

Dear Neighbor:

I am pleased to share that the New York City budget for Fiscal Year 2026 has been unanimously approved by the City Council!

This year's budget makes crucial investments in the areas that New Yorkers need the most support. From child care to public safety, libraries to housing, this budget serves the people of this city all while planning ahead for federal cuts that have been looming.

Over the coming weeks, you'll hear more from news outlets and experts on what's in this year's budget, but I wanted to reach out specifically to District 4 residents to provide a breakdown of ways that the budget will be felt in our community.



Advocating for full funding for Parks in the 2026 budget.

Local Wins for District 4:

I am pleased to report that I secured millions in capital funding in this year's budget. These funds will be used for a host of infrastructure projects across our schools, parks, nonprofits, and cultural institutions serving our district.

Here are just a few of the capital projects I fought for in this year's budget:

- ★ **\$2 million** for an accessibility project at Park Avenue Armory.
- ★ **\$2 million** for environmentally friendly climate control improvements at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

- ★ **\$1.2 million** for the Muslim Community Network to expand their headquarters in District 4, supporting their work in civic engagement, education, and hate crimes prevention.
- ★ **\$1 million** for The Town Hall Foundation to replace the roof at their theater.
- ★ **\$2.5 million** for the Irish Arts Center to make crucial upgrades to their office building.
- ★ **\$6 million** to the American Museum of Natural History to replace their roof.
- ★ **\$1 million** the Roundabout Theatre for the revitalization of the historic Studio 54.
- ★ **\$600,000** for the CUNY Graduate Center to establish a new archive record center within the Mina Rees Library.
- ★ **\$424,000** for upgrades to a senior housing development in Turtle Bay, operated by Met Council.
- ★ **\$496,000** for renovation of the Kaufmann Concert Hall at the 92nd Street Y
- ★ **\$412,000** to Asia Society to help convert their building to an energy efficient cooling system.
- ★ **\$175,000** to Hunter College to renovate their outdoor patio, transforming the terrace into a calming outdoor space for students and faculty.

A significant portion of capital funding is allocated to our New York City Public Schools. This year, District 4's schools are receiving a total of \$2,518,000 for numerous projects, including (but not limited to!):

- ★ **\$250,000** to the Art & Design High School for technology upgrades to their computer lab and improvements to their fitness facilities.
- ★ **\$400,000** to P.S. 59 for improvements to their playground.
- ★ **\$1 million** to M.S. 167, the Robert F. Wagner School, to repurpose locker rooms into a multi-purpose room as well as creating an art studio.
- ★ **\$450,000** to P.S. 267 for upgrades to their bathrooms.
- ★ **\$176,000** to P.S. 6 for technology upgrades and new padding for their roof play space.
- ★ **\$250,000** to P.S. 281, the River School, for audio visual technology for their auditorium.
- ★ **\$749,000** to P.S. 77 Lower Lab School and P.S. 198 Isador Straus, to resurface their schoolyard and install an ADA compliant entryway, and to renovate their classrooms.

City-Wide Program Initiatives:

This year's budget makes major investments in the areas most important to New Yorkers' lives. I'm proud that we have fought for wins in the areas of mental health, public safety, education,

housing, and more. I'm highlighting just a few of the important investments we're making below, but if you'd like to learn more details about the budget [you can read more here](#).

- **Early Childhood Education and Childcare:** Our early childhood education system has made strides in recent years to expand access to New York families, and I am thrilled that this year's budget makes the biggest investment yet in education and childcare for our youngest New Yorkers. We have secured over **\$725 million** for early childhood education and childcare programs, including a **\$10 million** pilot program for free infant and toddler childcare.
- **Education:** I'm proud to say this budget includes over **\$313 million** for our schools and student support programs, including **\$23 million** for teacher recruitment (a **\$13 million** increase from last year's budget), **\$41 million** to ensure placement of certified Art Teachers in schools and **\$4 million** for Arts Education, **\$12 million** to support restorative justice programs in schools, **\$4 million** to engage immigrant families, **\$2 million** to restore Sunday service at 10 branches of the New York Public Library, and more.

This budget also includes **\$138.2 million** for the CUNY system and its programs.

- **Housing & Tenant Protections:** The housing crisis has been a potent challenge facing New Yorkers, and after the passage of City of Yes last year, we are taking action to support efforts to build new housing, especially affordable apartments. This budget includes \$4 billion to support affordable housing, homeownership, Mitchell-Lamas, HDFCs, and NYCHA, as well as infrastructure upgrades and funding for staff at housing agencies to support tenants. We have also committed **\$15.6 million** to fund legal representation for tenants facing evictions as part of the citywide right to counsel law.
- **Mental Health, Public Safety, and Criminal Justice:** One of the most crucial ways we can support New Yorkers in need is by providing mental health services. I'm proud that this year's budget includes **\$31.5 million** in mental health initiatives, including a restoration in funding to the NYC Suicide Prevention Hotline. We have also committed over **\$72 million** to public safety and criminal justice programs, like re-entry programs for the formerly incarcerated, legal services for domestic violence survivors, and housing support, as well as an increase in funding for our public defenders.
- **Affordability:** Making New York an affordable place to live has been one of my top priorities as a member of the Council. The budget invests nearly **\$200 million** in affordability programs, like a prevailing wage for security staff at city shelters, expanding eligibility for the Fair Fares program to 150% of the federal poverty level, funding for emergency food services, support for low wage workers, and more.

Funding Local Organizations

Apart from helping to fund hard infrastructure upgrades, I was also able to secure over **\$2 million** in funding to support a variety of programs across the district. These funds go a long way towards making sure that everyone from students to seniors are able to access a variety of services and activities throughout the year.

The funding will support local initiatives and more than 150 groups doing great work in our community, including Alliance for Kips Bay, Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association, Carnegie Hill Neighbors, the Jewish Museum, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, Planned Parenthood, Waterside Tenants Association, Hunter College High School PTA, Legal Aid Society, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, the New York Common Pantry, Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, Sutton Area Community, Phipps Houses, New York Foundation for Senior Citizens, Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, James Lenox House, and more.