

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In response to the ongoing public health crisis and after a year of uncertainty, Governor Hochul has proposed a historic agenda to accelerate New York's recovery and usher in a new era in State government.

Since 2000, State finances have been badly damaged three times by tragic, sudden events: 9/11; The Great Recession; and COVID-19, the worst pandemic in over 100 years, one we continue to face. These specific events were not "predictable". But with foresight, we can now confidently predict that such events will happen in the future. The question is not if, but when.

Each time one of these disasters struck, the State found itself unprepared, with inadequate reserves to mitigate the economic impact for the people of the state. The outcome was that promises made in good times had to be broken or deferred.

Today, Governor Hochul's FY 2023 Executive Budget makes historic investments in critical areas while ensuring that we are equipped for future shocks. Never again will the State find itself unprepared for the opportunities – or challenges – ahead. After years of unprecedented hardship, this Budget makes the State, from a financial perspective, as resilient as its spirit. It is the Budget that New Yorkers deserve and expect.

This Budget makes investments that impact the everyday lives of the people in NYS, while also providing a financial safety net for unforeseen events. Overall, this Executive Budget invests in people and infrastructure, relief for those that need it most, and transformative opportunity to meet the needs of today as well as the emerging needs of tomorrow.

Since the darkest days of COVID-19, New York's economy has recovered significant ground. Even with the arrival of the latest variants, the outlook for the State's labor market remains favorable for 2022. The State's pandemic response under Governor Hochul's leadership has served as a model for the nation, quickly accelerating the disbursement of state and federal aid and coordinating state and local efforts to keep infections down and our economy open. That leadership, coupled with a cooperative federal government, has put us in a financial position that allows us to both creatively invest in New Yorkers and remain prepared for the next economic crisis.

Governor Hochul's FY 2023 budget proposal reflects a remarkable reversal of fortune as tax revenues rebound the budget is balanced for the entirety of the financial plan leading up to FY 2027. The plan leverages the state's solid financial footing for purposes that are essential to maintaining the State's recovery and growing beyond, such as tax relief for individuals and small businesses; investments to guarantee quality, affordable healthcare; compensation for direct care workers in the health, mental health, and social services sectors; new funding to ensure quality healthcare; record levels of funding for education, record funding dedicated to protecting the environment, and increases funds for a range of other essential services. With far-reaching investments in healthcare, social services, housing, tourism, and tax relief, the Governor's sound fiscal leadership and discipline will guarantee a New York that not only recovers but grows and provides opportunity while leaving no one behind.

There is reason for hopefulness and a need for decisive vision to uplift New Yorkers and propel our State and its people forward. Governor Hochul is committed, as evidenced through this Budget, to doing just that.

We are now better prepared, better equipped, and more resilient as we face the known and unknown challenges ahead.

Together, we will build a stronger, healthier, and more prosperous New York. Excelsior.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert F. Mujica, Jr."

Robert F. Mujica, Jr.
Budget Director
State of New York