



NYSAC
NEW YORK STATE
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2017

Budget Priority

OPPOSE SOCIAL SERVICE COST SHIFTS

THE PROBLEM

Over the years the state has gradually reduced its financial support for state designed and controlled social services programs that have resulted in recurring costs shifts from the state to counties more than \$300 million annually. This has been part of a larger trend where the state has reduced its commitment to care for the needy and placed that growing burden on county taxpayers. Funding has been cut for nearly every public assistance program counties administer and finance including Safety Net, child welfare, adoption subsidies, food stamp administration (state support eliminated), child support enforcement, juvenile justice and programs intended to help recently released state incarcerated offenders return to the community.

In addition to these cuts, the state has not increased the shelter allowance in more than a decade, even in the face of huge increases in housing costs. Finally, many programs counties administer on behalf of the state have not seen any increase in administrative funding for decades.

2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The budget proposes to implement additional cost shifts to counties and New York City, including:

- *Reducing the state match in foster care*, costing counties (\$19.3 million) and New York City (\$21.3 million)
- *Changing foster care tuition rates for New York City* (\$23 million reduction)
- *Title XX funding carve-outs* requiring that \$23 million be spent on child care to save money for the state general fund. For counties and New York City this amounts to a cost shift because those Title XX funds are currently being used to pay for other state and federally mandated services and will need to be replaced with local taxpayer dollars.
- *Committee on Special Education Funding Shift* – the budget proposes a \$22 million cost shift to New York City by requiring the City to fund 100 percent of administrative costs for this program

2017 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

Assembly's Budget restores \$39 million to Local Social Service Districts, in relation to the Foster Care Block Grant maintenance payments for youth in care.

The Senate's Budget accepts the Governor's proposal.

COUNTY SOLUTION

Counties urge state lawmakers to oppose these state cost shifts.