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Governor Kathy Hochul – New Budget Investments in the Governor’s Proposed Budget that would impact in Western New York.

Below is a list of some of the proposed investments in her budget that would come to WNY:

- \$8 million for Kleinhans Music Hall to make repairs and upgrades
- \$10 million for the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
- \$9 million for the Buffalo Zoo
- \$20 million to expand the Albright-Knox Art Gallery
- \$5 million to create a Hispanic Heritage Center in Buffalo
- \$9 million to establish the Niagara Falls agritourism Sector
- \$25 million for the Niagara Falls waterfront
- \$5 million for Niagara Falls small businesses
- \$65 million for a new engineering building at UB

Relief at the gas pump of at least 16 cents per gallon from June to the end of the year; the imminent legalization of “alcohol to-go”; an expansion of child care; raises for home health care workers; health insurance for older undocumented New Yorkers; a plan for a \$4.2 billion environmental bond act; tax cuts for the middle class; and a host of controversial changes to public safety laws — covering bail, discovery in criminal cases and mental illness law

Additionally (source- nuysca.com)

Tax Relief

The Governor proposed a host of tax incentives for New Yorkers and New York small businesses. Notably, there are no proposed tax or fee increases. The Governor will accelerate the \$1.2 billion middle-class tax cut so that it begins in the 2023 tax year, rather than the 2025 tax year. This will impact approximately 6 million New Yorkers. Additionally, Governor Hochul proposed a \$250 million COVID capital investment tax credit to help small businesses cover COVID-related capital expenses. Finally, the Governor is proposing a \$2.2 billion middle class property tax rebate for 2.5 million New Yorkers.

Healthcare

The Governor is proposing a \$10 billion, multi-year investment in healthcare. \$2 billion will go to increasing healthcare worker wages, \$1.2 billion to support healthcare worker bonuses for those making less than \$100,000, and \$500 million to increase wages for human services workers. Additionally, \$2.4 billion will be invested in healthcare capital infrastructure and improved lab capacity. These measures are meant to accomplish the Governor’s goal of increasing New York’s healthcare workforce by 20% over the next five years.

Pandemic Recovery Initiatives

The Governor is proposing a \$2 billion investment in creating pandemic recovery initiatives. The Governor pledged to collaborate with the Legislature on the best way to spend these funds, which may include replenishing New York's rental assistance program.

Education

The budget proposes a record investment of \$31.3 billion in education funding, a 7.1% increase from 2021-2022. This includes a \$1.6 billion increase in Foundation Aid, a \$100 million investment in high-need school districts to address the mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continuing funding for pre-K programs throughout the State. Regarding higher education, the Budget proposes expanding part-time student access to the tuition assistance program, including making the program available to incarcerated individuals, in order to promote workforce training for high-demand fields.

Infrastructure

In her State of the State address, the Governor proposed numerous infrastructure improvements throughout New York. The 2022-2023 Budget proposes a \$32.8 billion Capital Plan, which is the largest-ever investment in New York infrastructure. These funds, coupled with Federal funding, would be used to replace I-81 in Syracuse, reconnect neighborhoods across the Kensington Expressway in Buffalo, and cap the Cross-Bronx Expressway. Further, the Capital Plan includes a proposed \$1 billion to pave potholes and \$1 billion in combined public and private investments to expand broadband access.

