

March 2026

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor
State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader
332 State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie
Assembly Speaker
LOB – Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

On behalf of the undersigned cities and villages across New York State, we write to express our appreciation for the Governor's 30-day amendments to the Executive Budget, which include an additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance (TMA) to be allocated in the same manner as in the past two years.

This proposal reflects a meaningful recognition that New York's strength begins in its cities, villages, and towns. A strong and reliable state-local partnership is essential to delivering the services, infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life that residents expect and deserve. We commend the Governor for reaffirming this commitment through continued investment in local governments.

Municipalities throughout the State continue to face mounting fiscal pressures driven by inflation, increased service demands, infrastructure needs, rising operational costs, and the continued constraints of the property tax cap. At the same time, local leaders are striving to protect taxpayers amid a rising cost of living and uncertainty surrounding future federal support. These realities underscore the importance of sustained and predictable state assistance.

The proposed additional \$100 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance will provide needed support to municipalities statewide, helping to stabilize local finances and maintain essential services for residents. We respectfully urge the State Legislature to include, at a minimum, this additional \$100 million in TMA in the final adopted State Budget.

At the same time, we encourage the Governor and State Legislature to develop a more permanent and predictable solution for unrestricted municipal aid. Establishing a long-term framework for annual increases in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding would provide the fiscal certainty local governments need to plan responsibly and sustain the services our residents rely upon.

We greatly appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you to make our communities and our State the best they can be.

Respectfully,

[attached is the list of signatories]