New York State Budget 101

New York State’s over $132 billion budget reflects the policies and priorities of our state. Citizens’ Committee for Children regularly analyzes state budget materials to determine their impact on children, youth and families. Our budget documents are available online.

The New York State Fiscal Year begins on April 1st and ends on March 31st. The State budget is not always passed on time; however, in recent years the budget has been enacted prior to the start of the upcoming fiscal year.

While the budget is a living document modified throughout the year, there are key dates you should know:

Key Dates in the New York State Budget Timeline:

- **April 1st**: New Fiscal Year begins
- **Mid-January-February 1st**: The State Constitution requires the Governor to submit an Executive Budget by the third week of January or by February 1st in the year following a gubernatorial election.
- **January-February**: The New York State Legislature holds Budget Hearings.
- **February**: The Governor has up to 30 days from the introduction of the Executive Budget to make amendments.
- **February through enactment of the State Budget**: The Budget Reform Legislation of 2007 requires the Legislature to set up a conference committee process between the two houses (Assembly and Senate) to organize its deliberations, set priorities and reach agreement on a Budget.
- **March-April**: The Legislature reaches an agreement on spending and revenue recommendations, which is reflected in amended versions of the Governor’s proposed appropriations bills and legislation. The appropriations bills, with the exception of those items added by the Legislature and appropriations for the Legislature and Judiciary, become law without further action by the Governor. The Governor must approve or disapprove the Judiciary and Legislature’s budgets and can use the line-item veto on the other appropriations added by the Legislature.

Role of the Governor: The Governor is responsible for developing annual budget proposals to allocate resources and to implement the Enacted Budget. The Governor issues the Executive Budget to the Legislature and negotiates the Enacted Budget. The New York State Division of the Budget (DOB) is the agency responsible for developing and implementing the State’s budget.

Role of the Legislature: The New York State Legislature is comprised of the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly. They hold hearings on the State Budget, hold conference committee meetings to come to an agreement on the State Budget and negotiate the Budget with the Governor.

Your role: Every citizen has an important role to play in the budget process. You can make your voice heard in the State’s budget by meeting, calling or writing to the Governor, your State Senator, and your Assembly Member, testifying at public hearings, and participating in rallies and press conferences. Help yourself to CCC tools, which you can find on our web site through Get Involved and Budget Documents.

If you have any questions about the State Budget or its impact on children and families, contact Stephanie Gendell, Associate Executive Director, at sgendell@cccnewyork.org.