount of additional State revenue.
- **Crack-Down On Youth Texting While Driving.** The Executive Budget includes legislation to intensify the efforts to curtail the prevalence of texting while driving by young drivers. Under the proposed new law, any person under the age of 21 convicted of texting-while-driving will have their license suspended for one year, which is double the current length of suspension for such violations. To further deter such behavior, the maximum fines for texting or cell phone use while driving violations will be increased, which could result in a very small increase in local court revenue.
- **Create the Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice.** Despite significant reductions in juvenile crime and incarceration, New York is one of only two states that continue to prosecute 16- and 17-year olds through the adult criminal justice system. In 2014, the Governor will establish the Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice to make recommendations on how best to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction, improve outcomes for youth, and promote community safety.