

BUDGET BASICS

Understanding the State budget



What is the state budget?

A budget is a plan for how to spend money.

You might have a budget for yourself.

New York State has a budget too.

It is a plan for how much money the State will spend this year, and what it will spend money on.

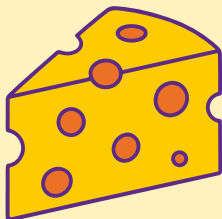


What does the state budget pay for?

The state pays for lots of things, including services for people with disabilities.

Everything it takes to keep services running, like **staff, transportation, electricity, food, and homes are all paid for by the State budget.**

The state budget says how much money can be spent on services each year.



What is inflation?

Prices go up over time. This is called inflation.

For example, a pound of cheese might have cost \$4 twenty years ago. Today, it might cost \$6.

That change in price is inflation.

BUDGET BASICS: What do we need?

Why do we need more money for services?

Let's take at what happened when cheese got more expensive.

Twenty years ago

Cheese cost \$4.

The State put \$4 in the budget.

That was enough.

2006 CHEESE BUDGET (example)

Cost

\$ \$ \$ \$

Budget

\$ \$ \$ \$

\$4 = Enough

Today

Cheese costs \$6.

The State puts \$5 in the budget.

That is more money than before.

It is not enough to pay today's price.

2026 CHEESE BUDGET (example)

Cost

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Budget

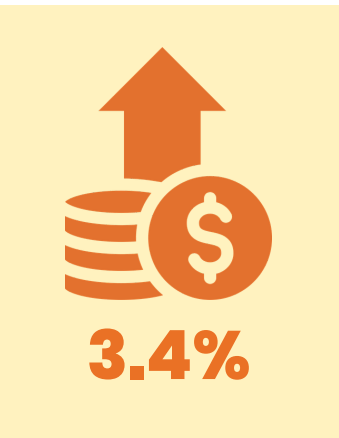
\$ \$ \$ \$ \$

\$5 = Not Enough

\$1 short

But it's not just cheese. Everything it takes to provide services costs more every year. Lightbulbs, gas, cleaning supplies, everything!

The state needs to put enough money in the budget to pay the new prices. If it doesn't, agencies can't afford everything they need to support you and other people with disabilities.



What are we asking for?

Prices went up 3.4% from last year to this year.
That's about 3 cents more for every dollar.

We are asking New York State for a **3.4% Targeted Inflationary Increase, or TII for short.**

A TII means the state puts 3.4% more money in the budget for services this year than they did last year.

We are asking for a 3.4% TII to make sure agencies can pay today's prices, so you can keep the services you have now.