



New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

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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.

[A list of mayors that agree to sign-on will be attached.]

Sample Resolution

Calling for an Increase in AIM Funding

Whereas, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

Whereas, city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

Whereas, 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; and

Whereas, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

Whereas, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

Whereas, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

Whereas, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

Whereas, the Governor's 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

Whereas, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the _____ urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator _____, Assemblymember _____ and the New York State Conference of Mayors.