Analyzing State Agency Requests in Executive Budget

PAD 642

Background

New York State follows an executive budgeting process in which the Governor proposes the budget proposal in January and the State Assembly and Senate review and approve the budget before the fiscal year starts on April 1st.

New York State's FY 2027 Executive Budget was released on January 27th, 2026, and includes major proposals across several policy areas such as education, healthcare, human services, mental hygiene, public safety, transportation, etc. Relevant information on these proposals can be found in the Governor's budget presentation, the Executive Budget Briefing Book, and agency presentations.

- Governor's budget presentation
- Executive Budget Briefing Book
- Agency Presentations

In this budgeting task, you will review the Governor's budget presentation and the Executive Budget Briefing Book, and you may also use agency presentations as needed. You will then choose one policy area and analyze five major programs or initiatives within that area. Through this analysis, you will gain a better understanding of what is included in a government's executive budget, how the budget is reviewed by the legislature, and what information is considered during the legislative review process.

Policy areas (and example programs)

You may choose from (pick ONE area and FIVE programs within that area)

- Economic development (e.g. Downtown Revitalization Initiative; New York Forward)
- Education (e.g. Universal Prekindergarten Aid; Foundation Aid)
- Environment, energy, and agriculture (e.g. Clean Water Infrastructure Funding; Investing in Our State Park System)
- Healthcare (e.g. Medicaid; Hospital and Nursing Home Investments)
- Higher education (e.g. support for CUNY and SUNY campuses; Investing in Community Colleges)
- Human services (e.g. Child Care Affordability and Access; New York City 2-Care)
- Mental hygiene (e.g. Supporting People with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families; Modernize Research in Developmental Disabilities)
- Public Safety (e.g. Reduce and Prevent Gun Violence; Combat the Rise in Hate Crime)
- Transportation (e.g. Continuing Road, Bridge, and Safety Improvement; Investing in Transit)

Memo

Write your memo as if you are preparing a short policy briefing for a legislative audience. Your memo should answer all of the following questions:

1. What are the major FY 2027 programs or initiatives in your selected policy area?
2. How much do these programs or initiatives cost, as proposed by the Governor?
3. What policy goals do these programs aim to achieve?
4. Which constituents are likely to benefit from these proposals? Which constituents are likely to oppose or question them?
5. Which state agencies are responsible for these programs?
6. Which Senate and Assembly committees are responsible for reviewing these programs?
7. What concerns, questions, or missing information should legislators raise before approving the request?
8. Based on your analysis, do you think these programs are more likely to be supported, modified, or opposed by the legislators?

Program analysis table

Use the table below to organize your analysis of the programs

	Program #1 Name	Program #2 Name	Program #3 Name	Program #4 Name	Program #5 Name
Proposed cost					
Policy goals					
Constituents					
State agencies					
Legislative committees					
Questions and missing information					
Support, modify, or oppose?					

What to submit

1. A two-page memo that addresses the questions above
2. The completed program analysis sheet

Helpful tips

In addition to the Executive Budget Briefing Book, the Governor's budget presentation, and agency presentations, you may also use media or press articles to help identify which constituencies are likely to benefit from or oppose particular programs.

You may also find The Blue Book: Senate Majority Staff Analysis of the 2026–2027 Executive Budget Proposal useful for understanding legislative perspectives on the Governor's proposals.

To identify relevant legislative committees, use the official Assembly standing committees page and Senate standing committees page.