

Tech (cont.)

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lead to more diversity and inclusion in the workforce.

“The data analytics bootcamp will provide the training people need to land technology jobs. It’s perfect for Western New Yorkers looking to change careers, get a fresh start or find more meaningful work,” said Tom Ogletree, vice president, social impact and external affairs at General Assembly. “With no previous tech experience or education needed, students will learn in-demand skills to excel as a data analyst. As a program designed with inclusion and accessibility top of mind, the instruction will be supplemented by support from career coaches and social impact specialists who help participants navigate any challenges and successfully complete the program.”

The data analytics bootcamp accepted applications from residents of 12 counties across the greater Western New York Region. The Tech Academy and its employer coalition worked with TechBuffalo and several other community-based organizations to source applicants from diverse communities across the region. They led outreach and engagement efforts focused on reaching people of color, women, veterans and other underrepresented groups in the technology sector.

“One of the biggest challenges facing employers today is the demand for skilled workers,” TechBuffalo President and CEO Sarah Tanbakuchi said. “TechBuffalo recognizes the need to grow our local tech talent pool and make careers that leverage in-demand digital and tech skills more attainable, especially in communities underrepresented in tech. This initiative is essential to that growth. By bringing together and actively engaging this coalition of regional employers, the training experience and career opportunities that follow are more meaningful for our community.”

Hochul outlines budget plan (cont.)

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Bond Act. This historic initiative will provide the support New York needs to restore critical environmental habitats; reduce flood risks; conserve additional lands and open spaces; protect and improve our water resources; and invest in climate change mitigation projects that will reduce pollution and lower carbon emissions. The Bond Act will also support a substantial investment in the Clean Green Schools initiative that will reach every public school located in a disadvantaged community.

•Offshore wind: The executive budget includes \$500 million investment to develop the state’s offshore wind supply chains and port infrastructure. This nation-leading initiative will create 2,000 jobs in a growing industry, while helping to make New York the offshore wind capital of the country for years to come.

Housing

•Launch a new five-year, \$25 billion comprehensive housing plan. The executive budget advances a new \$25 billion, five-year housing plan to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes, including 10,000 homes with support services for vulnerable populations, and electrify an additional 50,000 homes as part of the state’s plan to electrify 1 million homes and make another 1 million electrification-ready. Funding includes \$5.7 billion in capital resources, \$8.8 billion in state and federal tax credits and other federal allocations, \$11 billion to support the operation of shelters and supportive housing units and to provide rental subsidies.

Combating Gun Violence

The executive budget includes \$224 million to fund initiatives that will strengthen the gun violence prevention efforts of law enforcement and community-based organizations. Through these actions, we will work to restore New Yorkers’ sense of safety and community. Some of these actions include:

√ Triple resources for crime gun-tracing efforts – The executive budget provides \$350,000 in funding to

triple the state’s gun violence intelligence resources by staffing the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) with a team of analysts necessary to process and investigate crime guns across the state.

√ Strengthen law enforcement partnerships – The executive budget provides \$13.1 million to expand the use of community stabilization units that partner the most-experienced State Troopers with local law enforcement agencies to combat community-specific crime problems.

√ Expand the state’s direct support to local law enforcement (GIVE) – The executive budget increases funding to \$18.2 million for New York’s nationally recognized Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative, which supports local law enforcement efforts to stop the gun violence in New York. This investment will enable the launch of several new initiatives that will support law enforcement’s ability to clear non-fatal shooting cases, engage in youth-centered community programming, and reduce recidivism for individuals under community supervision.

√ Triple investment in community-based gun violence response (SNUG) – The executive budget sustains last year’s emergency increase in funding for New York’s SNUG Outreach program and further expand support to combat the spike in gun crimes. This investment of \$24.9 million will expand hospital-based and street outreach programs to touch all corners of the state. It will facilitate the piloting of several new initiatives, which provide wrap-around services for youth, job-readiness and work-placement training.

√ Respond to regional needs in the aftermath of gun violence – The executive budget includes \$20 million in new funding to support the people and places that have been most impacted by the spike in gun violence. This will allow the deployment of innovative community empowerment and crime-reduction programming in high-need areas that will facilitate the repairing and rebuilding of re-

gions victimized by crime involving guns.

Addressing Addiction and the Opioid Crisis

Under Hochul’s leadership, the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) will take significant steps to address the opioid crisis by improving access to addiction treatment services, removing barriers to treatment, developing new and innovative treatment models, and expanding the number of treatment facilities in communities around New York.

The executive budget provides an increase of \$402 million (56%) in operating and capital support for OASAS to enhance prevention, treatment and recovery programs targeted toward addiction services, residential service opportunities, and primary prevention activities consistent with state opioid settlement agreements; and invests more than \$100 million in new resources from the opioid stewardship tax, and litigation settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors. Of these funds, \$113 million will pass through the state to local municipalities, consistent with settlement agreements.

Response

National Federation of Independent Business State Director Ashley Ranslow said, “NFIB applauds the governor’s proposal, which includes no new taxes or fees, provides targeted small business tax relief and tax credits, and accelerates the phase-in of middle-class tax cuts benefiting the majority of small businesses that pay taxes through personal income taxes.

“For almost two years now, small businesses have suffered immensely from the economic fallout of the pandemic with no end in sight. Historic labor shortages, rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, increased labor costs, and uncertainty continue to hammer small businesses, and they are in desperate need of additional relief. Small businesses are buckling under the weight of enormous unemployment insurance tax

reserves for the future.”

“With record levels of federal aid and higher-than-anticipated revenue, the state must and should allocate billions to address New York’s outstanding UI debt. This is not a can that the state should kick down the road; otherwise, small businesses will pay the price in increased federal UI taxes and special assessments, on top of the highest possible state UI tax rates. NFIB looks forward to working with the governor, Senate and Assembly to tackle New York’s UI trust fund crisis.”

New York State United Teachers President Andy Pallotta said, “With the state on solid financial footing, the ongoing needs of our pandemic-battered public schools, colleges and hospitals must be met this year. Gov. Hochul’s spending plan makes some important commitments toward meeting those needs, including a significant increase in aid for K-12 schools and sorely needed operating aid for SUNY and CUNY. We look forward to reviewing the executive budget in greater detail and ensuring the voices of our members are included in the conversation between now and April 1.”

New York State Association of Counties President and Tioga County Chair Marte Sauerbrey said, “Counties are very encouraged to see that the budget makes significant progress in restoring local control over local taxes by making sales tax rates permanent and ending the misguided practice of intercepting local sales tax to pay for the state’s AIM program. Counties also applaud the inclusion of increased funding for local public health departments that have been on the front lines of the pandemic for nearly two years, as well as investments in local road and bridge programs, strengthening workforce development, expanding local veterans’ programs, and modernizing the vacation rental industry in our communities – all while making a commitment to use the state’s strong fiscal position to build reserves for the future.”

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