

THE NYS SENATE
REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

**THE
2016-17
STATE
BUDGET**

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Dear Friend:

The Senate Republican Majority is working to give all New Yorkers the opportunity to succeed, while also making the Empire State's future as strong, secure and prosperous as possible.

The newly enacted 2016-17 State Budget reflects these commitments. In particular, we achieved several of our very top priorities, including:

- A landmark, new tax cut of more than \$4 billion for millions of middle class New Yorkers, as well as thousands of small businesses;
- Keeping spending growth below two-percent, which is crucial to protecting New Yorkers from higher taxes;
- A record-high level of school aid, as well as the complete elimination of the disastrous GEA budget cuts; and
- Ensuring fair and equitable funding for job-creating transportation projects across the state.

Property tax relief for hardworking, middle class families and seniors. Major new investments in job training, health care and programs to combat heroin addiction. Unprecedented funding to ensure clean air and water in communities across the state. The new State Budget for 2016-17 will help us realize each of these goals.

The following pages provide a brief overview of some of the new State Budget's highlights.

For additional details, please visit NYSENATE.GOV.

A photograph of a diverse family of four. A man with short dark hair is smiling broadly, looking towards the camera. A woman with voluminous curly brown hair is leaning her head against his, also smiling. In the foreground, a young boy with short dark hair is looking off to the side with a happy expression. Another child is partially visible on the left. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting.

CUTTING TAXES AND CONTROLLING SPENDING

To keep New York State moving in the right direction, we must continue our efforts to make it more affordable. The 2016-17 State Budget accomplishes this goal in two ways:

- Cutting Taxes; and
- Controlling Spending.

For the sixth straight year, the state's spending growth will be held below two percent. This self-imposed, two percent spending cap has already saved residents approximately \$31 billion cumulatively. The spending cap also represents a critical part of our ongoing effort to protect taxpayers from higher taxes in future years. But that's only the beginning. **The Senate Majority also fought for and delivered relief for New York's overburdened taxpayers.** This relief includes:

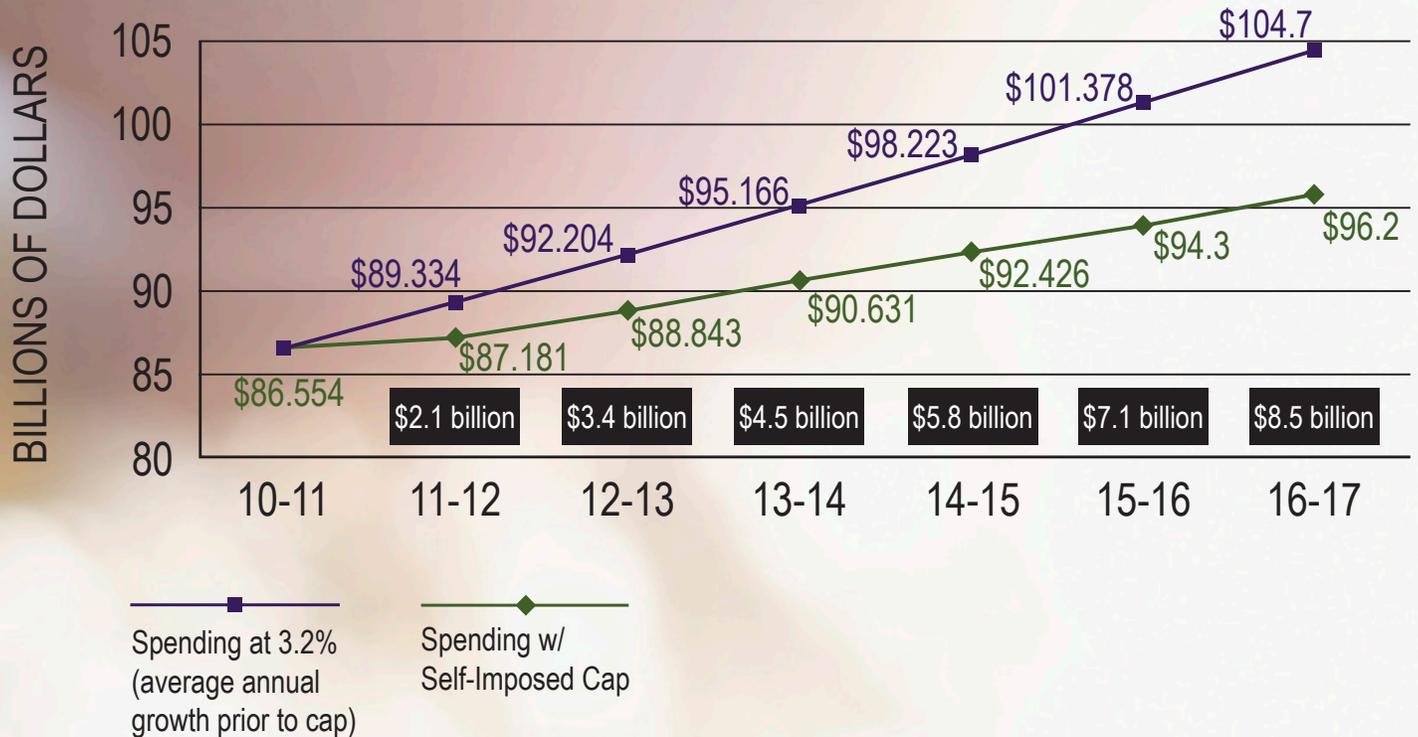
- A major new Middle Class Income Tax Cut, which will reduce taxes by approximately \$4.2 billion for millions of middle class New Yorkers, as well as thousands of small businesses. This broad-based tax cut will reduce middle class tax rates by 20 percent. It will also establish the lowest middle class tax rate since 1948, and represents one of the largest income tax reductions in state history;
- Major property tax relief, including approximately \$2.7 billion in funding for STAR and Enhanced STAR;
- Another round of tax rebates, with new checks being sent out to homeowners this fall; and
- A record amount of school aid, nearly \$25 billion, protecting local homeowners from higher property taxes.

By keeping the lid on spending and providing tax relief for everyday New Yorkers, the Senate Majority is working hard to make the Empire State more affordable.

A photograph of a woman and a young child smiling and laughing together in a bright, sunlit outdoor setting. The woman is on the right, looking towards the child on the left. The child is laughing heartily. The background is a blurred, bright outdoor scene with a building and trees. A black-bordered box is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

**SPENDING CAP
CONTINUES
TO PROTECT
TAXPAYERS**

THE SELF-IMPOSED SPENDING CAP HAS ALREADY SAVED APPROXIMATELY \$31 BILLION



A young girl with dark hair and bangs, wearing a white sweater, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is sitting at a desk, holding a yellow pencil over an open notebook. In the background, other children are blurred, suggesting a classroom setting. A semi-transparent grey box with a black border is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

**RECORD
INVESTMENTS
IN OUR
SCHOOLS**

We all share the belief that every child deserves a quality education that can help them realize their full potential. This begins with ensuring that all students have access to the rich resources and great teachers that can open the door to unlimited opportunities.

That's why the Senate Republican Conference successfully fought to secure an increase in State Education Aid of approximately \$1.5 billion in the new State Budget. Overall, school aid will total nearly \$25 billion in the coming year – the highest level of funding in state history. When combined with the STAR school tax relief program, the State's total commitment to supporting public education will be more than \$28 billion this year.

This record-high level of funding, which reflects an increase of hundreds of millions of dollars over the original Executive Budget, will support important programs and vital services that will help provide better opportunities and greater possibilities for every child.

Overall, the new State Budget helps deliver:

- Record school aid to help foster success in every classroom, including the complete elimination of the GEA school aid cuts, as well as an unprecedented level of Foundation Aid;
- More funding to help control property taxes; and
- Fair and equitable funding for each region of our state.

The 2016-17 State Budget marks the continuation of our strong commitment to the future of our schools, our community and -- most importantly -- our children.



**COMPLETE ELIMINATION
OF GEA SCHOOL AID CUTS**

The new State Budget for 2016-17 achieves one of the Senate Majority's top priorities – the complete elimination of the disastrous Gap Elimination Adjustment school budget cuts.

The Gap Elimination Adjustment -- also known as the GEA -- was first imposed on New Yorkers in 2010 by former Governor David Paterson and the Democrats who controlled the Senate and Assembly. Since that time, the GEA budget cuts have had a devastating impact on school districts throughout the Empire State, costing our local schools billions of dollars.

The Senate Republican Conference voted against the GEA because we knew that it would result in disastrous, multi-year budget cuts that would hurt children, teachers and taxpayers all across the state. And year after year, Senate Republicans have consistently led the effort to phase-out the GEA. In the process, we have delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in additional education aid to ease the burden it has placed on school districts.

While the Governor had originally proposed a two-year phase-out of the GEA in his Executive Budget, the Senate Majority stood strong and insisted upon a one year timeline for its elimination.

In the end, we kept our promise to New York's children, as the final 2016-17 State Budget completely eliminates the disastrous GEA once and for all.

A photograph of a man in a plaid shirt and khaki pants helping a toddler in a grey polo shirt and denim shorts walk on a grassy field. The scene is set during sunset, with a warm, golden glow. The man is leaning over, supporting the child's arms. The child is smiling and looking down at the grass. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a body of water and trees under a bright sky.

**A BETTER BUDGET
FOR FAMILIES**

The Senate Republican Conference has consistently fought for policies and initiatives to make New York an attractive place to live and raise a family. From record funding for our schools, to major property tax relief, to unprecedented new investments in environmental protection, the new 2016-17 State Budget reflects our unwavering commitment to helping families throughout New York succeed and pursue their dreams. Specifically, the new State Budget delivers:

- A major new Middle Class Income Tax Cut, which will reduce taxes for millions of New Yorkers by approximately \$4.2 billion;
- A school aid increase of approximately \$1.5 billion, bringing total school aid to a record-high level;
- The complete elimination of the GEA school aid cuts, which is good news for children, schools and property taxpayers throughout the state;
- A new Paid Family Leave initiative that will protect an employee's job security and earnings in the event they need to take time off to care for their loved ones;
- Major funding for local parks and a record \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund to help improve air and water quality;
- More than \$1 billion in funding for New York's outstanding Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), helping thousands of young New Yorkers afford college;
- Millions of dollars in funding for women's and family health initiatives, as well as full funding of the EPIC prescription drug program to assist seniors with their prescription costs; and
- Major new investments in highways, roads and bridges, improving our quality of life and keeping our local economies moving forward.



**PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF FOR
HOMEOWNERS**

From establishing the STAR program, to enacting the historic property tax cap, the Senate Majority has consistently led the effort to provide relief to overburdened homeowners who are struggling to cope with high property taxes. The new 2016-17 State Budget will build upon the progress in several ways, helping to make New York more affordable for millions of homeowners. Here's how:

Record Funding For STAR: This year, more than \$2.7 billion will be used to fund New York's outstanding STAR and Enhanced STAR programs. These two outstanding programs deliver significant tax relief to millions of middle class families and senior citizens throughout the state. (\$1.77 billion for STAR, and \$940.7 million for Enhanced STAR.)

Delivering Rebate Checks: The new State Budget fully funds an additional round of property tax rebate checks. This fall, millions of homeowners will receive \$414 million in direct,

much-needed tax relief through a check in the mail. Checks will provide an average savings per household of \$350.

Record School Aid: By fully eliminating the GEA school aid cuts, while also providing a record-high level of aid to school districts throughout the state, the Senate Majority is not only providing New York's teachers and students the resources they need to succeed -- but also helping to alleviate pressure at the local level for property tax increases.

Ongoing Pension and Medicaid Savings: The Senate Republican Majority has always led the effort to help our partners at the local government level hold down property taxes. As a result of ongoing savings from pension and Medicaid reforms we've enacted, local governments will be protected from hundreds of millions of dollars in higher costs this year.



**INVESTING IN
NEW YORK'S
INFRASTRUCTURE**

The 2016-2017 State Budget will help keep New York moving forward by making major new investments in our highways, roads and bridges, as well as other transportation infrastructure projects that will create new jobs and spark economic activity across the state. Specifics include:

- **Fair, Regionally-Balanced Funding:** At the insistence of the Senate Majority, the budget will re-establish fairness in funding, and a more equitable and regionally-balanced transportation plan totaling \$27.1 billion. This multi-year plan will ensure that no region of the state will be shortchanged, and that critical infrastructure projects in communities across the state receive the funding they need.
- **Pave NY/Bridge NY:** \$800 million over the next four years for local roads and bridges, including \$400 million (\$100 million per year) for local pave projects distributed based on the CHIPS formula and \$400 million for local bridge projects to be selected through local solicitation.
- **CHIPS:** \$438 million is provided for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) to help local governments move forward with important local highway, road and bridge repair projects.
- **Other Modes:** Over \$1 billion in funding over five years for other transportation modes, including \$397 million for Upstate and non-MTA Downstate transit systems, \$352 million for rail freight and \$282 million for aviation.



MAKING
COLLEGE MORE
AFFORDABLE

The 2016-17 State Budget makes significant new investments in New York's public colleges, universities and community colleges, and takes steps to make college more affordable for our families and students. The new State Budget includes the following highlights:

- **Tuition Assistance:** The budget includes a total of more than \$1 billion for TAP -- critical funding that will help thousands of young New Yorkers afford a quality higher education;
- **No Tuition Increase:** The budget will prevent a proposed tuition increase for SUNY and CUNY schools, helping to keep public education affordable; and
- **Increased Support for Community Colleges:** The new budget increases full-time equivalent (FTE) funding by \$100. Base aid will be \$2,697 per FTE for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. This represents a nearly \$20 million increase for SUNY and CUNY community colleges combined.
- **Preventing Bad Policies:** The budget rejects a proposal to give free college tuition to illegal immigrants at a time when our middle class families are struggling to afford rising college costs.

A close-up photograph of several bright yellow flowers with five petals each, set against a background of dark green leaves. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the petals and the vibrant color of the blooms. The overall composition is natural and serene.

**RECORD FUNDING
TO PROTECT OUR
ENVIRONMENT**

Record EPF Funding:

For many New Yorkers, enjoying and protecting our environment isn't just a hobby; it is a way of life. From the salt water shores of Long Island to the beautiful waters of our Finger Lakes, New York is home to more natural beauty than nearly any other state.

That is why the Senate Republican Conference fought for an historic \$300 million in funding for the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). This is a \$123 million increase over 2015-2016 funding levels, an increase of nearly 70%.

Additional Water Quality Improvements:

The Senate also successfully advocated for more funding to support critical water and environmental infrastructure improvements in the final budget. It provides an additional \$200 million over the next two years to build upon the investments included in last year's Water Quality Improvement Act. Municipalities will now be eligible to receive a total of \$350 million in grants in 2016-17 and 2017-18 to repair and replace existing wastewater and drinking water infrastructure.

HELPING OUR SENIORS



For generations, New York's seniors have made enormous contributions to local communities throughout our state, and they deserve all the support we can provide to help them lead healthy, secure, and fulfilling lives. The new State Budget reflects the Senate Majority's strong commitment to our seniors, and includes:

- **EPIC Program:** New York's outstanding Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage program will be fully funded at \$131.5 million to cover the prescription drug needs of our seniors.
- **Senior Initiatives:** The budget also increases support for a wide array of programs and initiatives that serve seniors, including funding for the following:
 - \$28.9 million for Community Services for the Elderly Program;
 - \$26.6 million for Alzheimer's programs;
 - \$172,000 for the New York Foundation for Seniors Home Sharing and Respite; and
 - \$63,000 for the Senior Action Council Hotline.
- **Stopping Elder Abuse:** This budget builds upon New York's longstanding commitment to protecting vulnerable senior citizens by providing \$700,000 to support elder abuse prevention initiatives.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand typing on the keyboard of a cash register. The cash register is white and has a small screen and a numeric keypad. The background is blurred, showing a retail environment. A dark grey semi-transparent box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES' in white, bold, uppercase letters. The text is enclosed in a white rectangular border.

**HELPING
SMALL
BUSINESSES**

Ask any small business owner and they will all tell you the same thing: it all started with an idea. It's the nurturing of these ideas in a proper environment which allows them to become reality, to add to their community and to become prosperous.

The Senate Republican Conference's commitment to small businesses was clear throughout negotiations on the 2016-2017 State Budget. These efforts ultimately produced a final package that includes a number of elements that will prove beneficial to small businesses throughout the state. These include:

- **Major Tax Relief:** The Senate's landmark, new Personal Income Tax Cut will total approximately \$4.2 billion, and will reduce taxes for thousands of businesses in every community across the state.
- **Spending Control:** The new budget keeps state spending growth below two percent for the sixth consecutive year. By maintaining spending discipline, and adhering to this self-imposed two-percent cap, we continue to protect small businesses from billions of dollars in higher taxes.
- **Job Training:** The new budget includes record funding for job training and workforce development initiatives.
- **Minimum Wage:** The Senate Majority single-handedly led the effort to reduce and mitigate the potentially negative impacts a new minimum wage increase could have on small businesses.



**JOB TRAINING: PREPARING
ALL NEW YORKERS FOR A
SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

Ensuring that all New Yorkers have the opportunity to pursue a good job and rewarding career path has always been a top priority for the Senate Republican Conference. To help achieve this goal, the 2016-17 State Budget makes smart investments in job training and workforce development initiatives to help New Yorkers enhance their job skills -- opening the door to new opportunities, financial security and career success.

Specific highlights of the State Budget include:

- **Next Generation Job Linkage Program:** The budget provides \$5 million for this important program that works with employers to help identify potential jobs, define the skills necessary for those jobs, and provide the appropriate training to employees;
- **SUNY/CUNY Apprentice Initiative:** This initiative provides \$5 million for targeted training to help employers refine the skills of their new hires, and enables more experienced employees to upgrade their skills;
- **Workforce Development Institute (WDI):** The budget includes \$7.9 million for WDI – a highly successful not-for-profit that works with businesses and the AFL-CIO to provide focused training for workers, and workforce transition support to help prevent jobs from being outsourced to other states; and
- **Community Colleges:** Community colleges play a key role in helping young people gain the skills and education that will increase their employment opportunities. The new budget increases full-time equivalent (FTE) funding by \$100. Base aid will be \$2,697 per FTE for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year. This represents a nearly \$20 million increase for SUNY and CUNY community colleges combined.



**COMBATING
THE HEROIN
AND OPIOID
CRISIS**

Communities all across New York State are now fighting one the most challenging public health crises in generations as we combat the rising scourge of heroin and opioid abuse. The devastating impact of this crisis has been felt in every corner of our state, leaving far too many individuals, families and communities heartbroken.

The New York Senate Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction has been working hard at developing and enacting real and lasting solutions in order to bring an end to this epidemic and provide hope for thousands of individuals and families battling the cycle of addiction.

The Task Force was instrumental in securing \$166 million in funding to strengthen prevention, treatment, recovery and education services as a part of the 2016-2017 State Budget. This funding is an increase of \$25 million over what was proposed in the Governor's Executive Budget.

This new funding will provide powerful new tools to help law enforcement, health care professionals and mental health experts throughout New York — all of whom share the common goal of overcoming this major public health crisis.

**A HEALTHIER
FUTURE
FOR ALL
NEW YORKERS**



The 2016-17 State Budget will help to keep millions of New Yorkers healthy by providing record levels of support for an array of critically important health care services in communities across our state.

In addition to investing billions of dollars to ensure quality hospitals and nursing homes throughout New York State, the Senate approved funding for programs that promote good health in the young and old alike, including:

- \$25.3 million for Cancer Services Programs;
- \$9.7 million for chronic disease prevention (including diabetes, asthma & hypertension);
- \$26.3 million for Nutritional Information for Women, Infants and Children;
- \$2.3 million for the Prenatal Care Program;
- \$628,000 for Maternal and Child Health, including the Safe Motherhood Initiative;
- \$1.8 million for the Prenatal and Postpartum Home Visitation Program;
- \$620,500 for Women's Health Services;
- \$10.6 million for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention;
- \$5.5 million in Department of Health funding for Rape Crisis Centers;
- \$283,300 for the Adelphi Breast Cancer Support Program;
- \$26.6 million for Alzheimer's Programs;
- \$8.5 million in additional funding of the Spinal Cord Injury Research Board;
- An additional \$1 million for the Doctors Across New York Program; and
- \$1 million to support organ donation.

A young boy with short, light brown hair is smiling broadly while climbing a tree. He is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt over a yellow t-shirt and blue pants. The background is a soft-focus forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a bokeh effect. A white rectangular box with a black border is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

**COMBATING LYME
AND TICK-BORNE
DISEASES**

The Northeastern United States continues to be one of our nation's hardest-hit regions when it comes to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. But the New York State Senate is fighting back.

The Senate Task Force on Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Diseases was established to help combat this serious public health issue, and its members have been leading a tireless effort to overcome the challenges presented by these debilitating, and sometimes deadly, afflictions.

In addition to promoting greater public awareness about the dangers of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, the Task Force worked to approve \$600,000 in this year's State Budget to help support research, education and prevention efforts.

**STRONG
SUPPORT FOR
NEW YORK'S
HEROES**



The new State Budget for 2016-2017 reflects the Senate Majority's unwavering support for the heroic service men and women who have sacrificed so much to serve our nation. The new budget includes funding for the following:

- \$2.8 million for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer-to-Peer Program;
- \$450,000 for the Veteran's Mental Health Training Initiative;
- \$500,000 for the NYS Defenders Association Veteran's Defense Program;
- \$200,000 for Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Veterans and Military Families Advocacy Project;
- \$250,000 additional for the Veterans Outreach Center in Monroe County (\$500,000 total funding);
- \$200,000 for Warrior Salute;
- \$100,000 for the Veterans Justice Project;
- \$100,000 for the SAGE Veterans Project;
- \$40,000 for the Vietnam Veterans of America New York State Council;
- \$200,000 for Helmets-to-Hardhats; and
- \$25,000 for the Veterans Miracle Center.



**EARNED INCOME
TAX CREDIT FOR
FAMILIES (EITC)**

Under this year's State Budget, New York will invest record funds to encourage more New Yorkers to pursue employment opportunities as an alternative to public assistance.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is an important tool aimed at increasing labor force participation of low skilled workers, as well as an efficient means to move families out of poverty and towards greater prosperity.

The program is a combined federal, state and/or New York City tax credit program that can total as much as \$4,554 for a single parent with one child, \$7,522 for two children and \$8,463 for three or more with incomes of up to \$47,955.

New York's EITC represents the nation's largest state-level work incentive of its type. The amounts listed below are for the 2016 tax year.

Number of Children	May be eligible for up to
0	\$658
1	\$4,385
2	\$7,244
3	\$8,150

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a large bunch of fresh, bright orange carrots with their green leafy tops. The person is wearing a blue denim jacket. The background is a soft-focus field of green plants under bright, natural light. A black-bordered box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

**STRENGTHENING
AGRICULTURE:
NEW YORK'S
LEADING INDUSTRY**

An abundance of fresh, quality food and farm products is not only good for our families -- it's also great for New York's economy. In the 2016-17 State Budget, the Senate Republican Conference has once again led the way in supporting New York's vital agriculture industry by providing major funding for key research, marketing and education programs.

The 2016-2017 State Budget includes:

- The Apple Growers Association;
- The Apple Research and Development Board;
- The Berry Growers Association;
- The Christmas Tree Growers Association;
- The Corn and Soybean Growers Association;
- The Cornell Diagnostic Lab;
- Cornell Onion Research;
- Cornell Maple Research;
- Dairy Profit Teams at Farm Viability;
- Deer Fence Matching Grants;
- The Eastern Equine Encephalitis Program;
- FarmNet;
- Farm-to-Seniors Assistance;
- The Farm Viability Institute;
- Honeybee Research at Cornell;
- Hops and Barley Research at Cornell;
- The Genesee Agriculture Academy;
- Grown on Long Island;
- Island Harvest;
- Local Fairs Assistance;
- Low-Cost Vaccine Program;
- The Maple Producers Association;
- The Northern NY Agriculture Development Program;
- The Pro-Dairy Program;
- The Tractor Rollover Prevention Program;
- The Turfgrass Association;
- The Vegetable Growers Association;
- The Wine and Grape Foundation;
- The Wood Products Council;
- The Cornell Veterans to Farms Program;
- The Future Farmers of America;
- The North Country Agriculture Academy; and
- Rabies Programs at Cornell.

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