



New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

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February 29, 2024

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

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

Hon. Carl Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

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

We are writing to once again reiterate our desire to forge a meaningful partnership that would be mutually beneficial to our cities and villages and the State. For years, local governments have not been given the critical assistance they need from the State to improve our communities and, in turn, New York's quality of life. Revenue sharing (the precursor to AIM) was established with the goal of providing local governments with predictable amounts of state aid that would increase as state income tax collections grew over time. Not only has this "formula" been ignored for decades, but AIM funding remains flat once again in the Executive Budget and has not increased in fifteen years. This neglect from state government has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff.

It is also important to consider that the Governor has indicated that her Executive Budget proposal is guided by the twin goals of affordability and public safety. NYCOM contends, and I suspect you would agree, that New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals. Every community has public safety needs and for many local budgets, it is the largest cost driver. If the State truly wants to ensure affordability and public safety for all New Yorkers, now is the time for an increase in AIM funding for cities, villages and towns.

Given the current challenges of rising inflation, the end of extraordinary federal aid, and the leveling off of sales tax revenue, local leaders are having to institute new and different ways to achieve fiscal sustainability. In recent years, both the Senate and Assembly have demonstrated their support for a significant and long-overdue increase in AIM funding. We hope we can count on all of you to finally, after 15 years, come together to make this a reality in the adopted 2024-25 State Budget.

[attached is the list of signatories]

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