

## **Talking Points for Legislative Meetings**

Use these points in conversations with your legislators, delegation meetings, and local advocacy efforts.

### **Counties Are the State's Implementation Partners**

New York's 57 counties administer dozens of state and federally mandated programs — Medicaid, child welfare, public health, indigent legal defense, election administration, and more — that serve every resident of the state. For just a handful of these programs, counties and NYC contribute more than \$14 billion annually in local taxes, with little control over the policies that drive those costs.

### **Exclusion from AIM Is a Growing Inequity**

Counties have not been eligible AIM recipients since 1990 — but every budget proposal this cycle has included significant new aid for cities, towns, and villages. The Governor and Legislature are investing hundreds of millions in other local partners while counties with uniquely large mandated responsibilities receive nothing equivalent. This is not parity; it is a growing disparity.

### **Fiscal Stress Is Already Showing Up**

12 counties exceeded the property tax cap in their 2026 budgets — the most in a decade — with an average levy increase of 11 percent. The number of local governments in fiscal stress as identified by OSC's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System is rising. Counties are already at their limit. Federal cost shifts from H.R.1 beginning in October 2026 will make this dramatically worse.

### **Federal Headwinds Are Arriving Fast**

H.R.1 reduces the federal share of SNAP administrative costs from 50% to 25%, shifting an estimated \$168 million in new annual costs to New York counties beginning October 1, 2026. Combined SNAP administrative and benefit cost-sharing impacts could reach over \$1.3 billion annually statewide. Counties need state support now — this year's budget is the critical window.

### **\$100M Is a Fraction of What Others Received**

NYSAC's request for \$100 million in county fiscal relief is modest relative to the investment proposed for other local governments in this cycle. It could be structured in whatever form best addresses counties' most pressing cost drivers — assigned counsel, preschool special education, competency restoration, Safety Net, or direct unrestricted aid.

### **The Time to Act Is Now**

Budget conference negotiations are underway now. Any relief must be in the enacted SFY 2026–27 budget to help counties before federally mandated changes take effect in October 2026. This is not an issue that can wait for a future legislative session — the cost shifts are arriving on a fixed federal timeline regardless of state action.