

# STATE BUDGET FUNDING FAQ PAGE

From the Office of Sen. Jabari Brisport



## Who can request state funds in the budget?

[Any nonprofit organization, public agency, or authority](#) can request state funding through their state Senator. Please note that religious not-for-profits may encounter legal obstacles, as the state is not allowed to subsidize religious activities, even if the funds are intended for secular activities. In this process, I will prioritize organizations or agencies that serve my constituents in Senate District 25.

## Important:

State funding is awarded on a reimbursement basis. For example, if you are awarded \$20,000 to hire a part time staffer, **you must hire and pay them first, then submit paperwork to be reimbursed for the hiring costs.**

## What if I can't afford to be reimbursed?

Smaller CBOs can ask larger organizations to be a **fiscal sponsor** for their grant. A fiscal sponsor spends the money for your project on your behalf and is then reimbursed by the state.

If you want to use a fiscal sponsor, you will need to **secure one before applying for funding**. When you submit the application, please provide your sponsor's NYS Charities Number and EIN Number.

## What type of funding can I request?

Nonprofits and government agencies can be reimbursed for operating funds or capital funds.

**Operating funds** can be used for programming costs (e.g., staff, supplies, insurance, etc.).

**Capital funds** can be used to improve physical infrastructure (e.g., to buy a new sprinkler system, replace a roof, etc.).

You can receive **operational funding** one of two ways:

- By being included directly in the state budget. One of the bills that is included in the budget every year is called “Aid to Localities.” This bill specifies which agencies and nonprofit organizations will receive funding for certain items.
- By requesting discretionary funding from a legislative office, such as my own. Each year I receive a pre-determined amount from Senate Leadership to award at my discretion.

As a New York State Senator, the budget process gives me access to a certain amount of capital funding each year, which I can allocate at any time.

## How much funding can I apply for?

You should apply freely and honestly for the funding that you think you need. Even if the legislature does not ultimately fund the full amount, budget negotiations often give way to the request being met at a lower amount.

## When do I need to submit my request?

Our office will receive budget request letters via the form at [bit.ly/sd25fund](https://bit.ly/sd25fund). The form will close to submissions on **January 1st**. You may still request a meeting and submit a letter after that date, but the organizations that applied via the form before the deadline will be prioritized for meetings.

## How will I know if my request has been included in the final New York State budget?

Our office will follow up with you after the final budget is approved. The state budget is due April 1 (although delays do sometimes occur), so be on the lookout for outreach from my office shortly after that date. **Please prepare for a quick turnaround process for confirming your grant.** If your request has been included in the final budget, you will also need to supply my office with your nonprofit's/agency's EIN Number and NYS Charities Number.

## If my funding is included in the New York State budget, when will that payment be processed?

It will take several months for the relevant state agency to process your funding. Please also keep in mind that **state funding is awarded on a reimbursement basis**. For example, if you are awarded \$20,000 to hire a part time staffer, you must hire and pay them first, then submit paperwork to be reimbursed for the hiring costs.

## What is the New York State budget?

This budget determines which services and supports will receive funding from the State in the upcoming fiscal year. The process begins with the Governor releasing an Executive Budget proposal, which outlines New York’s anticipated income and expenses for the coming fiscal year. This proposal is usually announced at an event hosted by the Governor known as “The State of the State.”

Next, New York’s legislature opens the Governor’s proposal to public review, calling on state agencies and stakeholders to deliberate over the proposed budget. These hearings are open for the public to view online at <https://www.nysenate.gov/> (hearing transcripts are also made available).

After the executive budget is proposed, and legislative committees hold their hearings, the Governor meets with the NYS Senate and Assembly – represented by the Senate Leader and Assembly Speaker – to begin three-way negotiations on the proposed budget. These negotiations result in ten bills that officially make up the state budget. The budget is ultimately voted into law by the Senate and the Assembly. Our state Constitution mandates the approval of the state budget by April 1.

In the event the budget is not finished by April 1, the Senate and the Assembly must pass what is called an “extender.” A resolution, this extends the deadline for the budget to be passed and authorizes the New York State Comptroller to continue compensating state employees, preventing a government shutdown.