

ERIE COUNTY, BUFFALO NEW YORK



# 2026 BUDGET

**Mark C. Poloncarz**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Mark D. Cornell**  
BUDGET DIRECTOR

*Message and Summary*

# Table of Contents

---

	<u>Page</u>
<b>County Executive's Budget Message .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Four-Year Operations Plan Fiscal Years 2025 – 2028</b>	
Introduction to Four-Year Operations Plan.....	1
Four-Year Plan Detail .....	3
<b>Overview</b>	
Snapshot of Erie County .....	7
<b>Understanding the 2025 Erie County Budget</b>	
Where the Funding Goes .....	11
Where the Revenue Comes From .....	11
Summary of Unassigned/Undesignated Fund Balances for All Funds .....	12
Overview of All Funds in the 2025 Proposed Budget.....	13
Outstanding General Debt and Capital Budget Bonding by Year.....	14
<b>Overview of Revenues</b>	
Property Tax Revenues.....	15
Sales Tax Revenues .....	19
Sales Tax Sharing .....	20
All Other Local Source Revenues.....	21
State Aid .....	24
Federal Aid.....	29
<b>Overview of Expenditures</b>	
General Fund Expenditures.....	33
Fringe Benefits Expenditures.....	44
Union Contracts.....	46
<b>Budget Process and Financial Structure</b>	
Budget Process .....	47
Budget Calendar.....	50
Financial Structure.....	51
<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>57</b>







# **COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET MESSAGE AND SUMMARY**



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 15, 2025

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Honorable Legislators:

Please find enclosed my 2026 Proposed Erie County Budget ("Proposed Budget") and Four-Year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029 ("Plan") for review and approval by your Honorable Body.

Erie County is facing a budget scenario unlike any we have faced before as we enter 2026. Different from the "Red-Green" budget mess of the early 2000s, which was the result of self-inflicted wounds that could have been avoided, never before has the federal government so deliberately sown chaos and confusion into budgeting decisions — rescinding funds previously appropriated by Congress and implementing extreme measures that shake global confidence in the U.S. economy nearly every day.

While the full impacts of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY2025 (House Concurrent Resolution 14 or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" ("OBBA")) cannot yet be fully quantified, the loss in federal funding and new programmatic costs that will be phased in over the next 12-24 months will likely have a profound effect on County finances.

Developing the Proposed Budget with so many unknowns has been challenging, requiring a level of restraint to ensure we are not forced into even more difficult decisions as we enter an uncertain future. Exercising caution now can help us prevent future cuts and avoid layoffs in the years ahead.

We have met this moment in a way that remains true to our core values: delivery of high-quality public services that support our families, protect the most vulnerable among us, and invest in our shared infrastructure while maintaining fiscal responsibility and respect for taxpayers.

## **Continued Reduction to the Property Tax Rate**

Once again, I propose lowering the property tax rate per thousand of assessed value ("tax rate"). For 2026, the tax rate will decrease from the current \$3.29 down to \$3.09 – a \$0.20 reduction. This is not only the lowest rate in Erie County's history but also \$1.74 lower than the next closest neighboring Western New York County (Niagara, at \$4.83 for 2025). It remains the 11th lowest rate (of 57 non-NYC counties) in all of New York State ("State").

Additionally, this will be the eighth (8th) consecutive year and eleventh (11th) time since taking office that I have lowered the property tax rate. Since 2012, when the tax rate was \$5.03, these cumulative rate decreases total to \$1.94 – a 39% reduction over the past 14 years.

The property tax levy itself will increase by only 1.35% or \$4.2 million to \$316.1 million to remain compliant within the State’s Property Tax Cap (“Tax Cap”) despite continued and robust assessment growth in one of the Country’s hottest real estate markets.

For 2026, we will increase our support for the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System’s (“Libraries”) levy by an additional \$928,419 (3%) in revenue. My pledge to share assessment growth with the libraries has resulted in a 60% (or \$12 million) increase in funding to nearly \$31 million annually since 2012.

### **Sales Tax Receipts Rebound**

After sales tax remained flat in 2024, leading to a budgetary shortfall, receipts have grown by nearly 4.25% year-to-date, becoming a significant source of positive variance for 2025. While expressing caution in our 2025 year-end projection and also conservatively budgeting for only 1.5% growth going forward into the new year, the Proposed Budget recognizes \$1,106,614,747 in total sales tax revenue, of which \$613,968,909 will be retained by Erie County and \$492,645,838 will be collected and shared with the cities, towns, villages, school districts and Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (“NFTA”) per the 1977 Sales Tax Sharing Agreement. For the County’s purposes, this represents a \$28.4 million increase in sales tax revenue compared to the 2025 Adopted Budget.

### **State and Federal Aid Remains Consistent for Now**

Due to the actions of the Trump administration and the unknown variables of the OBBB, Erie County is entering 2026 in a unique position: currently state and federal aid should theoretically remain consistent, but the State will be forced to craft a budget that must grapple with massive regulatory changes that will impact the delivery of Medicaid and SNAP benefits, coupled with a shift in costs to states for the administration of these services. Until the State budget is passed in 2026, we are unable to accurately quantify the potential massive impacts of OBBB on the Department of Social Services’ (“DSS”) role as administrator of these two large programs. Will the State attempt to hold counties harmless, or will the costs of implementing OBBB be passed onto counties? The Plan attempts to quantify the known costs of OBBB’s recertification requirements and cuts to states’ DSS expenses.

### **2026 General Fund Budget**

The 2026 General Fund (110) Budget is \$2,081,160,029, a \$113 million (5.75%) increase from the 2025 Adopted Budget. This increase is driven primarily by increases in mandated expenses. Eight (8) mandated expenses alone account for \$80.4 million (71%) of this increase:

- \$19.9 million in additional sales tax sharing with local governments. In total, \$492.6 million of sales tax revenues will be shared among cities, towns, villages, school districts and the NFTA. While increases in shared sales tax impact overall budgeted expenses, there is no net cost, as any changes in expenses are directly tied to equal changes in sales tax revenues.

- \$14.4 million increase in IGT payments to Erie County Medical Center Corporation (“ECMCC”). The continued gap between Medicaid rates and Medicare reimbursement will drive up DSH payments as ECMCC provides a disproportionate share of its services to uninsured and Medicaid populations. Future challenges for the hospital will include the potential elimination of the State’s essential healthcare plan, which could drive more patients into the under-reimbursed Medicaid pool or, worse yet, leave them without insurance.
- \$13.9 million increase for Safety Net assistance. Since the Pandemic, we have seen a rise in the number of Safety Net cases. Most of these cases are single individuals, childless couples, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”) clients who have exhausted their 5-year limit. In 2025, we are averaging 5,017 cases per month, which is 332 cases higher than in 2024. There are still five (5) months of data to accumulate for 2025. The number of Safety Net cases is influenced by the number of homeless individuals who come through our doors, which remains relatively high.

Due to the lack of affordable housing, most homeless are placed in hotels/motels, many for months at a time, which leads to a significant amount of local dollars as Safety Net cases are reimbursed at 29%.

- \$12 million increase in Day Care Costs. The Day Care budget for 2026 is flat funded at \$65.9 million. In 2025, we carried forward \$9.5 million. At our current spending rate, we will be carrying forward approximately \$2 million into 2026. We are currently averaging \$5.9 million per month in Day Care Costs. We saw a high of \$7.6 million in August, and we expect those numbers to continue increasing.

Effective October 1, 2025, Erie County has established a waitlist for Daycare services. We will continue to authorize childcare assistance for TANF families; however, new applications from working families are likely to be wait-listed due to insufficient funding. For a case to recertify, they must meet one of the federal priorities: families experiencing homelessness, families with very low income (at or below 300% SIS), and families with children who have special needs.

- \$7.4 million increase to family assistance programs. TANF is for families with children and is 100% reimbursable. Families are only eligible for TANF federally funded assistance for 5 years (60 months). If they are still in need of help after 5 years, they are switched to Safety Net, which is non-federally funded. We have seen an average increase of 313 cases in 2025 over 2024.

Housing and homelessness have been at the forefront of discussions at the state-level for the past several years. The homeless population has expanded each year, and the trend doesn’t seem to be changing. We continue to pay an average daily rate of \$110 per day to house someone in a hotel. I have tasked DSS to come up with new ways to address the homeless issue, in the hope of helping those in need and reining in costs.

- \$6.4 million increase in program costs for children with special needs. This is due to increases in tuition rates for the Center-Based Classrooms and bus transportation rates, which are directly tied to CPI inflation. Additionally, several new classrooms have been approved by the NYS Department of Education, which will result in additional student tuition and bus transportation costs.

- \$4 million increase to foster care assistance. We are experiencing a \$1 million reduction in our Foster Care Block Grant allocation for FY2025-26. This is concerning, especially given the cost of foster care and adoption subsidies continues to rise, and we were hit with a 6% increase in Maximum State Aid Rates (“MSAR”). Foster Care is a complex area to control based on Family Court involvement with abuse and neglect cases, and the PIN and Juvenile Delinquency cases.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (“FFPSA”) was signed into law in February 2018. The primary purpose of the FFPSA is to reform federal child welfare funding as well as provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. FFPSA wants to divert children from entering foster care by allowing reimbursement for mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parenting skills. The program also aims to reduce the number of youths placed in residential treatment facilities by encouraging pre-assessments prior to placement and limiting the duration of placement in a residential facility. The bottom line is that we are required to provide more services to families still in the community.

- \$2.4 million increase in Medicaid local share costs. For 2026, the County will be required to cover its full statutory “hard cap” to Medicaid costs (\$215.8 million) for the first time since being implemented in 2013. Medicaid costs have now increased \$43.1 million (25%) over the course of the last six (6) years, with the complete phase-out of Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (“eFMAP”) credits included as part of the CARES Act in 2021.

An additional \$18.1 million in growth can be attributed to general increases in personnel service expenses due to the reoccurring impacts of necessary personnel decisions made over the past five (5) years, as included in the 2021 Adopted Budget. This includes:

- Significant across-the-board cost-of-living adjustments to contend with post-COVID inflation as part of negotiated collective bargaining agreements for all County bargaining units;
- Right-sizing of uncompetitive salaries that have left vital positions unfilled in an increasingly competitive job market; and
- Significant investments in public safety, including the addition of 226 new positions (143 full-time) since 2021. 85% of these (192 positions) are within the Sheriff’s (162 positions) and District Attorney’s Offices (30 positions). Additionally, the introduction of a new 25-year pension option for Holding Center and Correctional Facility sworn personnel necessitated a \$12.7 million retroactive pension payment, resulting in an additional \$1.9 million in annual pension costs.

### **Across-The-Board Cuts to Departmental Budget Requests**

Given the unprecedented level of uncertainty, the Division of Budget and Management (“Budget Office”) requested that all department heads and independently elected officials submit a “status quo” budget that does not include any new discretionary spending and minimizes the inclusion of new positions or upgrades to only the highest priority needs. Caution was not uniformly exercised, and, as a result, it was my duty to recommend significant cuts as part of the Proposed Budget.



In all, the Budget Office cut more than \$32.6 million in requests that were considered lower-priority needs, and would have required a nearly 12% increase to the property tax levy to fund them. This would not only have significantly exceeded our mandated tax cap, but also increased the tax rate for the first time in 18 years. These cuts included:

- Rejection of a total of 89 new position requests (78FT), saving \$5.3 million in salary expenses;
- Deletion of 50 positions (12FT), most of which have been vacant for more than a year, saving \$900,000 in salary expenses;
- Significant reductions in overtime, demanding greater scrutiny over hours approved, saving \$7.5 million;
- Associated fringe benefits savings from the above-mentioned personnel expenses of \$6.1 million;
- Across-the-board cuts to discretionary spending on items like office furniture, supplies, equipment, training, etc. that departments can do without, \$5.7 million; and
- Significant reductions in funding requests from outside non-profit and cultural organizations, saving \$4.7 million.

### **Continuation of Signature Initiatives**

While there is an overall reduction of 20 total positions (30 additions, 50 deletions) compared to the 2025 Adjusted Budget, the Proposed Budget includes a net increase of 17 full-time positions, 13 position upgrades and five (5) existing position transfers into the General Fund, which accounts for approximately \$2.3 million (11%) of the total increase in personnel services expenses and only 2% of the overall increase in General Fund expense.

Many of these new positions, along with the remaining increase in overall expense, can be attributed to the phased implementation of several initiatives that we have announced and begun over the past few years. While the county prepares for a challenging fiscal environment ahead, we must sustain progress on the “People’s Mandates” we implemented over the past few years.

The Erie EMS ambulance service remains highly in demand, as municipalities struggle to maintain coverage amid declining participation in volunteer fire services. Having responded to over 3,500 calls since the service's inception, Erie EMS is saving lives and providing a critical emergency safety net to our community.

Funding is also included to operate the new Willowdale Park and Golf Course located at the site of the former Westwood Country Club. This once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect green space and provide our residents with a high-quality public amenity underscores this County’s commitment to our residents’ quality of life.

Additionally, we are requesting modest increases to Park fees for shelter and building rentals, camping, use of our brand-new bandwagon, and golf passes, which have not been adjusted since 2014. When compared to other public use facility fees in our region and comparable areas in New York, we are significantly under-charging for services and reducing the ability of the Parks Department to invest in its facilities. Over the past 12 years since these fees have remained frozen, we have made it a priority to invest system-wide continually, though those investments are declining as major capital investments are needed elsewhere.

We will also be adding four (4) new positions to the Department of Real Property Tax Services to comprise a new Real Estate Division. The number of County-owned properties is vast, with many of these properties being small and disjointed, with no clear County use. Yet, we continue to maintain and are subject to the liabilities associated with these properties at a significant cost. It is in the County's best interest to ensure we limit the number of County-owned properties to only those that we have a specific use for, and it will be the goal of this new division to identify unnecessary parcels and dispose of them so they can be returned to productive use and, as importantly, the tax rolls. In the long term, we believe this division will be revenue positive.

### **Continued Investment in Critical Infrastructure**

An investment in our infrastructure is an investment in our future, as it is a powerful economic driver with a significant ripple effect, enhances the quality of life for our residents, and promotes long-term sustainability by creating more resilient communities. While the 2026 Capital Program ("Program") will be the most extensive program I have proposed as County Executive, it will be because we will be undertaking two of the most significant and most critically needed projects in a generation. The \$122,284,013 program comprises \$72.9 million in bonded proceeds and \$20.2 million in pay-as-you-go funding, while leveraging \$29.2 million in state, federal, and other funding.

First, the County will be bonding \$20 million to begin design and engineering for a new jail facility. Over the last year a feasibility study was completed. The preferred option identified is to renovate and expand the existing correctional facility in Alden, NY into a dual-purpose facility, at an estimated cost of \$430 million. Preliminary 30-year debt service estimates range from \$25 million to \$30 million annually.

This is an extraordinary cost that no one is eager to bear. However, it has become increasingly clear over the last few years, as the downtown Holding Center falls into disrepair, that doing nothing is no longer an option. The cost of kicking the can further down the road has only grown over time. And, while compromises will have to be made to afford the construction of this new combined facility, the feasibility study estimates that once that facility is completed, the County could achieve approximately \$16 million in annual savings related to reduced staffing needs compared to those at the current, antiquated facilities. Beyond this financial cost, there is also a human cost. I believe it is our moral imperative to ensure that officers and inmates alike can exist in safe and humane conditions.

Second, the County will be bonding \$10 million for an estimated \$30 million project to create a regional communications "trunked" radio system, which will dramatically increase the capacity, efficiency, and security of radio communications, allowing all police, fire, EMS, and municipal services across Erie County access to a single, flexible network. The creation of the network itself is estimated to cost \$20 million, which needs to be undertaken as a joint effort among Erie County, the NFTA and large municipalities such as Amherst. In 2027, a final \$10 million phase will be funded to purchase the various equipment needed for County departments to access this new system.

As strongly as I believe in the critical importance of the new jail and “trunked” radio system projects, I also think we must continue to build on the general capital investments we have made over the past decade. And, while the balance of the Program will be more modest than we have undertaken in recent years, the remaining \$92.3 million included will fund critical, shovel-ready projects at a level we can afford. Those additional projects include:

- \$60.8 million in highway and bridge projects (including state & federal aid), including the reconstructions of William Street in Cheektowaga, Maple Road in Amherst, Abbott Road in Orchard Park, among others;
- \$3 million for additional work in our County Parks;
- \$2.2 million for work at the Buffalo & Erie County Central Library;
- \$3.5 million in improvements to SUNY Erie campuses, including phase 3 work for the new North Campus sports complex;
- \$5.8 million for vital public safety projects, including new E-911 system equipment and software, and the creation of a secondary E-911 call center at the County’s Emergency Operations Center;
- \$2.6 million for the final phases of the County’s conversion to a new SAP financial system, including HR functionality; and
- \$2.5 million for the relocation of rail lines to free up additional acreage of developable land at the Renaissance Commerce Park.

### **Retiring Public Debt While Improving the County and Its Infrastructure**

Throughout my entire Administration, we have worked aggressively to reduce our outstanding debt as we invest in our infrastructure. For ten consecutive years (2014-2023), we retired more debt than we issued in the subsequent year. This was extraordinarily important because – even after issuing \$239 million in bonds over the past two years, including \$114 million for general obligations and \$125 million for the new stadium – we still have less overall debt and lower annual debt service costs than when I took office.

In 2012, the County had \$416.7 million in bonded principal and \$63.8 million in debt service; in 2026, we will have \$392.8 million in bonded principal and \$53.5 million in debt service. Additionally, after adjusting for inflation, our current position is comparatively more favorable, with the 2012 bonded principal worth \$587.5 million and debt service worth \$89.9 million in today’s dollars.

And, while we are all excited to see the new Highmark Stadium’s construction be completed for the beginning of the 2026-27 NFL season, I am equally happy that in 2026, we will officially be out of the football stadium business. And with that, the ending of our responsibility for three annual payments: capital, working capital, and gameday expenses. All three obligations from the prior lease are formula-driven contributions between the County, State, and Bills, based on annual inflation. For 2025, those costs totaled approximately \$7.7 million and are no longer the County’s responsibility.

## Four-Year Financial Plan

The Plan is based on the 2026 Proposed Budget, projected year-end data for 2025 and other reasonable assumptions as of October 3, 2025, the date the Proposed Budget was printed. The Plan forecasts very challenging budget scenarios for 2027-2029, primarily based on our best expectations for the implementation of the OBBB, which was signed into law by President Trump earlier this year.

The National Association of Counties is calling the OBBB the “Big Shift” because it shifts current financial obligations for programs like Medicaid and SNAP from the federal government to states and county governments, at the same time it also requires county governments to perform more work. Erie County government, like most other county governments, is particularly vulnerable to this law because we serve as the front line for implementing federal and state health and human services programs. OBBB’s combination of deep federal spending cuts, increased administrative burdens, and new mandates will likely put future County budgets under immense strain.

This document represents our best efforts to capture **realistic scenarios** for the systematic gutting of social services infrastructure so, over the next year, we can begin to plan for some of the heartbreaking and near-impossible choices we will be faced with. Should these worst-case scenarios come to fruition, we would be forced to implement a series of across-the-board austerity measures beyond the deficit remediation plan established to confront the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Such a plan would undoubtedly result in the reduction of essential services to the minimum legally mandated levels, leading to widespread food insecurity, housing instability, and the destabilization of our local healthcare system, affecting everyone who needs care, not just those accessing government assistance programs like Medicaid.

It could also result in cuts to entirely non-mandated expenses that make up approximately 15% of the County’s annual budget but constitute most of the programs and services that the public demands from County government. This would result in less road work, fewer Sheriff’s Road patrols, an end to support for cultural and community development organizations, reduced Library hours, scaled-back senior programming, longer delays in processing evidence from the crime lab, less preparedness and response to natural and artificial disasters, and more.

For now, our goal is to demonstrate the breadth of OBBB’s impact in comparison to current status quo assumptions for the state of County government, as well as the future impacts and timing of initiatives already underway.

For 2027, the allowable property tax levy under the tax cap is expected to increase to 2.27%, partially due to a flattening of prior-year community college and Board of Elections expenses, which are being included as chargebacks. For 2028, we expect to seek approval to exceed the tax cap by an amount equal to the new recurring debt service associated with the construction of the new combined Holding Center and Correctional Facility, currently estimated at \$27 million. This would be an increase to the property tax levy of approximately 11.2% and result in a \$0.08 tax rate increase to \$3.02 from (from an assumed \$2.94 in 2027). Going forward, the standard 2% increase from assessment growth is expected for 2029.

No use of fund balance is proposed within the Plan. Based on the expected positive variance at year-end 2025, the unassigned fund balance, currently at \$149.5 million (and exceeding the Charter-mandated requirement to maintain 5% of General Fund expenses) may be modestly increased.

Much of the baseline gaps are based on an assumed \$27.4 million increase in IGT costs in 2027, which are projected to peak at nearly \$92 million. Other major factors include the flattening of many state and federal revenues, the delayed growth in pension costs from personnel decisions, a new 6% growth factor for foster care costs, continued growth in childcare costs, the end of State reimbursement for Article 18B Assigned Counsel costs, and overall increases to the cost of doing business as a result of tariffs.

The additional gaps are based on several preliminary assumptions where known OBBB impacts can be quantified. First, we anticipate significant reductions in revenues resulting from the 25% reduction in SNAP administrative reimbursement, and reduction in the Foster Care Block Grant and child welfare reimbursements. Second, we anticipate cost increases of between \$13-\$19 million related to increased TANF caseloads. Lastly, we included an assumption that the State will pass the new 25% increase to SNAP benefit cost sharing mandate onto counties. What is not included, however, are other expected changes to HEAP, SNAP and Medicaid that cannot be quantified until additional guidance is provided by the state and federal governments.

We will continue to update the legislature on future year projections as more information becomes available, especially following the adoption of the SFY 2026-2027 Budget.

## **Conclusion**

The Proposed Budget is a balanced plan that will continue to provide the programs and services that residents rely on, while making key investments in the “People’s Mandates,” including public safety, economic development, arts & culture, and tourism and critical infrastructure. Both documents also acknowledge the reality of significantly more challenging budgets going forward, especially if our worst assumptions about OBBB and the continued chaos at the federal level come to fruition. As we have done in response to past crises, we will remain vigilant and be prepared to make whatever difficult, yet necessary, decisions the moment calls for.

However, I remain committed to our core values as a county and society to continue to protect the most vulnerable among us and provide the non-mandated programs and services that our residents expect while running a fiscally responsible government that continues to find new ways to grow and meet the challenges of tomorrow.

By collaborating with your Honorable Body and the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority, we can continue to move this community forward.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Poloncarz" clearly distinguishable.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive



# **FOUR-YEAR OPERATIONS PLAN FISCAL YEARS 2026 - 2029**



# Four-Year Financial Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029

---

Section 2503 of the Erie County Charter specifies certain budget requirements, including submission of an annual budget proposal and a financial forecast for the next two years. In addition, Public Authorities Law §3957 creating the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority ("ECFSA") requires that the County Executive submit a Four-Year Financial Plan ("Plan") with his proposed budget.

The 2026 Proposed Budget includes 2026-2029 Four-Year Plan. The Plan is based on the Proposed Budget, projected year-end data for 2025, and other reasonable assumptions as of October 3, 2025, the date the 2026 Proposed Budget was printed. The Plan forecasts very challenging budget scenarios for 2027-2029, primarily based on current expectations for the implementation of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY2025 (House Concurrent Resolution 14 or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" ("OBBB")), which was signed into law by President Trump earlier this year.

Erie County government, like most other county governments, is particularly vulnerable to this law because we serve as the front line for implementing federal and state health and human services programs. OBBB's combination of deep federal spending cuts, increased administrative burdens, and new mandates will likely put future County budgets under immense strain.

This document represents efforts to capture realistic scenarios for the systematic gutting of social services infrastructure so, over the next year, plans can be developed accordingly. Should these worst-case scenarios come to fruition, it is likely a series of across-the-board austerity measures beyond those included in the 2020 deficit remediation plan established to confront the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic would need to be implemented.

The goal with this Plan is to demonstrate the breadth of OBBB's impact in comparison to current status quo assumptions for the state of County government, as well as the future impacts and timing of initiatives already underway.

## KEY ASSUMPTIONS IN FOUR-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2027-2029

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Sales Tax Growth	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Real Estate Market Value Growth	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Property Tax Levy Growth	2.27%	11.02%	2.34%
Property Tax Rate Change	-4.86%	2.56%	-4.80%
<b>Expense</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Personnel Services Growth	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Health Insurance Growth	2.41%	2.42%	2.42%
Pension Rate	15.56%	10.00%	8.00%

For 2027, the allowable property tax levy limit is expected to increase to 2.27%, partially due to a flattening of prior-year community college and Board of Elections expenses, which are being included as chargebacks. For 2028, there is an expectation that the tax cap will need to be exceeded by an amount equal to the new recurring debt service associated with the construction of the new combined Holding Center and Correctional Facility, currently estimated at \$27 million. This would be an increase to the property tax levy of approximately 11.2% and result in a \$0.08 tax rate increase to \$3.02 from (from an assumed \$2.94 in 2027 under the status quo). Going forward, the standard 2% increase due to assessment growth is expected for 2029.

No use of fund balance is proposed within the Plan. Based on the expected positive variance at year-end 2025, the unassigned fund balance, currently at \$149.5 million and exceeding the Charter-mandated requirement to maintain 5% of General Fund expenses, may be modestly increased.

Personal services growth is driven by the cost of salaries and other employee payments for all employees. The pension rate is based on estimates provided by the New York State and Local Retirement System. The health insurance growth includes the cost of current employee and retiree health insurance expense.

Much of the baseline gaps are based on an assumed \$27.4 million increase in IGT costs in 2027, which are projected to peak at nearly \$92 million. Other major factors include the flattening of many state and federal revenues, the delayed growth in pension costs from personnel decisions, a new 6% growth factor for foster care costs, continued growth in childcare costs, the end of State reimbursement for Article 18B Assigned Counsel costs, and overall increases to the cost of doing business as a result of tariffs.

The additional gaps are based on several preliminary assumptions where known OBBB impacts can be quantified.

First, significant reductions in revenues are assumed resulting from the 25% reduction in SNAP administrative reimbursement, and reduction in the Foster Care Block Grant and child welfare reimbursements.

Second, cost increases are estimated between \$13-\$19 million related to increased TANF caseloads.

Lastly, included is an assumption that the State will pass the new 25% increase to SNAP benefit cost sharing mandate onto counties.

What is not included in the Plan are other expected changes to HEAP, SNAP and Medicaid that cannot be quantified until additional guidance is provided by the state and federal governments.

The gaps shown in this plan are significant and represent approximately 4% of projected General Fund budgets. Closure of these gaps will be challenging and require significant planning but are considered surmountable.

There are a variety of potential mechanisms and initiatives available to the County to close these out-year gaps, including:

#### **Revenues**

- Reversal of revenue cuts included in OBBB;
- Better than expected sales tax growth;
- Better than expected growth other revenues including adult-use cannabis sales, interest earnings, Clerk DMV & Registrar fees, etc.;
- Better than expected property tax collections from increased in rem sales;
- Increased revenues from updated county service fees;
- Extension of state reimbursement for Article 18B Assigned Counsel costs;
- Continuation of Gaming Facilities Aid upon renegotiation of the compact agreement;
- Additional closure of dormant capital projects;
- Appropriation of Unassigned Fund Balance;
- Adjustments to assessment growth sharing with Libraries;
- Increases to the property tax levy beyond what is indicated
- Modify 1991 agreement with the NFTA to increase County's retention of 3% permanent sales tax revenue;
- Withdraw from 1977 sales tax sharing agreement with cities to increase County's retention of 3% permanent sales tax revenue.

#### **Expenses**

- Reversal of expense increases included in OBBB;
- More favorable (lower) caseload trends in social service programs;
- Faster than expected cost control impact of childcare waitlist;
- Lower than budgeted IGT payments as well as better than expected prior year reconciliation adjustments;
- Reduced costs for indigent legal defense as a result of PILOT program;
- Reduced maintenance and liability costs from increased disposal of County property;
- Overall reductions in discretionary departmental spending;
- Modification of Short-Term Rental Local Law dedicating entirety of Hotel Occupancy Tax to tourism promotion;
- Modification to capital programs including reduced bonding and pay-as-you-go funding;
- Reductions in expected personnel related expenses due to negotiated terms in upcoming collective bargaining agreements;
- Across-the-board reductions in non-mandated departments and programs including: cultural & community development funding, parks, Sheriff road patrols, road maintenance, libraries, senior programming, crime lab processing, preparedness & response to natural and artificial disasters, etc.;
- More aggressive vacancy control measures;
- Reductions in expected personnel related expenses from position deletion via attrition or layoffs;
- Shift from December pre-payment of pension obligation to NYSLRS to standard February payment schedule.

**Erie County  
2026-2029 Four-Year Financial Plan**

		2024	2025	2026			
		Actual	Legislative Adopted Budget	Executive Recommended Budget	2027 Projection	2028 Projection	2029 Projection
<b>Fund 110 - General</b>	<b>Account Type</b>						
<b>Local Source Revenue</b>							
	Property Tax Levy	299,034,343	311,851,561	316,053,995	323,241,660	358,853,938	367,242,122
	Property Tax Related						
	Sec 520 Exempt Removal	804,948	825,000	825,000	825,000	825,000	825,000
	Gain Sale Tax Acquired Prop	-	10,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
	Payments In Lieu Of Taxes	4,488,063	4,800,000	4,200,000	3,900,000	4,200,000	4,500,000
	Interest & Penalties-Prop Tax	14,057,644	18,488,389	17,244,123	17,416,564	17,590,730	17,766,837
	Omitted Taxes	2,970	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	Dec-Prop Tax Def Rev	(993,938)	(5,974,213)	(1,721,563)	(3,553,115)	(3,588,646)	(3,624,532)
	Property Tax Related Total	18,359,687	18,152,176	20,680,560	18,721,449	19,160,084	19,600,105
	Sales Tax						
	Sales Tax Original 3%	231,409,308	236,000,098	246,757,818	250,459,185	254,216,073	258,029,314
	1% Sales Tax	218,482,773	222,830,950	232,973,914	236,468,523	240,015,551	243,615,784
	.25 % Sales Tax	54,617,145	55,688,066	58,239,695	59,113,290	59,999,990	60,899,990
	.50% Sales Tax	109,234,289	111,376,132	116,479,389	118,226,580	119,999,979	121,799,979
	Sales Tax Total	613,743,515	625,895,246	654,450,816	664,267,578	674,231,593	684,345,067
	Sales Tax (Distrib. to Local Gov'ts)	424,039,016	432,451,271	452,163,931	458,946,390	465,830,586	472,818,045
	Fees Fines or Charges						
	Election Exp Other Govts	8,858,658	8,907,562	12,637,826	13,655,968	13,731,450	14,418,023
	All Other Fees Fines or Charges	26,545,758	28,040,340	29,020,708	29,891,329	30,788,069	31,711,711
	Fees Fines or Charges Total	35,404,416	36,947,902	41,658,534	43,547,297	44,519,519	46,129,734
	Other Sources						
	Interest & Earn - Gen Inv	22,420,606	8,008,000	9,515,000	8,000,000	7,000,000	6,000,000
	Hotel Occupancy Tax Revenue	14,400,401	14,300,000	14,000,000	13,800,000	13,600,000	14,000,000
	Community College Respreads	7,784,245	9,028,388	10,140,844	10,831,665	10,548,477	10,864,931
	All Other Sources Accounts	31,183,679	26,740,119	26,586,447	27,384,040	28,205,561	29,051,728
	Other Sources Total	75,788,931	58,074,507	60,242,291	60,015,705	59,354,038	59,916,659
	Appropriated Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Local Source Revenue Total</b>		<b>1,466,369,908</b>	<b>1,483,372,663</b>	<b>1,545,250,127</b>	<b>1,568,740,079</b>	<b>1,621,949,758</b>	<b>1,650,051,732</b>
<b>State Aid</b>							
	State Aid-Special Needs Preschool Age	41,278,695	41,778,218	45,613,960	47,894,658	50,289,391	52,803,861
	State Aid-Mental Health	55,407,618	54,412,635	55,690,222	57,082,478	58,509,540	59,972,279
	State Aid-Soc Serv Admin	37,010,762	32,386,177	37,466,761	38,403,430	39,363,516	40,347,604
	State Aid-Safety Net Assistance	9,446,067	10,396,797	14,176,107	14,530,510	14,893,773	15,266,117
	State Aid-Child Welfare Services	20,363,006	38,734,930	41,534,441	38,741,250	43,637,122	44,728,050
	State Aid-Serv For Recipients	6,403,978	7,149,746	9,880,512	10,127,525	10,380,713	10,640,231
	State Aid-Day Care	2,906,675	3,769,160	3,769,160	3,863,389	3,959,974	4,058,973
	State Aid-Raise the Age	9,966,790	11,106,964	10,667,926	10,934,624	5,603,995	11,488,190
	All Other State Aid Accounts	42,460,249	44,136,060	50,216,093	51,722,576	53,274,253	54,872,481
	State Aid Total	225,243,840	243,870,687	269,015,182	273,300,440	279,912,277	294,177,786
<b>Federal Aid</b>							
	Federal Aid-Family Assistance	31,107,137	37,605,744	45,081,334	46,659,181	48,292,252	49,982,481
	Federal Aid-Soc Serv Admin	29,941,576	24,862,311	26,841,454	27,780,905	28,753,237	29,759,600
	Fed Aid Day Care	58,316,033	57,775,186	67,962,691	70,341,385	72,803,333	75,351,450
	Federal Aid-CWS Foster Care	17,898,351	22,595,331	24,318,869	23,318,869	22,318,869	21,318,869
	Federal Aid-Safety Net TANF Cases	290,754	300,967	404,479	418,636	433,288	448,453
	All Other Federal Aid Accounts	99,007,766	91,999,178	100,042,815	78,001,944	80,762,663	83,621,044
	Federal Aid Total	236,561,617	235,138,717	264,651,642	246,520,920	253,363,642	260,481,897
	Interfund Revenue	23,210,016	5,801,385	2,243,078	350,000	350,000	350,000
<b>Total Fund 110 Revenue</b>		<b>1,951,385,381</b>	<b>1,968,183,452</b>	<b>2,081,160,029</b>	<b>2,088,911,439</b>	<b>2,155,575,677</b>	<b>2,205,061,415</b>

**Erie County**  
**2026-2029 Four-Year Financial Plan**

		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Fund 110 - General Account Type		Actual	Legislative Adopted Budget	Executive Recommended Budget	Projection	Projection	Projection
<b>Expense</b>							
<b>Personal Service Related Expense</b>							
Personal Services							
Full-Time Salaries		264,672,801	303,125,922	312,226,017	321,592,798	331,240,582	341,177,799
Part-Time Wages		2,736,404	5,068,989	4,963,983	5,112,902	5,266,289	5,424,278
Regular Part Time Wages		2,035,830	2,382,882	2,130,636	2,194,555	2,260,392	2,328,204
Seasonal Emp Wages		1,535,963	1,344,440	1,268,680	1,306,740	1,345,942	1,386,320
<b>Personal Services Total</b>		<b>270,980,998</b>	<b>311,922,233</b>	<b>320,589,316</b>	<b>330,206,995</b>	<b>340,113,205</b>	<b>350,316,601</b>
Employee Payments non-salary							
Shift Differential		2,730,048	2,711,483	3,116,100	3,271,905	3,435,500	3,607,275
Uniform Allowance		607,950	683,450	766,100	773,761	781,499	789,314
Holiday Worked		2,829,201	3,159,827	3,341,634	3,508,716	3,684,152	3,868,360
Line-Up		2,800,168	3,174,687	3,499,295	3,674,260	3,857,973	4,050,872
Other Employee Pymts		2,308,595	2,866,772	2,965,609	3,113,889	3,269,583	3,433,062
Overtime		31,745,019	26,160,228	27,128,183	28,755,874	30,481,226	32,310,100
<b>Employee Payments non-salary Total</b>		<b>43,018,981</b>	<b>38,756,447</b>	<b>40,816,921</b>	<b>43,098,405</b>	<b>45,509,933</b>	<b>48,058,985</b>
Fringe Benefits							
Fringe Benefits- FICA		23,107,819	26,075,901	26,305,099	27,254,477	28,161,063	29,099,643
Fringe Benefits-Medical Insurance		52,316,115	50,042,420	53,174,406	54,769,638	56,412,727	58,105,109
Fringe Benefits-Workers Compensation		4,847,854	6,571,617	5,291,254	5,449,992	5,613,492	5,781,897
Fringe Benefits-Unemployment Insur.		370,649	798,201	421,365	434,006	447,026	460,437
Fringe Benefits-Retiree Med Insur.		32,157,621	40,056,546	34,309,501	34,824,144	35,346,506	35,876,703
Fringe Benefits-Retirement		55,772,933	48,564,101	55,018,109	63,625,731	69,988,304	75,587,368
<b>Fringe Benefits Total</b>		<b>168,572,991</b>	<b>172,108,786</b>	<b>174,519,734</b>	<b>186,357,988</b>	<b>195,969,118</b>	<b>204,911,157</b>
Countywide Personnel Adjustments							
Reductions (Vacancy Savings)		-	(3,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)
Salary Reserves		-	-	(441,280)	-	-	-
HELP - Personnel Reserve		-	(8,685,841)	-	-	-	-
<b>Countywide Personnel Adjustments</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(11,685,841)</b>	<b>(4,441,280)</b>	<b>(3,000,000)</b>	<b>(3,000,000)</b>	<b>(3,000,000)</b>
<b>Personal Service Related Expense Total</b>		<b>482,572,970</b>	<b>511,101,625</b>	<b>531,484,691</b>	<b>555,663,388</b>	<b>578,592,256</b>	<b>600,286,741</b>
<b>Other Departmental Expense</b>							
Supplies & Repairs							
Auto Supplies		2,164,677	2,718,110	2,669,270	2,802,734	2,942,871	3,090,015
All Other		7,225,915	10,254,554	11,098,250	11,653,163	12,235,821	12,847,612
<b>Supplies and Repairs</b>		<b>9,390,592</b>	<b>12,972,664</b>	<b>13,767,520</b>	<b>14,455,897</b>	<b>15,178,692</b>	<b>15,937,627</b>
Other							
Risk Retention		10,878,412	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Control Board		210,000	540,000	470,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Rental		15,642,691	15,869,842	17,420,482	17,594,687	17,770,634	17,948,340
DSS Pivot Wages/Chargebacks/Training		4,987,482	5,392,588	3,984,043	4,023,883	4,064,122	4,104,763
Utility Charges		2,979,436	3,462,615	3,433,830	3,536,845	3,642,950	3,752,239
All Other		4,754,733	7,723,196	8,768,943	8,900,477	9,033,984	9,169,494
<b>Other Total</b>		<b>39,452,754</b>	<b>37,988,241</b>	<b>39,077,298</b>	<b>39,555,892</b>	<b>40,011,690</b>	<b>40,474,836</b>
Contractual							
Sales Tax as Aid to Local Governments							
Sales Tax Distrib.to Cities, Towns & Sch Dist. from 3%		424,039,016	432,451,271	452,163,931	458,946,390	465,830,586	472,818,045
Sales Tax Flat Distrib.to Cities and Towns from 1%		12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000	12,500,000
Sales Tax Distributed to NFTA		27,310,347	27,852,140	27,981,907	29,558,566	30,001,944	30,451,973
Sub Total - Local Gov. Sales Tax		463,849,363	472,803,411	492,645,838	501,004,956	508,332,530	515,770,018
Other Agency Contractual or Mandated Payments							
Indigent Defense - Legal Aid/Bar Assoc.		25,836,984	23,047,347	23,633,621	24,342,630	25,072,909	25,825,096
Mass Transit NFTA Sec 18 B		3,657,200	3,657,200	3,657,200	3,657,200	3,657,200	3,657,200
Contractual-ECM/CCC Healthcare Network		5,760,009	6,724,030	6,782,516	6,985,991	7,195,571	7,411,438
Economic Development		3,712,236	1,687,972	881,314	907,753	934,986	963,036
Community Dev & Cultural Agencies		23,646,469	13,805,262	9,550,441	9,836,954	10,132,063	10,436,025
Buffalo Bills Game Day Expense		3,148,181	3,250,685	1,041,694	-	-	-
Stadium - Working Capital Assistance		2,016,739	2,082,283	-	-	-	-
Social Services/Youth/Mental Health Agencies		106,645,109	110,938,014	119,135,703	122,709,774	126,391,067	130,182,799
Visit Buffalo (CVB) Subsidy		5,900,401	7,450,000	7,149,030	6,949,030	6,749,030	7,149,030
Convention Center Subsidy		2,581,286	2,350,000	2,350,000	2,350,000	2,350,000	2,350,000
County Residents at Other Community Colleges		10,140,884	10,831,665	10,548,477	10,864,931	11,190,879	11,526,605
All Other Contractual Accounts		41,810,008	46,407,165	47,933,303	49,371,302	50,852,441	52,378,014
<b>Contractual Total</b>		<b>698,704,869</b>	<b>705,035,034</b>	<b>725,309,137</b>	<b>738,980,521</b>	<b>752,858,676</b>	<b>767,649,261</b>
<b>Equipment</b>		<b>9,899,787</b>	<b>5,507,448</b>	<b>7,241,835</b>	<b>7,603,927</b>	<b>7,984,123</b>	<b>8,383,329</b>

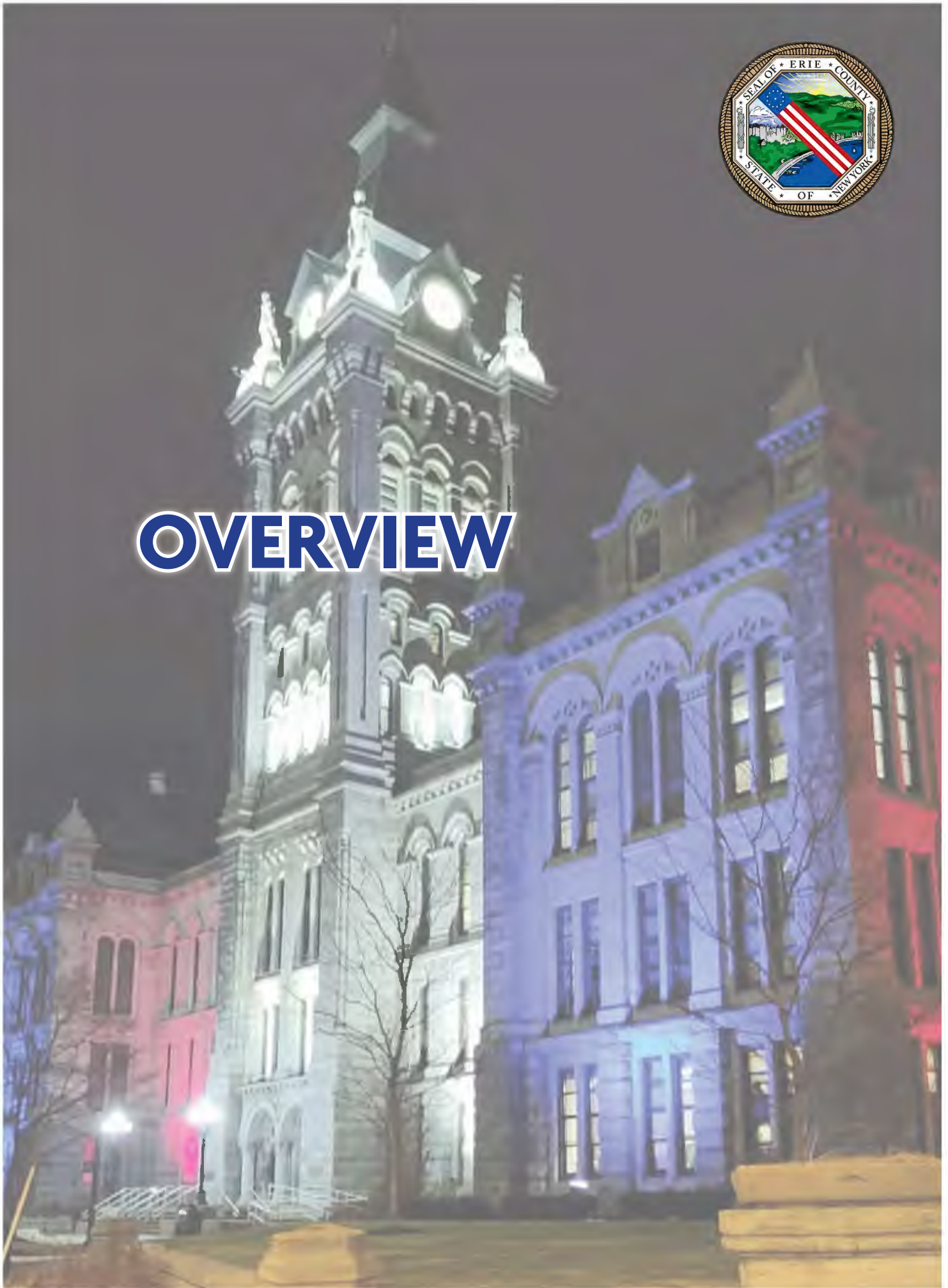
**Erie County  
2026-2029 Four-Year Financial Plan**

Fund 110 - General	Account Type	2024 Actual	2025 Legislative Adopted Budget	2026 Executive Recommended Budget	2027 Projection	2028 Projection	2029 Projection
<b>Allocation</b>							
	Interfund-Erie Community College	19,804,317	19,804,317	19,804,317	19,804,317	19,804,317	19,804,317
	Interfund-Utilities Fund	3,183,299	4,760,020	5,595,410	5,763,272	5,936,170	6,114,256
	County Share - Grants	9,629,129	12,405,524	10,752,029	11,074,590	11,406,828	11,749,033
	Interfund-Road	21,542,267	13,804,466	15,617,675	16,398,559	17,218,487	18,079,411
	Interfund -Library Subsidy	190,000	-	-	-	-	-
	Interfund E911 Subsidy	8,171,021	8,579,736	10,059,514	10,864,275	11,733,417	12,672,090
	Interdepartmental Billings	(6,922,279)	(6,889,969)	(8,093,400)	(8,336,202)	(8,586,288)	(8,843,877)
	All Other Allocation Accounts	77,337,931	12,796,240	9,484,767	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000
	<b>Allocation Total</b>	<b>132,935,685</b>	<b>65,260,334</b>	<b>63,220,312</b>	<b>64,568,811</b>	<b>66,512,931</b>	<b>68,575,230</b>
<b>Program Related</b>							
	UPL Expense	6,862,861	5,500,000	6,747,955	6,359,824	6,359,824	6,359,824
	Indigent Care Adjustment DSH	10,479,656	9,298,931	9,100,527	10,200,000	10,200,000	10,200,000
	DSH Expense	94,398,348	35,286,578	48,593,384	75,354,057	65,878,421	48,221,049
	Sub Total UPL/DSH/ICA ECMCC Subsidy	111,740,865	50,085,509	64,441,866	91,913,881	82,438,245	64,780,873
	MMIS-Medicaid Local Share	214,648,032	213,379,184	215,758,556	215,758,556	215,758,556	215,758,556
	Family Assistance	31,335,017	38,043,493	45,423,244	46,331,709	47,258,343	48,203,510
	CWS - Foster Care	69,910,291	99,177,933	103,128,609	106,222,467	109,409,141	112,691,415
	Safety Net Assistance	40,091,326	41,041,239	54,969,992	56,069,392	57,190,780	58,334,596
	Child Care-DSS	60,642,695	59,934,079	71,952,746	73,391,801	74,859,637	76,356,830
	Children With Special Needs Program	79,348,027	82,339,732	88,729,447	93,165,919	97,824,215	102,715,426
	State Training School	7,349,407	5,500,000	5,000,000	6,700,000	6,700,000	6,700,000
	All Other Program Related Accounts	2,076,724	3,329,223	2,617,813	15,922,873	18,841,608	21,234,360
	<b>Program Related Total</b>	<b>617,142,384</b>	<b>592,830,392</b>	<b>652,022,273</b>	<b>705,476,598</b>	<b>710,280,525</b>	<b>706,775,566</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>							
	Interfund Debt Service Subsidy	37,754,068	37,487,714	49,036,963	51,648,892	79,423,625	80,614,980
	<b>Debt Service Total</b>	<b>37,754,068</b>	<b>37,487,714</b>	<b>49,036,963</b>	<b>51,648,892</b>	<b>79,423,625</b>	<b>80,614,980</b>
	<b>Other Departmental Expense Total</b>	<b>1,545,280,139</b>	<b>1,457,081,827</b>	<b>1,549,675,338</b>	<b>1,622,290,538</b>	<b>1,672,250,263</b>	<b>1,688,410,829</b>
<b>Total Fund 110 Expense</b>		<b>2,027,853,109</b>	<b>1,968,183,452</b>	<b>2,081,160,029</b>	<b>2,178,953,926</b>	<b>2,250,842,519</b>	<b>2,288,697,570</b>
<b>Revenue Less Expense - Surplus/(Gap)</b>		<b>(76,467,728)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(90,042,487)</b>	<b>(95,266,842)</b>	<b>(83,636,155)</b>



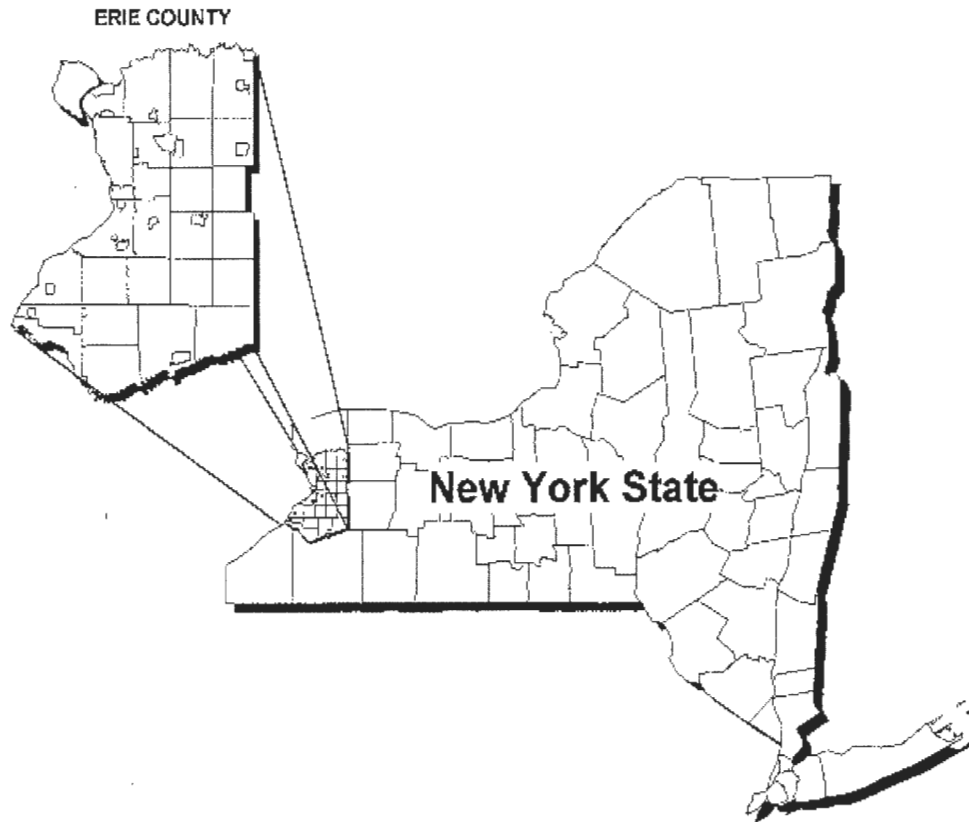


# OVERVIEW



## Snapshot of Erie County

---



### Geographic Size

Erie County is a metropolitan center located on the western border of the State covering 1,058 square miles. The County is bounded by Lake Erie to the west, Niagara County and Canada to the north, Genesee County and Wyoming County to the east, and Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties to the south. Forty percent of the population in both countries as well as half of the personal income created by the United States and Canada are within 500 miles of Erie County. In addition, three-quarters of Canada's manufacturing activity and 55% of the United States' manufacturing activity fall within that radius. Located within the County are three cities and 25 towns, including the City of Buffalo, the second largest city in the State, which serves as the County seat.

## Government

Erie County is governed under a home rule charter which provides for the separation of legislative and executive functions. The County Executive, elected to a four-year term, is the chief executive officer and chief budget officer of the County. The County Legislature consists of eleven (11) members elected to two-year terms and is the County's governing body. Other elected positions are Comptroller, County Clerk, District Attorney, and Sheriff.

## Population

The Bureau of Census population statistics for Erie County are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1970	1,113,491
1980	1,015,472
1990	968,532
2000	950,265
2010	919,040
2020	954,236

The population of the cities and five largest towns are as follows:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>2010 Population</u>	<u>2020 Population</u>
Buffalo, City	261,310	278,349
Lackawanna, City	18,141	19,949
Tonawanda, City	15,130	14,635
Amherst, Town	122,366	129,595
Cheektowaga, Town	88,226	89,877
Tonawanda, Town	73,567	72,636
Hamburg, Town	56,936	60,085
West Seneca, Town	44,711	45,344

## Economy

Erie County is a major New York industrial and commercial center. The following tables illustrate some major components of the Buffalo-Niagara Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area economy.

### Ten Largest Employers in WNY

<u>Organization</u>	<u>FTE Employees</u>
State of New York	22,032
Federal Executive Board	10,492
Kaleida Health	8,916
M & T Bank	7,656
Catholic Health	7,600
University at Buffalo	6,508
Buffalo City School District	6,244
Tops Friendly Markets	5,368
People, Inc.	4,897
Walmart	4,784

Source: 2024 *Business First* Book of Lists

### Ten Largest Taxpayers (as of July 1, 2025)

	<u>Equalized Taxable Valuation</u>
National Grid/Niagara Mohawk	\$1,594,775,418
Benderson Development Co.	1,164,556,390
National Fuel Gas	1,078,693,582
Ellicott Group, LLC	575,167,139
NYSEG	441,783,340
Uniland Development	440,363,035
Norfolk/Conrail/CSX	404,626,860
Verizon	213,483,310
Ciminelli International	192,372,213
Altus Group US	<u>\$ 190,991,642</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$6,296,812,929</u></b>

Source: Erie County Department of Real Property Tax Services, 2025 Annual Report

### Total Market Value of Erie County Real Estate

<b>Year</b>	<b>Equalized Full Market Value Tax Base</b>	<b>Change from Prior Year</b>
2016	51,961,517,243	5.58%
2017	54,929,481,216	5.71%
2018	58,098,573,862	5.77%
2019	60,970,410,994	4.94%
2020	64,771,315,474	6.23%
2021	70,645,602,048	9.07%
2022	74,148,294,674	4.96%
2023	83,955,196,847	13.23%
2024	96,968,303,216	15.50%
2025	104,251,092,857	7.51%
2026*	112,433,904,220	7.85%

Source: Erie County Department of Real Property Tax Services, 2025 Annual Report

\* Estimated





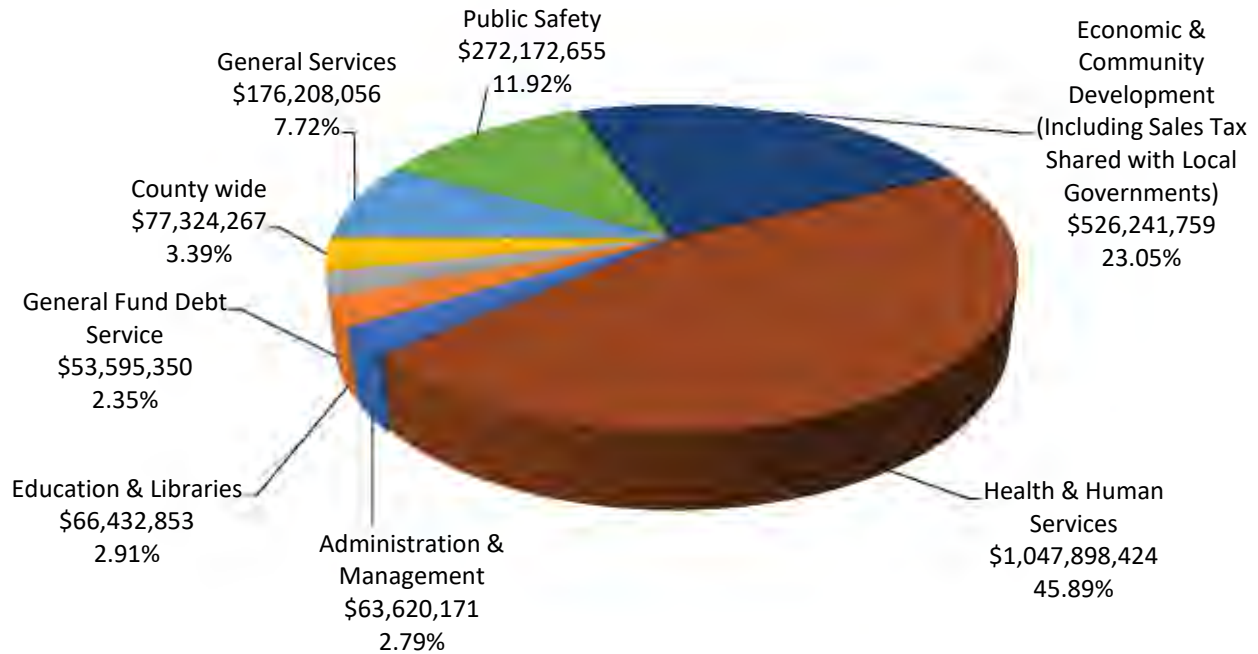


# **UNDERSTANDING THE 2026 ERIE COUNTY BUDGET**



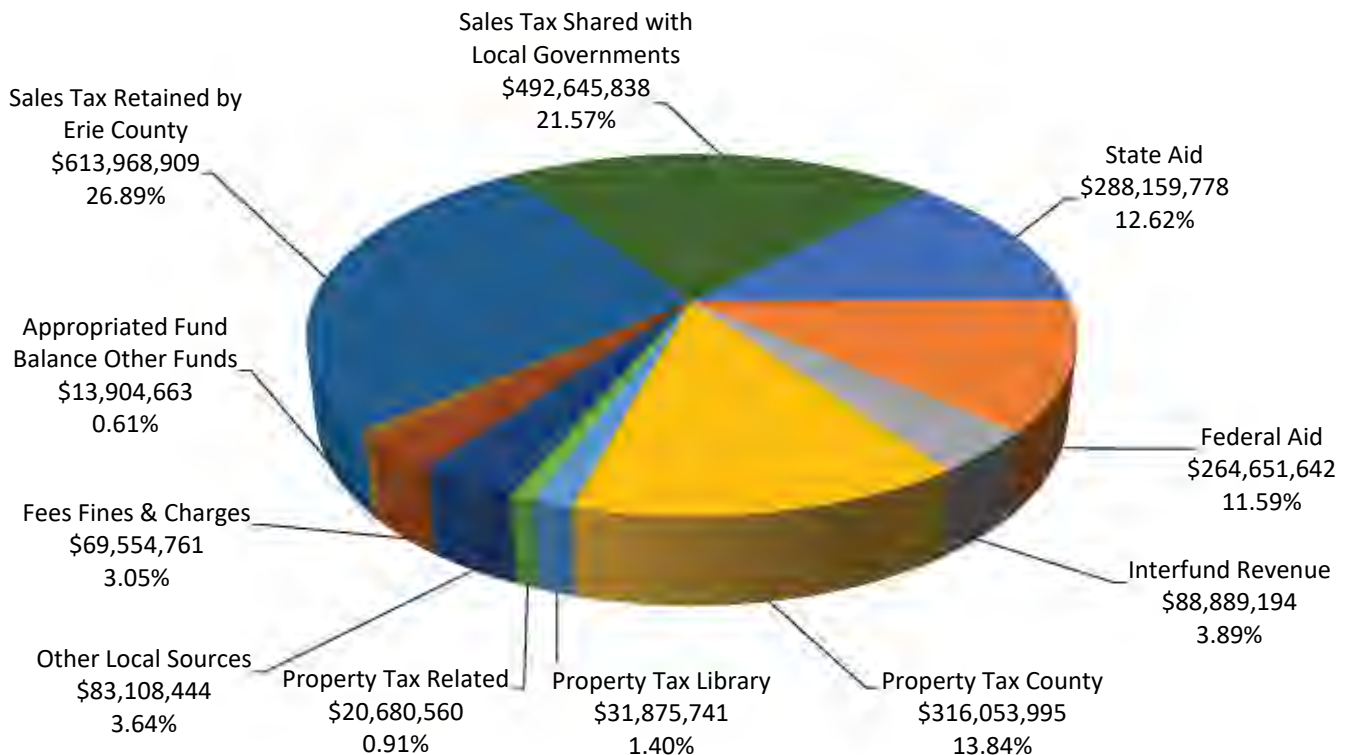
# Understanding the 2026 County Budget

## Where the Funding Goes



**The Total 2026 Budget for All Operating Funds is \$2,283,493,525**

## Where the Revenue Comes From



# Understanding the 2026 County Budget

## Summary of Unassigned/Undesignated Fund Balances for All Funds 2014-2024 (amounts in thousands)

Fund Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
110 General	92,218	99,859	100,154	101,939	102,490	102,898	104,050	113,395	136,463	141,067	149,473
210 Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
230 E-911	(96)	(43)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
820 Library	2,773	2,096	3,405	3,282	3,689	2,797	3,497	4,247	3,597	4,252	4,252
310 Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	94,895	101,912	103,559	105,221	106,179	105,695	107,547	117,642	140,060	145,319	153,725

Source: Erie County Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

## Understanding the 2026 County Budget

---

---

### Overview of All Operating Funds in the 2026 Proposed Budget

---

110 General	\$2,081,160,029
140 Utility Fund	38,800,536
210 Road Fund	59,104,071
230 E-911 Fund	14,753,480
310 Operating Fund Debt Service	53,595,350
820 Library	36,080,059
<b>Total All Operating Funds</b>	<b>\$2,283,493,525</b>

---

---

### Additional Funds in the 2026 Proposed Budget

---

220 Sewer Districts	\$84,313,823
281 Grant Fund	56,142,149
290 Community Development Fund	6,359,273
295 Pharmaceutical Settlement Fund	6,121,726
310 Sewer District Debt Service	8,061,500
821 Library Grants	639,881
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$161,638,352</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$2,445,131,877</b>

---

## Understanding the 2026 County Budget

### Outstanding General Debt at Year End (Sewer Debt Excluded)

Year	Outstanding Debt	Bond Principal Retired
2016	\$348,165,000	(\$50,715,000)
2017	\$327,405,000	(\$52,255,000)
2018	\$318,235,000	(\$49,285,000)
2019	\$310,830,000	(\$48,060,000)
2020	\$291,805,000	(\$52,065,000)
2021	\$276,450,000	(\$39,750,000)
2022	\$258,295,000	(\$45,250,000)
2023	\$238,945,000	(\$48,370,000)
2024	\$364,710,000	(\$29,175,000)
2025	\$398,433,000	(\$31,724,048)

### Capital Budget Bonded Component by Year

Year	Total Capital Projects	Total Bond Principal
2017	\$66,639,200	\$31,495,000
2018	\$80,744,879	\$40,115,000
2019	\$83,193,656	\$40,655,000
2020	\$77,483,072	\$31,840,000
2021	\$124,266,148	\$24,395,000
2022	\$154,077,904	\$27,095,000
2023	\$220,409,340	\$29,020,000
2024	\$232,063,950	\$56,182,615
2025*	\$130,260,406	\$62,898,000
2026**	\$121,962,767	\$72,850,200

\* Total 2025 capital projects authorized to date.

\*\* Total capital projects and bond principal authorized in 2026 Proposed Erie County Budget



# OVERVIEW OF REVENUES

## Property Tax Levy

---

2025 Budget: \$342,798,883  
2026 Proposed: \$347,929,736

The County property tax levy represents the total amount of real property revenue to be raised by the County for County and Library purposes. The amount of the real property tax levy is the difference between total expenses and all other projected revenue sources, including sales tax. The proposed 2026 County property tax levy totals \$347,929,736.

A breakout of the total property tax levy into two required reporting categories for 2025 and 2026 totals:

	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
General Fund	\$311,851,561	\$316,053,995
Library Fund	\$ 30,947,322	\$ 31,875,741
<b>Total Property Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$342,798,883</b>	<b>\$347,929,736</b>

### New York State Property Tax Cap Law

On June 24, 2011, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed the state's new property tax cap legislation into law (Chapter 97 of the NYS Laws of 2011). Under the law, which took effect for Erie County in its 2012 budget year, the tax cap law establishes a limit on the annual growth of property taxes levied by the County to two percent (2%) or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The County may also carry over "tax cap credits" from a prior year. The County's property tax levy cannot exceed the cap unless 60 percent (60%) of the total voting power of the local governing body approves such increase. For Erie County, a 60% vote by the County Legislature requires that 7 out of 11 legislators must vote to raise property taxes beyond the cap.

For 2026, the overall tax cap is 2.70%. Overall taxes are under the cap limit by approximately \$331,309. Under the law, the tax cap amount includes the following elements beyond just the County-purpose property tax levy: Public Library property tax levy, independent sewer districts' property tax levies, Buffalo Place fees, Board of Elections and community college respreads, previously omitted taxes and removal of exemptions. As a result, the County-purpose tax cap is effectively 1.35% for 2026.

The share of the tax levy for each jurisdiction is based on its percentage of the County's total equalized full value. For example, if 16.8 percent of the County's equalized full value is located in the Town of Amherst, then Amherst would be responsible for 16.8 percent of the total County property tax levy.

A twenty-four-year history on the amount of Erie County's annual property tax levy is shown on the next page.



**Twenty-Five Year History  
Erie County Property Tax Levy**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount of Property Tax Levy</u>	<u>Tax Rate/Per \$1,000 Assessed Value</u>
2026	347,929,736	3.09
2025	342,798,883	3.29
2024	328,709,718	3.39
2023	329,709,718	3.93
2022	319,959,718	4.32
2021	312,095,683	4.42
2020	305,272,912	4.71
2019	295,096,353	4.84
2018	287,386,093	4.95
2017	272,002,597	4.95
2016	257,638,097	4.96
2015	245,876,811	4.99
2014	241,721,087	5.03
2013	237,270,828	5.03
2012	237,692,831	5.03
2011	235,182,208	5.03
2010	232,413,974	5.03
2009	223,306,326	5.03
2008	211,837,793	4.94
2007	200,031,205	4.94
2006	188,094,445	4.94
2005	157,641,229	4.35
2004	152,529,551	4.42
2003	152,529,551	4.54
2002	152,529,551	4.74

**Average County Full Market Value Property Tax Rate**

When the operating budget is presented to the County Legislature, the average tax rate is expressed in terms of a rate per thousand dollars of equalized full value.

The average County property tax rate is calculated by dividing the tax levy by the total amount of County Equalized Full Market Value expressed in thousands:

County Tax Levy	÷	Total Equalized Full Market Value	=	Average County Full Market Property Tax Rate
\$347,929,736	÷	\$12,433,904,220	=	\$3.09 per \$1,000 Assessed Value

### Equalized Full Market Value

In 2026, the County's equalized full market value tax base will increase by \$8,182,811,363. The amount of equalized full value is determined as follows:

	Total Taxable Assessed Value	÷	Equalization Rate (rounded)	=	Equalized Full Market Value
2025	\$64,377,136,427	÷	0.6175	=	\$104,251,092,857
2026	\$75,871,476,043	÷	0.6748	=	\$112,433,904,220

A ten-year history of Erie County's equalized full value property tax base is shown below:

Year	Equalized Full Market Value Tax Base	Percentage Change From Prior Year
2017	54,929,481,216	5.71%
2018	58,098,573,862	5.73%
2019	60,970,410,994	4.94%
2020	64,771,315,474	6.23%
2021	70,645,602,048	9.07%
2022	74,148,294,674	4.96%
2023	83,955,196,847	13.23%
2024	96,968,303,216	15.50%
2025	104,251,092,857	7.51%
2026	112,433,904,220	7.85%

### Constitutional Tax Margin

The constitutional tax margin of the County is determined in accordance with Section 10 of Article VII of the New York State Constitution. This limits the amount counties may raise in real estate taxes in any fiscal year, exclusive of debt service, to 1.5 percent (1.5%) of the five-year average full value of taxable real estate of the County.

The computation of the County's constitutional taxing power for 2026 is set forth below:

#### Estimated Computation of Constitutional Tax Power for 2026

2021	70,645,602,048
2022	74,148,294,674
2023	83,955,196,847
2024	96,968,303,216
2025	104,251,092,857
Total <sup>(a)</sup>	\$429,968,489,642

Five-Year Average Full Valuation	\$85,993,697,928
Tax Limit (1.5%)	1,289,905,469
Total Exclusions	<u>53,172,836</u>
<b>Total Taxing Limit</b>	<b>1,343,078,305</b>
<b>Less Total Tax Levy for 2026<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b><u>\$ 334,185,950</u></b>
<b>Unused Tax Limit</b>	<b>\$ 1,008,893,355</b>

<sup>(a)</sup>The County's Constitutional Tax Limit is computed utilizing five years of full value as adjusted and provided by the NYS Comptroller's Office.

<sup>(b)</sup>Includes County and Library property taxes, taxes for certain election expenses and community college chargebacks totals \$22,778,710.

### **One-Percent Tax Cap**

On November 13, 1978, the County enacted a local law limiting its property tax levy to one percent (1%) of the five-year average of full valuation, exclusive of debt service.

Pursuant to the terms of this local law, Erie County's estimated 1% property tax limit, adjusted for debt service, is \$806,764,143 leaving an unused tax margin of \$446,031,310.

The one-percent property tax limit is calculated as follows:

Five-Year Average Full Valuation	\$85,993,697,928
Tax Limit (1.0%)	859,936,979
Total Exclusions	<u>53,172,836</u>
<b>Total Taxing Power</b>	<b>806,764,143</b>
<b>Less Total Levy for 2026<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b><u>360,732,833</u></b>
<b>Projected 1% Unused Tax Margin</b>	<b>\$446,031,310</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes County and Library property taxes, taxes for certain election expenses and community college chargebacks.

# Sales Tax Revenue

---

## 2026 Budget

Sales Tax Retained by Erie County	\$613,968,909
Shared with Cities, Towns, Villages, School Districts, and the NFTA	<u>\$492,645,838</u>
<b>Total Sales Tax Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,106,614,747</b>

## Distribution Formula

A general sales and compensating use tax of 8.75 percent is levied on all taxable retail sales in the County. Of the total 8.75 percent tax collected by New York State, 4.00 percent is retained as State revenue and 4.75 percent is returned to the County. In accordance with the sales tax sharing agreements, the 4.75 percent returned to the County is divided between the County and the Cities of Buffalo, Lackawanna, and Tonawanda; the towns, villages, school districts and the NFTA, with the County retaining approximately 55 percent of the total.

### Sales Tax Sharing Formulas 4.75% Sales Tax

	3%	1% <sup>(1)</sup>	0.75% <sup>(2)</sup>
<b>County of Erie</b>	<b>31.1389%</b>	<b>100% (less \$12.5M)</b>	<b>100%</b>
NFTA	4.1666%	-	-
School Districts	29.0000%	-	-
Cities	10.0087%	-	-
Towns, and Villages	25.6858%	\$12.5 million	-

<sup>(1)</sup> 1% Sales Tax authorization expires November 30, 2027

<sup>(2)</sup> 0.75% Sales Tax authorization expires November 30, 2027

## **Sales Tax Shared with Other Local Governments**

---

The following table indicates 2026 estimated sales tax to Erie County and the amount of sales tax shared with local jurisdictions.

	<b>2026 Estimated Collections</b>
<b>County Share of Sales Tax</b>	
3% Sales Tax	\$218,775,911
1% Sales Tax	220,473,914
0.75% Sales Tax	<u>174,719,084</u>
<b>Total 2026 Estimated County Share</b>	<b>\$613,968,909</b>
<b>Shared Sales Tax</b>	
3% Sales Tax Distributed to Cities, Towns and Schools	\$452,163,931
1% Sales Tax Distributed to Cities & Towns	12,500,000
3% Sales Tax Distributed to NFTA (1/24 <sup>th</sup> of overall 3%)	<u>27,981,907</u>
<b>Total 2026 to Other Jurisdictions</b>	<b><u>\$492,645,838</u></b>
<b>Total 2026 Estimated Sales Tax</b>	<b>\$1,106,614,747</b>

## All Other Local Source Revenues

---

2025 Budget: \$118,975,970  
2026 Proposed: \$124,824,463

### 2026 Distribution of All Other Revenues

	<u>Total</u>
Property Tax Related	\$20,680,560
Recoveries/Repayments	13,302,214
Hotel Occupancy Tax	14,000,000
Election Expense Re-spread	12,637,826
Community College Charge Backs	10,140,844
Interest Earnings	11,515,000
Fees, Fines, and Charges	28,795,458
Appropriated Fund Balance	0
Interfund Revenue	2,243,078
All Other Local Source Accounts	<u>11,509,483</u>
Total	\$124,824,463

### Property Tax Related

2025 Budget: \$18,152,176  
2026 Proposed: \$20,680,560

Property Tax Related revenue includes payments in lieu of taxes, revenue from property tax exemptions, interest and penalties on delinquent tax, provisions for uncollectable taxes, and real property deferred revenue adjustments.

### Recoveries/Repayments

2025 Budget: \$12,867,558  
2026 Proposed: \$13,302,214

Recoveries/repayments are revenues produced by the Department of Social Services (DSS) collection program. DSS recoups excess amounts paid to clients and maximizes collections on all accounts established by fraud, over-grant, or assistance repayment requirements.

### **Hotel Occupancy Tax**

2025 Budget: \$14,300,000  
2026 Proposed: \$14,000,000

Hotel Occupancy Tax ranging from 3% to 5% of room charges was first enacted in 1975. Local Law Intro. 3-1 (2023) established that all Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues are to be appropriated specifically for tourism related expenses. In addition to providing annual operating funding for the Buffalo Convention Center and Visit Buffalo Niagara, \$4,500,000 in revenues will be utilized annually for capital expenses for the Buffalo Convention Center, including existing debt service and future capital improvements. Each year the remainder of the \$4,500,000 for existing debt service and specific capital improvements to be undertaken will be set aside as a Capital Reserve towards future capital projects.

### **Board of Elections Re-spread Revenue**

2025 Budget: \$8,907,562  
2026 Proposed: \$12,637,826

This revenue is reimbursement from towns and cities for certain allowable expenses associated with the cost of conducting elections. The actual costs are billed back to the respective towns and cities two years later.

### **Community College Chargeback Revenue**

2025 Budget: \$9,026,388  
2026 Proposed: \$10,140,844

A community college chargeback is a process that allows students to attend a community college outside of their home county without paying higher tuition if their home county college doesn't offer their desired program of study. This revenue is reimbursement from towns and cities for the actual cost incurred by the county two years later.

### **Interest Earnings**

2025 Budget: \$10,008,000  
2026 Proposed: \$11,515,000

Primarily budgeted within Countywide Accounts – Comptroller (Funds Center 170) \$9,515,000 in Interest Earnings – General Investments are revenue realized from the regular investment of available funds in certificates of deposit, treasury notes and repurchase agreements. Enhanced earnings have been realized due to the inclusion of treasury bills in the County investment portfolio. \$2,000,000 in Interest Earnings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Investment are revenues realized from sales tax withholdings made by the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (“ECFSA”) and New York State that are transferred to the County monthly by the ECFSA.



### **Fees, Fines, and Charges**

2025 Budget:	\$28,040,340
2026 Proposed:	\$28,795,458

Revenue is received by many departments from fees or charges for their services which are provided to the public, businesses, or other outside entities. These revenues are directly attributable to departmental operations and offset a portion of their costs of providing the service. Included in this category are such revenues as: County Clerk fees; license, permit and inspection fees; fines and penalties; tax assessment services; parks and recreation fees; public health clinic fees; and others.

### **Appropriated Fund Balance**

2025 Budget:	\$	0
2026 Proposed:	\$	0

No undesignated fund balance is utilized in the 2026 Budget.

### **Interfund Revenue**

2025 Budget:	\$5,801,385
2026 Proposed:	\$2,243,078

The 2026 budget includes \$1,972,979 in residual equity transferred into the General Fund. This revenue is based on available balances derived from the closing of dormant capital projects with no remaining debt service.

### **All Other Source Accounts**

2025 Budget:	\$11,872,561
2026 Proposed:	\$11,509,483

Other items such as Off-Track Betting/Gaming revenue, Mortgage Tax, sale of scrap, excise tax on adult-use cannabis, and a variety of miscellaneous receipts are included in this category.

# State Aid

---

2025 Budget: \$243,870,687  
2026 Proposed: \$269,380,182

## 2026 Distribution of State Aid General Fund

	<u>Total</u>
Social Services	\$115,098,557
Youth Detention	14,151,285
Youth Bureau	3,222,077
Health	11,156,904
Early Intervention/Special Needs	50,489,510
Mental Health	59,401,482
Probation	2,893,382
District Attorney	4,072,356
Sheriff	3,185,000
Buildings and Grounds	3,028,890
County Attorney	1,755,000
All Other Departments	<u>560,739</u>
Total	\$269,380,182

## Department of Social Services

2025 Budget: \$100,261,115  
2026 Proposed: \$115,098,557

Revenue is received by the Department of Social Services for the State share of Public Assistance and supportive social services programs including Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), known as Family Assistance in New York State, Safety Net Assistance, Child Care subsidies through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Child Welfare Services, Emergency Assistance, Handicapped Children, and Medical Assistance.

Changes in State law revised long standing reimbursement percentages for major programs and further revision may occur as a result of annual State budget action. Family Assistance is now 100 percent Federal, and Safety Net Assistance is 29 percent State and 71 percent local. Child Day Care subsidies for families in receipt of Family Assistance are reimbursed at 75 percent of total cost from the CCDBG.

State reimbursement is also provided for some categories of administrative costs at varying rates, depending on the program administered.

Administrative costs for Medical Assistance continue to be a component of the Medicaid Cap in 2023. Because the local share costs of Medical Assistance administration are included in the Medicaid Cap chargeback, the State will reimburse the non-federal share of Medical Assistance administration in the separate administrative claim. An administrative cap on the non-federal share of Medicaid was created in 2012 restricting the reimbursement of Medicaid administrative cost to the amount received in calendar year 2010. The Medicaid administrative cap amount will not be exceeded in 2022 or 2023. This cap continues to create a concern about potential future cost shifts to the County.

State reimbursements for all foster care services and administration are capped in a Foster Care Block Grant (FCBG) in 2023. Uncapped 62 percent State reimbursement is available for child protection services and for foster care prevention, adoption subsidies and administration, and independent living services.

### **Youth Detention**

2025 Budget:	\$12,991,382
2026 Proposed:	\$14,151,285

State revenues are received to offset the operating costs of the secure and non-secure programs at the Youth Services Center. Services for Erie County youth age 15 and under are reimbursed at 49 percent of costs, while services for these youth from other counties are reimbursed at 100 percent. In addition, Youth aged 16 and 17 are reimbursed under the State Raise the Age Program at 100% of cost. The State share of Detention is now subject to a capped allocation. Additionally, reimbursement is received from the New York State Department of Education for the breakfast and lunch program provided at the Detention Facility.

### **Youth Bureau**

2025 Budget:	\$2,544,436
2026 Proposed:	\$3,222,077

State revenues are received from the State Office of Children and Family Services for Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention, Runaway and Homeless Youth, the Partnership for Youth, and for the Special Delinquency Prevention program (SDPP). The Supervised Treatment Services for Juvenile Program (STSJP) is included in the Youth Bureau Budget with 62 percent State funding. These programs are aimed at creating a healthy community environment for positive youth development as well as establishing recreational programs in an effort to deter delinquent behavior. A majority of the State revenues are redirected to other municipal and community-based agencies whose programs are monitored for effectiveness by the department. Additionally, State reimbursement is received for 49 percent of the Youth Bureau's administrative costs. Amounts budgeted reflect the impact of state reimbursement reductions expected to continue on an ongoing basis and are consistent with current actual allocations.

## **Department of Health**

2025 Budget: \$10,748,995  
2026 Proposed: \$11,156,904

The Health Division is reimbursed at 36 percent of net operating costs for State-mandated public health functions including health education, disease control, environmental health, family health, and community health assessment services. State reimbursement to the Division of Emergency Medical Services, the Public Health Lab, and the Medical Examiner is budgeted at 36 percent of net operating costs.

## **Early Intervention/Pre-K Special Education/Administration**

2025 Budget: \$47,144,603  
2026 Proposed: \$50,489,510

Revenues are received by the Department of Health from the State Education Department to support State mandated education and therapeutic services for three- and four-year old children with developmental delays. Reimbursement is budgeted at 59.5 percent of the eligible costs incurred for evaluations and corresponding services provided to children. Administrative costs for the three- and four-year old program are reimbursed at \$75 per child served and/or evaluated. Other administrative costs are reimbursed at 30 percent by the State Health Department.

Additionally, State revenues are received to support the Early Intervention Case Management Program serving infants and toddlers aged from birth through age two with developmental delays and their families. This program provides early intervention therapeutic services at home or in a day care center, rather than at a facility-based program. Payments made by the department for screenings/evaluations, case management, and early intervention services such as speech or physical therapy are reimbursed at 49 percent by the New York State Health Department.

## **Department of Mental Health**

2025 Budget: \$58,060,734  
2026 Proposed: \$59,401,482

Reimbursement is received by the Department of Mental Health in four different disability program areas and administration. This revenue includes a combination of 100 percent State funding for many program services and 50 percent deficit funding for other services and administration.

The State Office of Mental Health provides the majority of funding. It supports Department services aimed at prevention and early detection of mental illness, and the maintenance of a comprehensive system of care, treatment, and rehabilitation for the mentally ill.

State funds from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) are received to provide services designed to maintain the independence of developmentally disabled clients in the least restrictive setting. Funds from the State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) support services and rehabilitation programs for clients who abuse drugs and alcohol.

Additionally, State revenues are received to support one-half of the cost of forensic mental health services provided to adults and children involved with the criminal or family court systems. Increased Medicaid billing by community-based contract agencies for clinic treatment and other services offsets the expenses that would be directly claimed for State Mental Health.

### **Department of Probation**

2025 Budget:	\$2,592,417
2026 Proposed:	\$2,893,382

Reimbursement is received from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Office of Probation, and Correctional Alternatives for expenses incurred by the Probation Department and New York State Aid for criminal justice reform costs

### **District Attorney's Office**

2025 Budget:	\$4,000,040
2026 Proposed:	\$4,072,356

The District Attorney receives New York State Aid for criminal justice reform costs and reimbursement for a portion of the District Attorney's salary.

### **Sheriff's Office**

2025 Budget:	\$419,000
2026 Proposed:	\$3,185,000

The Police Services Division is reimbursed for expenses related to the patrol and enforcement of navigation and snowmobile laws in Erie County. The Jail receives reimbursement for the provision of court attendants for the Office of Court Administration.

Incarcerated individuals that have been convicted of a felony and are sentenced to a term of incarceration in a New York State prison, but continue to be housed at the Erie County Correctional Facility (ECCF) or the Erie County Holding Center (EHC) are known as being state-ready. Erie County is reimbursed by New York State \$100/day for each state-ready incarcerated individual housed in our facilities in excess of 10 days. The current estimated cost of housing an incarcerated individual in ECCF or EHC is \$505/day.

### **Division of Buildings and Grounds**

2025 Budget:	\$2,900,000
2026 Proposed:	\$3,028,890

State revenues are for the reimbursement of the operation and maintenance of court facilities and interest costs associated with court improvements.

**County Attorney**

2025 Budget:	\$1,755,000
2026 Proposed:	\$1,755,000

State revenues of \$1,700,000 is ILS Aid to Localities funding to reimburse for 50% of the cost associated with the County Law Article 18-B Assigned Counsel rate increase. Reimbursement was extended through March 1, 2026, as part of the SFY-2025-26 Budget.

**All Other Departments**

2025 Budget:	\$452,965
2026 Proposed:	\$560,739

Other county departments receive New York State reimbursement for items such as snowmobile trail maintenance, burial costs of indigent veterans, handicapped parking surcharges and octane testing.

## Federal Aid

---

2025 Budget: \$235,138,717  
2026 Proposed: \$264,651,642

### 2026 Distribution of Federal Aid Operating Fund

	<u>Total</u>
Social Services	\$250,923,227
Early Intervention/Special Needs	4,860,646
Sheriff Police Services/Jail Management	250,000
Homeland Security & Emergency Services	340,921
Mental Health	8,191,848
District Attorney	24,000
STOP-DWI Program	47,000
Central Police Services	<u>14,000</u>
Total	\$264,651,642

### Department of Social Services

2025 Budget: \$222,055,642  
2026 Proposed: \$250,923,227

Reimbursement is received by the Department of Social Services for the federal share of public assistance and supportive social services programs.

These programs include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) known as Family Assistance in New York State, Child Day Care subsidies through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Medical Assistance, Foster Care and Adoption for children who qualify, and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) supportive services under Title XX of the Social Security Act. Family Assistance is reimbursed at 100 percent Federal share. Child Day Care subsidies for low-income families are reimbursed at 100 percent of cost from the CCDBG up to a fixed allocation ceiling. SSBG services are reimbursed at 100 percent of cost up to a fixed ceiling.

Federal reimbursements are also received for administrative costs for programs such as TANF/Family Assistance, Employment Program Administration, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, Foster Care and Adoption, and Child Support. Reimbursement of some TANF-funded administrative, transitional services, and employment programs is consolidated in the Flexible Fund for Family Fund for Family Services (FFFS).



### **Early Intervention/Pre-K/Special Education**

2025 Budget: \$4,680,646  
2026 Proposed: \$4,860,646

The revenue budgeted represents the county's Federal share of Medicaid partial reimbursement for services given to children in the Preschool Program, ages three and four and to children in the Early Intervention Program, ages birth through two. The Pre-school Program portion is \$3,456,093 and represents the county's 40.5% share of this Federal revenue for the medical component of the various special education services.

### **Sheriff's Office**

2025 Budget: \$229,000  
2026 Proposed: \$250,000

Federal revenue is received from the Social Security Administration through the prisoner reporting incentive program. In addition, some Federal aid is provided in the Sheriff Division for drug enforcement activities.

### **Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services**

2025 Budget: \$340,921  
2026 Proposed: \$340,921

Revenues are received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the planning and coordination of emergency response activities.

### **Department of Mental Health**

2025 Budget: \$7,744,054  
2026 Proposed: \$8,191,848

Revenues are received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support housing costs and supportive costs to enable consumers of mental disability and chemical dependency services to be maintained in the community. Where required, these costs are matched by State aid and by the valuation of other community-provided services.

### **District Attorney's Office**

2025 Budget: \$31,500  
2026 Proposed: \$24,000

Federal revenue is allocated to the District Attorney's Office for activities associated with the City of Buffalo Police Department.

**STOP-DWI Program**

2025 Budget:	\$47,000
2026 Proposed:	\$47,000

Federal revenue is received for enhanced enforcement and traffic checkpoint activities associated with certain holiday crack-down efforts.

**Department of Central Police Services**

2025 Budget:	\$10,000
2026 Proposed:	\$14,000

Federal revenue is received from the Department of Justice to purchase supplies for DNA testing.





# OVERVIEW OF EXPENDITURES

# General Fund Expenditures

---

## TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

2025 Budget: \$1,968,148,452  
2026 Proposed: \$2,081,160,029

### 2026 Distribution of General Fund Expenses

	<u>Total</u>
Personnel Services	\$356,964,957
Fringe Benefits	174,519,734
Supplies and Repairs	13,767,520
Sales Tax to Local Governments	492,645,838
Contractual Expense	231,536,010
Intergovernmental Payments for ECMCC	64,441,866
Social Services Assistance and Programs	498,850,960
Early Intervention/Special Needs	89,856,736
Inter-fund Transfers (County Share)	71,313,712
Debt Service	49,036,963
All Other Expenses	38,225,733

Total \$2,081,160,029

### Personnel Services

2025 Budget: \$338,992,839  
2026 Proposed: \$356,964,957

Personnel Service appropriations cover salary for full-time positions and all other payroll related wage items such as overtime and part-time expenditures budgeted in the General Fund. This also includes a reduction to personnel expenses in the form of combined \$4,000,000 turnover (vacancy savings) accounts.

### Fringe Benefits

2025 Budget: \$172,108,756  
2026 Proposed: \$174,519,734

Fringe benefit expenses are budgeted at the department level in the operating fund.

## Supplies and Repairs

2025 Budget:	\$12,972,664
2026 Proposed:	\$13,767,520

This expense category includes general office, medical, repair, and maintenance supplies, in addition to food for inmates at the Jail and Correctional Facility. It also includes the purchase of fuel for vehicles countywide.

## Sales Tax to Local Governments and NFTA

2025 Budget:	\$472,803,411
2026 Proposed:	\$492,645,838

The County shares sales tax collection with cities, towns, villages, school districts, and the NFTA. Details can be obtained in the revenue section of this document.

## Contractual Agency Payments

2025 Budget:	\$230,765,393
2026 Proposed:	\$231,536,010

The major accounts comprising this appropriation include: Social Services contractual agencies – \$50,394,027; and payments to various youth programs such as Operation Prime Time – \$4,233,329. Mental Health contractual agency payments total \$70,448,318.

Other major agency contractual expense include: Community College payments for residents enrolled in other Community Colleges – \$10,548,477; Convention & Visitors Bureau/Convention Center – \$9,499,030; cultural/community/neighborhood development support – \$9,550,441; economic development funding – \$881,314; Indigent Defense – \$23,633,621; and for NFTA 18-b support – \$3,657,200.

### Note on NFTA payments:

County support for the NFTA not only includes the State-mandated 18-b subsidy of \$3,657,200, equal to 89.2% of the State appropriation (currently \$4,100,000), but also a dedicated portion of Sales Tax.

NFTA	Sales Tax	County Subsidy (18-b)	Total
2025 Budget	\$27,852,140	\$3,657,200	\$31,509,340
2026 Proposed	\$27,981,907	\$3,657,200	\$31,639,107

## **Intergovernmental Payments for the benefit of ECMCC**

2025 Budget:	\$50,085,509
2026 Proposed:	\$64,441,866

Pursuant to a 2009 agreement, the County must incur an annual obligation on behalf of ECMCC for a minimum of \$16,200,000 for the cost for State mandated supplemental Medicaid payments. Supplemental Medicaid payments are received by the Erie County Home and the Erie County Medical Center and are designed to access the maximum possible federal reimbursement for those public facilities in recognition of their high proportions of Medicaid and indigent care which is provided. Payments to the Erie County Home are known as Upper Payment Limit (UPL) supplements, while payments to the Erie County Medical Center are known as Disproportionate Share (DSH) supplements. These mandated payments require a 50 percent local share match, the costs of which are excluded from the Medicaid Cap. The mandated Indigent Care Adjustment DSH expense represents payments to ECMCC as compensation for their high cost of providing indigent care in a similar manner as described for DSH payments above.

## **Social Services Assistance Payments and Program Expenses**

2025 Budget:	\$460,405,151
2026 Proposed:	\$498,850,960

The majority of Social Services Fund expenditures are for assistance payments made to or on behalf of eligible families or individuals. There are seven major assistance programs and a number of other smaller programs:

### ***Family Assistance (Account 525040)***

2025 Budget:	\$38,043,493
2026 Proposed:	\$45,423,244

Public assistance benefit payments are made for basic needs, shelter, and utilities, etc., to families eligible for this Federal/State/local program. Under federal changes, welfare became known as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in August 1996. In New York State, TANF is referred to as Family Assistance.

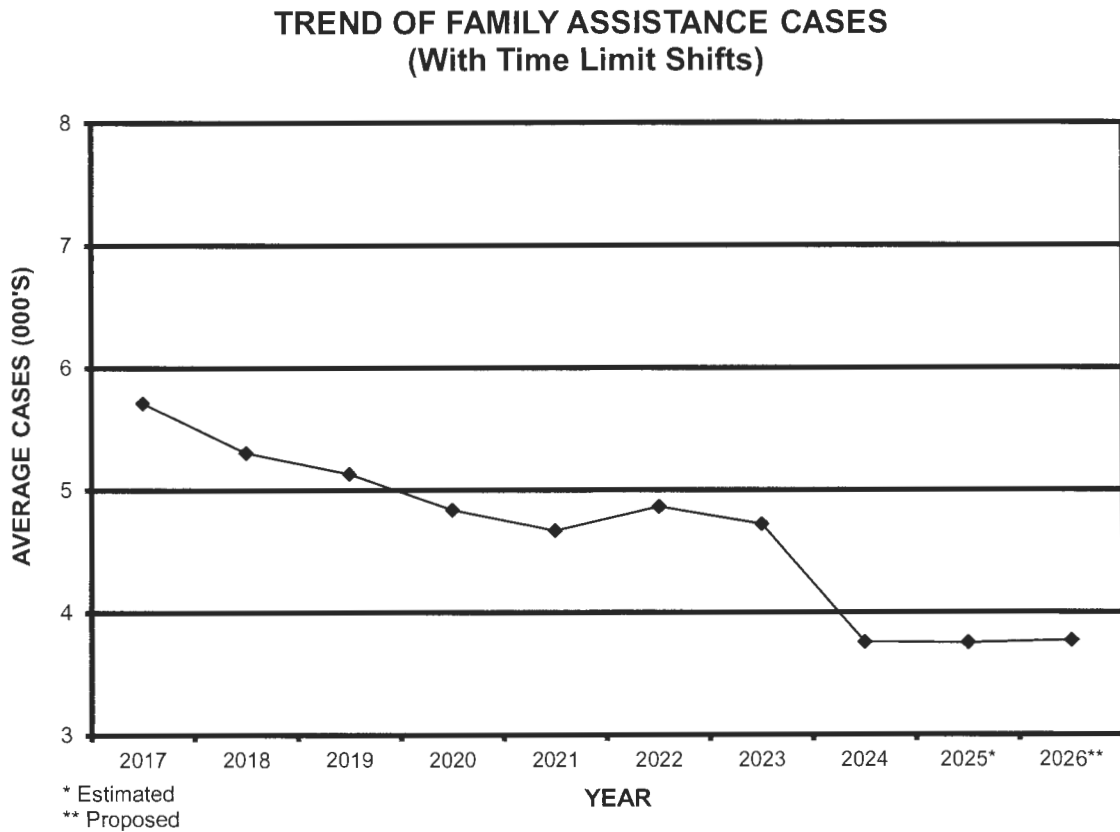
Federal Welfare Reform legislation enacted in December 1996 ended the Federal entitlement to public assistance. It provides funding to the states in the form of fixed block grants to cover temporary assistance to families. Limits are placed on the length of time families may receive Federal TANF (Family Assistance) benefits, and new work requirements are imposed for nearly all adults in Family Assistance (TANF) cases. There is a five-year (60-month) lifetime limit on Family Assistance benefits. For cases in which individuals fail to comply with drug or alcohol dependency assessment and treatment requirements, benefits must be restricted to non-cash voucher payments to landlords and utility companies with only a small personal needs allowance.



Benefits are also restricted to non-cash voucher payments and small personal needs allowances when the five-year (60-month) lifetime limit on Family Assistance eligibility is reached.

Caseloads are funded at an average level of 3,772 cases per month in 2025 with an average base monthly cost per case of \$867.29.

The 2025 caseload estimate reflects caseload trends that have occurred to date. It assumes that the current base caseload will continue to increase for the balance of 2025 and 2026 at a monthly rate of 17 cases.



The 2025 monthly base cost per case estimate of \$994.62 is consistent with current actuals with adjustments to provide for voucher fuel cases.

There is no local County Share cost of the Family Assistance program.

### **Safety Net Assistance (Account 525060)**

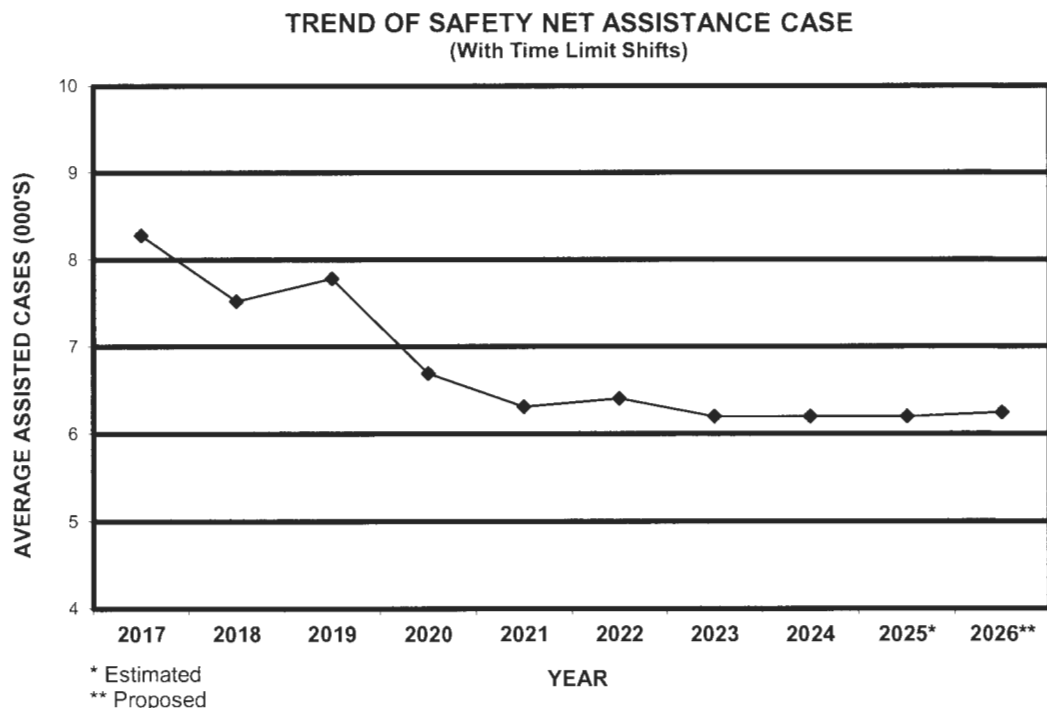
2025 Budget: \$41,041,239  
2026 Proposed: \$54,969,992

Public Assistance benefit payments are made for basic needs, shelter, and utilities, etc., primarily to single individuals or childless couples who are eligible for this State/local general assistance program. Formerly known as Home Relief, this program now incorporates a two-year lifetime limit on cash benefits. After two years, and for those cases with individuals exempted from work activities because they are in drug or alcohol rehabilitation, or for those failing to comply with assessment and treatment requirements, benefits must be restricted to non-cash direct voucher payments to landlords and utility companies with only a small personal needs allowance.

Welfare reform and the creation of the Safety Net Assistance program has affected caseloads and costs per case in much the same way as described above for the Family Assistance Program.

Caseloads are funded at an average level of 6,244 cases per month in 2025, with an average base monthly cost per case of \$556.78.

The 2025 caseload estimate is based on caseload trends that have occurred to date. It assumes that the current base caseload will continue to remain consistent for the balance of 2025 and 2026 at a monthly rate of 33 cases. This produces a trend caseload estimate for 2026 that averages 6,389.



The County share cost of the Safety Net Assistance program is \$35,048,693 in 2025 after subtracting client repayments, 29 percent State reimbursements and other revenues from the gross appropriation. This is an increase of \$13,221,170 (51.3%) compared to the 2025 Adopted Budget amount.

***Medicaid – MMIS Local Share (Account 525000)***

2025 Budget:           \$213,379,184 (52 weekly payments)  
2026 Proposed:       \$215,758,556 (52 weekly payments)

This appropriation is the County's net local share of all Medicaid – related costs under the State's Local Share Medicaid Cap, which began January 2006, and a subsequent State phase-out of the local share increases beginning in 2016. As currently legislated, Erie County's statutory cap is \$215,758,576. In recent years, this cap been reduced, however, to reflect enhanced federal reimbursement (eFMAP) under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and, most recently, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

The Medicaid Cap is all inclusive, covering the local share costs of the following components:

- Payments made to providers through the State MMIS billing/payment system (now known as eMedNY) for services rendered to eligible persons. Total medical bills are paid by the eMedNY system, and the County is charged back only the local share of the gross payments made.
- Payments made locally by Erie County to insurance companies and other client medical expense reimbursement that are claimed for reimbursement of Federal and State shares.
- Medicaid program administration costs that are part of the monthly reimbursement claim. The non-federal share of Medicaid administration is capped at 2011 expense amounts. The Department is monitoring this expense and the expectation at this time is that neither 2025 nor 2026 will result in cap overage.
- All revenues associated with Medicaid programs such as repayments.
- Medicare Part A and B premium and copayments and Part B charges that are charged quarterly to Medicaid.
- Other "off-line" payments such as bad debt pool and similar quarterly payments to providers.

The amount required for the 2026 calendar year reflects weekly cash payments for the 2025-2026 State Fiscal Year and the 2025-2026 State Fiscal Year Medicaid caps that are both calculated based on the State's payment cycles and are apportioned to the County's 52 weekly payment cycles in calendar 2026.

Elsewhere in the budget is a separate appropriation in the amount of \$48,593,384 for the local share of supplemental federal payments to the Erie County Medical Center – for Disproportionate Share (DSH). These supplemental payments are specifically excluded from the Medicaid Cap as is the Indigent Care expense of \$9,100,527.

***Medicaid – Gross Local Payments (Account 525030)***

2025 Budget:       \$25,840  
2026 Proposed:     \$25,840

Certain Medicaid payments are made directly to providers by the Erie County Department of Social Services, rather than through the State MMIS (eMedNY) system. Services paid locally from this appropriation include medical insurance premiums when private insurance coverage is available and cost-effective, and other miscellaneous medical expenses. All medical transportation services previously paid locally from this account were shifted to the State MMIS payment system.

The 2026 appropriation includes \$28,606 for insurance premiums. The 2026 reduction reflects impacts of the Affordable Care Act on private insurance coverage.

Because of the Medicaid Cap which includes the local share of these local payments there is no separate local share associated with this appropriation. Repayment and other revenues received locally and applied against these costs in the past will be returned to the State in claiming adjustments.

***Child Welfare Services (Account 525050)***

2025 Budget:       \$99,177,933  
2026 Proposed:     \$103,128,609

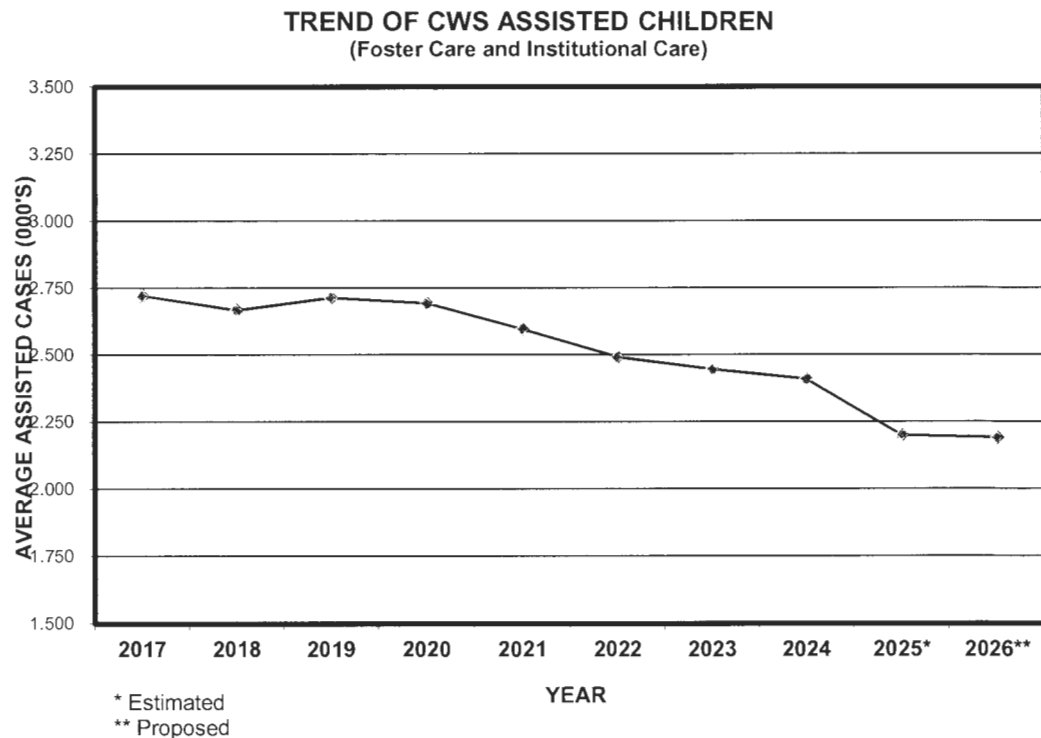
This appropriation is used to pay for the costs of the care of children placed by the Family Court into the custody of the Commissioner of Social Services. These children reside in foster homes, group homes, and in child caring institutions. A majority of children are in foster home placements in connection with child protection cases. Placements in group homes and institutions are ordered primarily for Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) or for Juvenile Delinquents (JD's).

Appropriations in the 2026 budget are estimated based on analyses of historical and current trends of expenditures, children in care, monthly costs per child, and changes in per diem board, tuition, and other rates.

Children assisted are funded at an average level of 2,192 per month in 2026, with an overall average monthly cost per child of \$4,082.

Based on present trends, the average monthly number of children funded in 2025 is decreased over the 2024 level of children in care. The decrease is based on assumed changes to Federal Law governing the provision of foster care services. The ability to hold the total number of children served relatively steady over the last ten years is a major accomplishment after years of steady growth and given recent increases in Child Protection activity that often led to placement. This reflects final assessment reform, enhanced front door strategies, and expanded preventive services options. The increase in costs associated with Child Welfare cases is directly linked to the implementation of a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and a revision of New York State Codes regarding the payment of Maximum State Aid Rates (MSARs). All districts required to pay at least 100% of the MSAR published by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

The County share cost of Child Welfare Services is \$10,035,696 in 2026 after subtracting client repayments and Federal and State reimbursements from the gross appropriation. Federal TANF/EAF revenues for foster care and PINS/JD institutional costs are budgeted at the current estimated ceiling.



Child Welfare Services costs, including foster care and PINS/JD institutional costs which cannot be claimed for federal TANF/EAF reimbursement, are included, along with Foster Care administrative costs, in the State's Foster Care Block Grant (FCBG). The FCBG covers 100 percent of non-federal costs up to the Block Grant ceiling, after which non-federal costs become 100 percent local share. Adoption Subsidy expenses are reimbursed separately from the FCBG with a (net of Federal) State share of 62 percent. There is no fixed cap to adoption subsidy reimbursement.

***Child Care Development Block Grant (Account 525092)***

2025 Budget:       \$57,775,186  
2026 Proposed:     \$68,888,680

Childcare (daycare) subsidies are provided to low-income families and those in receipt of Public Assistance through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to enable them to maintain employment or to engage in work activities. The Department of Social Services seeks to provide daycare services for families at or below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Low-income families with incomes below 300 percent of the FPL are eligible for subsidies that vary depending on the daycare setting. Childcare subsidies are provided for families in receipt of Public Assistance to enable the parent to accept and retain employment or to participate in required work activities. The amount of the subsidy varies with the daycare setting.

Several new provisions were included as part of the SFY 2023-24 New York State Budget, that have resulted in increased costs to the program. These include:

- State Median Income – If funds are available, districts are required to open all new child care assistance cases, that are otherwise programmatically eligible, if the family income is at or below 85% of the SMI.
- Family Share – The family share will be set at 1% of income exceeding the federal poverty level for all districts across the state. Districts will no longer select the percentage a family must pay toward the cost of child care assistance.
- Absences – All districts are required to provide assistance for children who are temporarily absent from care for up to 80 days per child per year. Districts will no longer be able to opt to pay for fewer than 80 absences. Reimbursement for additional absences may be allowed in the case of extenuating circumstances, as determined by OCFS.
- Breaks in Activities – Section 410-w(1)(a) of the SSL has been amended to remove the time limits on child care assistance provided during breaks in activities for families in receipt of public assistance. Such child care assistance must be provided pursuant to regulation.

The 2026 budgeted amount reflects these changes as well as recent trends in the number of children subsidized in the various daycare settings and payments to providers. A monthly average of 5,822 children in low-income families are expected to receive subsidies in 2026. Children in Public Assistance families receiving subsidies are estimated at 203 on average each month, a number necessary to support the level of work activity participation required of parents.

The 2026 total cost of low-income subsidies is budgeted at \$68,888,680. These costs are 100 percent reimbursed with federal funds up to the limit of the Child Care Development Block Grant. The budget includes \$5,058,968 for mandated subsidies to children in Public Assistance Families. These costs are reimbursed with state funds through the Block Grant at 75 percent of cost. The 25 percent local share cost for Public Assistance children is \$1,264,742 in 2026.

### ***Other Programs***

2025 Budget:	\$10,962,276
2026 Proposed:	\$10,656,039

In this category are appropriations for a number of smaller programs administered by the Department of Social Services. These include: Account 525070 – Emergency Assistance to Adults, \$1,436,386; Account 525080 – Education of Handicapped Children in Residential Schools, \$234,188; 525110 – Home-Delivered Meal Assistance, \$70,000; and Account 525120 – Expenses for the Special Needs of Individuals in Adult Family Homes, \$1,000. Amounts budgeted in 2026 reflect current trends in utilization.

Childcare funded by Title XX (Account 525091), in cases of child protection and for purposes of foster care prevention, totals \$3,064,066 for a monthly average of 341 children, and Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefit costs total \$850,399 (Account 525140).

### **Early Intervention/Special Needs**

2025 Budget:	\$83,770,962
2026 Proposed:	\$89,856,736

Developmental and special education programs are administered by the Department of Health, Division of Services to Persons with Special Needs. Children, birth through two years old, are identified, evaluated, and placed in developmental programs by the County's Early Intervention Case Management program. Children three and four-years old are identified, evaluated, and placed in special education programs by the local school districts. Eligible service costs for three and four-year old children are paid by the County and are reimbursed partially by the State Education Department. Some services to eligible three and four-year-old children also may be claimed for the Federal share of Medicaid.

Under Chapter 243 of the laws of 1989, the County also is responsible for a 10 percent share of the cost of the school age (ages five to twenty-one) summer program which is billed to the County at 100% county share on at the end of each school year. In addition, the County is responsible for a portion of the cost of the special committees of local school districts which place children in preschool programs.



As authorized by 1993 New York State legislation, the County is responsible for the provision of various developmental services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and pre-school education in the Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and their families. Services are based on an Individual Family Service Plan developed by the family, an evaluator, a County case manager, and the County local early intervention official (designated by the County Executive). The County cost is offset by Medicaid and third-party insurance reimbursement for eligible children. Remaining eligible service costs are paid by the County and are reimbursed partially by the State Health Department.

#### **Interfund Transfers (Allocation)**

2025 Budget:	\$72,150,303
2026 Proposed:	\$71,313,712

This includes allocations for County share of the Road Fund \$15,617,675; County share of grants \$10,752,029; County share of Utility Fund \$5,595,410, County share of the E-911 Fund \$10,059,514 and \$9,484,767 for Departmental pay-as-you-go capital needs. Also included is the Maintenance of Effort payment of \$19,804,317 to SUNY Erie Community College.

#### **Debt Service**

2025 Budget:	\$37,487,714
2026 Proposed:	\$49,036,963

This represents \$49,036,963 for General Obligation Bond Debt Service. A Revenue Anticipation Note will not be issued in 2025 so there is no 2026 Interest on Revenue Anticipation Notes appropriation.

#### **All Other Expenses**

2025 Budget:	\$36,605,750
2026 Proposed:	\$38,225,733

Included in the Other Expense category is \$470,000 of operational expenses for the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority.

The balance covers all other remaining expenses in the 2026 Budget for the Operating Fund including inter-departmental billings, telephone charges, rentals, risk retention, and equipment.

# **Fringe Benefits Expenditures**

---

## **Fringe Benefits - All Funds**

Fringe benefits are provided for County employees based on the provisions of the various collective bargaining agreements and/or Federal, State, and local laws. The County is required to provide appropriations for FICA, medical and hospitalization insurance, dental insurance, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation. An appropriation is also provided for retired County employees eligible to participate in a joint retiree-County funded medical and hospitalization insurance program. The basis of the appropriation for each fringe benefit category is explained below.

## **Federal Insurance Contributions Act - FICA**

The FICA contribution totals 7.65% of wages with 6.2% applied toward Social Security and 1.45% for Medicare. The Social Security portion, 6.2%, is applied toward total salary up to a maximum wage base which was capped at \$176,100 for 2025. The Medicare portion, 1.45%, has no cap. The 1.45% Medicare 2025 estimate is applied to all wages.

## **Workers' Compensation**

Workers' Compensation payments are set with a \$1,222.42/week maximum for claims paid July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026. The proposed 2026 appropriation for workers' compensation accounts for increases and were based on the current year's activity, adjusted for anticipated medical costs. The appropriation provides funding for medical and indemnity payments, mandated state assessments, and administration fees. The total appropriation is normally budgeted through the various funds and is charged through the payroll system as expenses are incurred.

## **Unemployment Insurance Coverage**

The 2026 appropriation for unemployment insurance anticipates an outlay of approximately \$421,365.

## **Medical and Hospitalization Insurance - Active Employees**

The 2026 budget estimate for active employees' medical and hospitalization insurance is based on the County's one source health insurance plan and was adjusted for estimated increases in premium costs for the various plans with an adjustment for those employees enrolled in the waiver program. These estimates were obtained in coordination with our consultant to the Labor-Management Health Care Fund, the entity that manages health insurance for the County.

## Dental Insurance

The estimated cost for dental insurance for County employees in 2026 is based on the current premium for all employees, the number of funded positions, and the current family/single coverage ratio. A separate ratio was used for each fund.

## Retirement/Pension

On a weighted average basis, the 2026 employer rates (16.65%) as provided by the Employees' Retirement System will be greater than the rates of 2025 (16.10%) for the annual payment that will be due February 1, 2027 (or December 15, 2026, if the County opts to pre-pay). The pension retirement expenditures for 2026 were calculated factoring-in the 2025 components of the April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, and April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027, billing periods. Estimated costs for each tier and year are based on rates supplied by the Office of the State Comptroller and use a salary base from the prior State Fiscal Year.

Tier	Salary Base	Rate
1	\$ 212,969	25.4%
2	196,782	23.2%
3	2,255,750	19.5%
3S	15,946	24.2%
4	144,137,672	19.5%
4S	13,961,417	31.8%
5	17,015,146	16.5%
5S	1,181,224	29.2%
6	180,976,985	12.7%
6S	7,808,262	25.6%

S-Sheriffs, Undersheriffs, and Deputy Sheriffs Special Plan

## Medical and Hospitalization Insurance - Retirees

The County's projected contribution toward retirees' medical and hospitalization insurance is based on expected 2026 costs and was adjusted for estimated increases in premium costs. The County currently expenses retiree health costs on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. The unfunded future retiree health costs are described under the GASB 45 Section.

## GASB 45

GASB 45 is an accounting standard that requires governments to reflect in their financial statements the estimated future cost of paying for benefits, such as retiree health insurance, that has been earned due to the service years provided to-date by existing retirees and current employees.

# Union Contracts

---

## UNION CONTRACTS

The table below details the status of all County union contracts, contract expiration dates, and membership.

The County continues to pursue negotiations with all unions that will enable fair agreements for the benefit of both employees and taxpayers.

Union	Contract Expiration	Represents
Administrator*	8/31/2020	ECC Administration
Faculty*	8/31/2020	ECC Faculty Federation
Library Clerical & Maintenance*	12/31/2026	B&ECPLS - Contracting Libraries Clerical & Maintenance
AFSCME	12/31/2026	Blue Collar
CSEA Correction Officers	12/31/2026	Sheriff - Correction Officers & Medical Staff
NYSNA	12/31/2026	Nurses
PBA	12/31/2026	Sheriff - Police Services Division
Teamsters Captains & Lieutenants	12/31/2026	Sheriff - Holding Center Captains & Lieutenants
Teamsters Sworn & Civilian	12/31/2026	Sheriff - Holding Center Deputies, Sergeants & Correctional Health
CSEA	12/31/2027	White Collar
Librarian*	12/31/2028	B&ECPLS - Professional Librarians

*\* Although still considered collective bargaining units of County government requiring final approval of contracts by the Erie County Legislature, agreements with these units are negotiated independently of the County's Department of Labor Relations by Erie Community College (ECC) and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System (B&ECPLS) administrators.*



# **BUDGET PROCESS AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE**

# Budget Process

---

## Dynamics of Budgeting

Budgeting is a dynamic process. It demands continuous monitoring of actual expenses and revenues as well as ongoing study to determine the accuracy of budget estimates and the need for corrective action. Moreover, it requires periodic forecasting to determine how changes in the fiscal environment, revisions to County policies and new service demands will impact future budgetary needs.

While budgeting is a year-round process, the development of the annual budget usually commences nine months prior to the start of the new fiscal year. The procedures governing the preparation, submission and adoption of Erie County's annual budget are prescribed in Article 25 of the Erie County Charter and Article 18 of the Erie County Administrative Code.

## Budget Preparation Calendar

**April:** The County Capital Budget Committee begins review of departmental capital budget requests for the ensuing year.

**May:** Budget planning for the County's next fiscal year begins in a concrete manner once the state budget has been finalized. By law the state budget must be adopted by April 1st. Budget forecasts and targets are developed and evaluated based on: County budget monitoring data, state and federal budget impact data, estimates of inflationary cost increases needed to maintain current service levels, and estimates of the costs associated with new service needs.

**July:** Detailed budget instructions along with personal service reports are issued to department heads to guide the preparation of department budget requests.

**August:** Departments submit their detailed budget requests to the County Executive for consideration on or before August 15th.

**September:** Departmental budget requests continue to be analyzed in detail by staff in the Division of Budget and Management. Each expenditure and revenue account is evaluated to determine the best estimates of revenue available and the most accurate estimates of necessary and optional expenses.

Proposed budget recommendations and alternatives are prepared by the Budget Division for review and consideration by the County Executive. The County Executive's budget decisions are then incorporated by Budget staff into a proposed budget document.

## **2026 Budget Adoption Process**

The County Executive is required by the Erie County Charter and the Administrative Code to provide the Comptroller's Office with a projection of major revenue and expenditures by October 1, 2025 and then submit a proposed budget for the next fiscal year to the Erie County Legislature on or before October 15, 2025. The proposed budget contains estimates of operating revenues and expenses for each administrative unit of County government, a capital budget, and a six-year capital program. It must be presented in the form of a line-item budget.

The proposed budget is accompanied by the County Executive's Budget Message. The message highlights important features of the Proposed Budget and outlines the key assumptions, policies, and initiatives on which it is based.

After receiving the proposed budget, the Legislature holds public hearings and considers whether proposed budget items should be amended. They may add and/or delete positions and increase or decrease items of expense (appropriation), except for those items required by law or for repayment of debt.

The Erie County Legislature will hold its annual budget adoption meeting on December 4, 2025, at which time the Legislature votes on any changes to be incorporated into the Adopted Budget.

If the Legislature fails to approve changes to the proposed budget, it is considered to have been adopted with no further action required by the County Executive. If the budget adopted by the Legislature does contain additions or increases, it must be presented to the County Executive on or before the second business day after the sixth of December (December 9, 2025) for consideration of vetoes.

The County Executive may veto any items added or increased by the Legislature to which he objects. Deletions or decreases are not subject to veto. If items are vetoed by the County Executive, a statement indicating the vetoed items and the reason for each veto must be returned to the Legislature on or before the seventh business day after the sixth of December (December 16, 2025).

The Legislature may override the County Executive's vetoes by a two-thirds majority vote. This must be done on or before the tenth business day after the sixth of December (December 19, 2025).

The 2026 Budget, incorporating any legislative changes, executive vetoes, and legislative veto overrides is considered adopted in final form after the tenth business day after the sixth of December has passed (December 19, 2025).

## **Revisions after Budget Adoption**

Once adopted, no County department may spend funds in excess of the amount appropriated for each line-item of expense. Occasionally, it is necessary to revise the Adopted Budget during the year to adjust appropriations to match actual spending requirements. This is done either by transferring funds from one appropriation to another within the same administrative unit, or by appropriating unanticipated revenue that has been received.

The County Executive may transfer part or all of the unencumbered appropriation balance between line-items of expense within the same administrative unit if the amount for a given line-item transfer is \$50,000 or less. Approval of the Legislature is required, in the form of a legislative resolution, if the transfer exceeds \$50,000 or if it would affect any salary rate or salary total.

The appropriation of any unanticipated revenue requires the approval, by resolution, of the Erie County Legislature, as does the creation or deletion of any staff position associated with an appropriation revision.

Resolutions which seek approval to revise the Adopted Budget are submitted to the Legislature by County administrative units through the County Executive's Office. Elected Officials submit resolutions directly to the Legislature. All submissions are considered by the Legislature throughout the year at their bi-monthly legislative sessions.

## **Budget Monitoring Process**

The Division of Budget and Management produces Budget Monitoring Reports ("BMR"). The BMR reports on appropriation and revenue accounts critical to maintaining a balanced budget. The report also contains impact statements on the local effects of federal and state policies.

The BMR is designed to give management a measurement tool for determining if actual revenues and expenditures are in line with estimated amounts. This timely information allows the County to detect problems and if required take corrective budgetary action.

In addition to the BMR, other reports are generated periodically to evaluate budget performance, including:

- On-going tracking and analysis of personnel matters including overtime usage and all position vacancies.
- On-going tracking and analysis of local share Medicaid expenditures, as well as Safety Net Assistance and Family Assistance caseloads.
- Tracking of all revenues.



# Budget Calendar - 2026

---

## January

County fiscal year began January 1.

Division of Budget and Management (DBM) works with Comptroller's Office to close 2025 books.

Tax bills sent to taxpayers in the City of Buffalo and first class towns.

## February

DBM reviews impact of Governor's Proposed Budget.

DBM develops monthly budget allotments for current year budget.

Subjects identified for special studies on cost containment and revenue enhancement.

Tax bills sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> class towns.

## March

Special studies continue.

## April

DBM begins development of ensuing year budget forecast.

The Capital Budget process begins for the ensuing year budget.

## May

Special studies continue.

## June

DBM assembles ensuing year budget instructions including appropriation and revenue worksheets and preparation of personal services data runs.

Special studies are concluded.

DBM begins to develop budget targets for departments.

## July

Budget instructions sent to departments along with personal services reports

Year-end projection instructions sent to departments.

## August

Departments complete submission of personnel change requests to Personnel Department and DBM.

Departments finalize ensuing year budget requests and submit to DBM.

Capital Budget process is concluded.

## September

County Executive and DBM review and make recommendations on requests from Departments and community agencies.

Studies are incorporated into 2027 Proposed Budget.

County Executive and DBM finalize recommendations for 2027 Proposed Budget.

## October

Major revenue and expenditure projections transmitted to Comptroller by October 1, 2026.

County Executive submits 2027 Proposed Erie County Budget to Legislature by October 15, 2026.

## November

Legislature reviews Proposed Budget and conducts departmental hearings and public hearing.

## December

Legislature to hold annual budget meeting – Thursday, December 3, 2026.

Deadline for Legislature to return Budget to County Executive if any increases are added – on or before the second business day after the sixth of December. (December 8, 2026).

Deadline for County Executive to veto any increases – on or before the seventh business day after the sixth of December (December 15, 2026).

Deadline for Legislature to meet and consider County Executive vetoes – on or before the tenth business day after the sixth of December (December 18, 2026).

Final equalized tax rates are determined. Legislature adopts final real property tax levies.

# Financial Structure

---

## Fiscal Year

The County's fiscal year begins January 1 and ends on December 31 of each calendar year.

## Fund Structure

The County's budgetary and accounting systems are organized and operated on a "Fund" basis. Each fund is considered a separate entity and is made up of a set of inter-related and self-balancing accounts. Together, these accounts comprise a fund's assets, liabilities, fund/balance/retained earnings, revenues, and expenditures/expenses.

The accounts in a fund are segregated and related to one another for the purpose of carrying out specific activities or attaining certain objectives. They are created and operated in accordance with law and/or special regulations, restrictions or limitations, or as dictated by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Erie County utilizes the funds described below. All funds are included in the County's General Purpose Financial Statements.

**General Fund (Budget Fund 110)** The principal operating fund which includes all operations, activities, and resources not required to be recorded in other funds.

Funding Sources: Real property taxes; Sales taxes; Departmental charges; State and Federal partial reimbursements; Client recoveries; Fees, Fines and Other Charges; and Hotel Occupancy Tax.

### **Special Revenue Funds:**

Funding Sources: The following funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes and are shown in the same manner in the County's annual financial statements.

### **Grant Fund (Budget Fund 281 and Budget Fund 821 – Library)**

Funding Sources: Transfer payments and/or subsidy from General Fund; State and Federal full or partial reimbursement; grant income.

### **Community Development (Budget Fund 290)**

Funding Source: Federal Reimbursement.

### **Sewer Fund (Budget Fund 220)**

Funding Sources: Sewer Real Property Tax; user fees.

### **Road Fund (Budget Fund 210)**

Funding Sources: Subsidy payment from General Fund; partial State reimbursement; Real Estate Transfer Tax; charges.

**E-911 Fund (Budget Fund 230)**

Funding Sources: Telephone access line surcharge; State reimbursement; subsidy payment from General Fund.

**American Rescue Plan Fund (Budget Fund 253)**

Funding Source: Federal American Rescue Plan State and Local Relief Funding (SLRF). *This fund is not included in the Budget documents.*

**Pharmaceutical Settlements (Budget Fund 295)**

Funding Source: Settlements received from major pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors.

**Public Library Fund (Budget Fund 820)** This Special Revenue Fund is included in the County's annual financial statements as a component unit.

Funding Sources: Real Property tax; State reimbursement; library charges.

**Debt Service Fund (Budget Fund 310)** This fund is used to account for current payments of principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt (bonds) and for financial resources accumulated in reserve for payment of future principal and interest on long-term indebtedness.

Funding Sources: Transfers from other funds; interest earnings on reserves.

**Downtown Mall Fund** Used to account for revenues raised through a special district charge levy and the subsequent expenditure of these monies for the operation and maintenance of a downtown pedestrian/transit mall. *This fund is not included in the Budget documents.*

Funding Sources: Special district assessment.

**Capital Projects Funds (Budget Funds 410-490)** Used to account for the financial resources to be used for the acquisition, construction or reconstruction of major permanent facilities having a relatively long useful life and for equipment purchased from the proceeds of long-term debt (other than those financed by the Enterprise Fund).

Funding Sources: Proceeds from bonds issued; State reimbursement.

**Enterprise Fund** Used to account for ongoing organizations or activities that are similar to those found in the private sector which provides goods or services to the general public. The costs of providing goods or services to the public on a continuing basis are financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

**Utilities Fund (Budget Fund 140)**

Funding Sources: Utility user charges.

**Erie Community College** Used to account for the resources received and used to operate the Community College. The State mandates a fiscal year ending August 31<sup>st</sup> for the Community College. For this reason, and also because of differences in accounting principles for colleges and those for local governments, the Community College budget and financial statements are separate.

Funding Sources: State reimbursement; student tuition; County subsidy from the County budget in the General Fund.

### **Accounting and Budgeting Principles**

The Erie County Charter and Administrative Code require a line-item budget organized or classified on the basis of administrative units. The budget, accounting, and reporting system are structured to support this requirement on an ongoing basis for local purposes.

The accounting and budget structure required by the local Charter and Code is not consistent with the Uniform System of Accounts for Counties (USAC) structure required by the State for financial reporting purposes. Specialized account coding is used to convert detailed County accounting data to the USAC structure as required for financial reporting and for the preparation of the annual financial statements.

The County's financial statements are prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental entities, and are presented in the USAC format.

### **Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation**

Measurement focus is the determination of what is expressed in reporting an entity's financial performance and position, (i.e., expenditures or expenses). A particular measurement focus is accomplished both by considering what resources will be measured and the basis of accounting.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues, expenditures/expenses, and the related assets and liabilities are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus.

***Accrual Basis*** – Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

***Modified Accrual Basis*** – Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the County considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Revenues from federal, state, or other grants designated for specific County expenditure are recognized when the related expenditures are incurred.

Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due and expenditures for inventory-type items and for prepayments (except retirement) are recognized at the time of the disbursements.

In the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report ("CAFR"), the government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as is the proprietary fund financial statement. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Property taxes associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government.

### **Budgets and Budgetary Data**

Annual appropriated budgets are adopted and employed for control of the General Fund; the Road; Sewer, and E-911 Special Revenue Funds; the Utilities Aggregation Enterprise Fund; and the Debt Service Fund, minimally detailed to the department and account level. These budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with GAAP, except that encumbrances are reported as budgetary expenditures in the year of incurrence of commitment to purchase, as well as in the year of expenditure if the expenditure occurs in a fiscal year subsequent to the commitment in the General and the enumerated Special Revenue Funds. All unencumbered appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year. Annual appropriated budgets are not employed for the Grants and Community Development Special Funds. A reconciliation to convert GAAP basis data to the budgetary basis is provided in the financial statements.

### **Account and Budget Codes**

Account and budget codes classify expenditures/appropriations and revenues by category. The structure of account and budget codes used by Erie County is consistent with the local Charter and Code requirements for a line-item budget organized by administrative unit.

***Administrative Unit Codes*** – The budget and accounting systems are structured so that budgeting and accounting can be controlled at the fund, business area/fund center, and department level as appropriate. Budgets are usually adopted at the department level in the General Fund including Social Services, the Utilities Fund (Enterprise Fund), and Special Revenue Funds. Budgets are adopted for grants and Community Development projects. The Debt Service Fund is adopted at the fund level.

Administrative Unit coding in the budget and accounting systems is categorized according to Fund, Department, and Fund Center (Business Area).

Fund center coding is used to identify separately budgeted administrative units. A three digit Fund Center designates the overall department level. If divisions within a department are separately budgeted, they are designated with a five digit fund center code.

**Account Codes** – Account codes are used to identify appropriated expenditures and revenues.

Revenues and expenditures are appropriated and adopted by the Legislature at the account level, which is indicated by a six-digit account code in the budget. All accounts are part of a hierarchy which serves to group accounts into like categories.

Expenditures/appropriation and revenue coding in the budget and accounting systems is generally categorized according to the following structure:

Expenditure/Appropriation Codes		Revenue Codes	
Account*	Description	Account*	Description
500000-500350	Personal Services	400000-400070	Real Property Tax Revenues
501000	Overtime	402000-402700	Local Source Revenues
502000-502140	Fringe Benefits	405000-409040	State or Other Partial Reimbursement
504992	Contractual Salary Reserve	410000-414190	Federal or Other Partial Reimbursement
504990-504998	Reductions for Turnover	415000-480030	Fees, Other Taxes
	Service Restoration		
505000-507000	Supplies & Repairs	450000-486040	Inter-fund Revenues
510000-555050	Other		
516000-520110	Contractual		
525000-530020	Assistance Payments		
561100-561460	Equipment		
550000-551600	Debt Service		
559000-575040	Inter-fund		
910100-980000	Inter-departmental		

\*Specific descriptive account titles and codes are provided throughout the budget documents for each account.

### **Budgeting for Fringe Benefits**

Fringe benefits are appropriated separately in each fund included in the budget which also has budgeted employees and authorized payroll expenses.

Fringe benefits are budgeted at the department level in the operating fund. Fringe Benefits are budgeted at the individual project level for grants and community development projects.





# GLOSSARY



# Glossary

---

**Account**

A category of revenues and expenditures/appropriations, such as office supplies, personal services, or utilities.

**Accrual**

Recognition and recording of earned amounts receivable as revenue and amounts payable as expenditures in the current period, but for which cash receipts or disbursements have not yet occurred.

**Accrual Accounting**

A basis of accounting in which expenditures and revenues are recorded at the time they are incurred or are available, as opposed to when cash is actually received or spent.

**Adjusted Budget**

The adopted budget as modified by all changes approved and processed to budgeted revenue and appropriation accounts.

**Adopted Budget**

The budget plan for the next fiscal year, which has been formally approved pursuant to the provisions of Article 25 of the Erie County Charter.

**Appropriated Fund Balance**

The amount of unassigned fund balance available from previous years designated for use in the current year.

**Appropriation**

A specific amount of money authorized by the Legislature for the purchase of goods and services.

**Assessed Valuation**

The value set upon real property by local tax assessors and the state as the basis for levying real property taxes.

**Board of Election Re-Spread**

Reimbursement from towns and cities for certain allowable expenses associated with the cost of conducting elections. The actual costs are billed back to the various towns and cities where elections are held and recorded as revenue in the operating fund.

**Capital Budget/Expenditures**

Budgets/expenditures in Capital Project Funds are for major physical improvements and construction, or for purchase of equipment having a useful life of at least five years. The Capital Budget is included in the annual budget documents, as required by the County Charter, but is not a part of the operating budget, nor is it considered part of the operating fund.

**Community College Re-spread**

Revenue that is attributed to reimbursement from towns and cities for tuition payments made by the County for town and city residents who are enrolled in community colleges outside of Erie County. The tuition costs are billed back to the various towns and cities in the County for the town/city residents for whom tuition was paid.

**Community Development Fund**

A Special Revenue Fund used to assist participating municipalities in the development of locally approved community or economic development activities, including housing programs, which are eligible under Federal program regulations. This fund is included in the County's annual budget documents in order to secure legislative authorizations, but it is not a part of the operating budget nor is it considered an operating fund.

**Contingency**

An appropriation of funds to cover unforeseen events that may occur during the fiscal year, or reserved to cover foreseen future events.

**County Share**

The amount of support required from general county resources (e.g., property or sales taxes); after all other revenue sources attributed to the operations of a department or division are subtracted from total appropriations or expenditures.

**Countywide Appropriations/Revenues**

Appropriations and revenues, such as debt service expenditures or sales tax revenues, which cannot be directly attributed to the operations or operational responsibilities of specific departments.

**Debt Service**

The county's obligation to pay the principal and interest on all bonds and other debt obligations according to a predetermined payment schedule.

**Debt Service Fund**

A special fund established to account for the payment of interest and principal on long-term debt. The Debt Service Fund is a part of the operating budget and is considered an operating fund.

**Deficit**

The excess of expenditures over revenues during an accounting period.

**Downtown Mall Fund**

A Special Revenue Fund used to account for revenues raised through a special district charge and the subsequent expenditure of these monies for the operation and maintenance of a downtown pedestrian/transit mall. This fund is not included in the county's annual budget documents, nor is it considered an operating fund.

**ECIDA**

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) is a public benefit corporation which coordinates economic development for Erie County. It authorizes industrial revenue bonds for eligible projects and administers a revolving loan program for businesses in specific county areas.

**Encumbrance**

Financial commitments related to unperformed contracts for the purchase of goods and services. Purchase transactions which are not yet completed, but for which funds have been designated and specifically reserved (encumbered) for future payment when the purchase transaction is completed. Outstanding encumbrances at year-end are reported as assignments of fund balance because the commitments will be honored during the subsequent year.

**E-911 Fund**

A self-balancing Special Revenue Fund for appropriations and revenues associated with the operation of the Enhanced 911 emergency telephone system as required by State law when a telephone surcharge is utilized to offset E-911 service cost. The E-911 Fund is part of the operating budget and is considered an operating fund.

**Enterprise Funds**

Self-supporting governmental funds in which the services provided are financed and operated similarly to those of a private business, with user charges providing the majority of the revenues necessary to support operations. The Utility Fund is budgeted as an Enterprise Fund. The Enterprise Fund is a part of the operating budget and is considered part of the operating funds.

**Equalized Full Valuation of Taxable Property**

The term used to indicate the value of all real property in a taxing jurisdiction, appraised at 100% of market value at a specified prior point in time, which has been adjusted by a factor to reflect different rates of housing market price change from area to area. The equalization factor allows comparison of full valuation on an equal dollar basis for all areas and for all time periods.

**Equalized Full Value Tax Rate**

The amount of property tax levied for each \$1,000 of equalized full valuation for all non-exempt property in the county. It is calculated by dividing the equalized full valuation of taxable property by \$1,000 and then dividing the county property tax levy by the result. This rate is used for all comparisons of property tax growth or reduction.

**Full Valuation**

The term used to indicate a real property appraisal at 100% of market value at a specified prior point in time.

**Fund**

A set of inter-related accounts to record revenues and expenditures associated with a specific purpose. Funds are self-balancing. The Erie County budget includes fourteen (14) funds: General Fund, E-911 Fund; Utilities Enterprise Fund; American Rescue Plan Fund; Pharmaceutical Settlements Fund; Downtown Mall Fund; Grant Fund; Capital Fund; Sewer Fund; Road Fund; Community Development Fund; Debt Service Fund; Public Library Fund; and Public Library Grant Fund.

**Fund Balance**

The section of the financial statement that reports the results of operations. It can include restricted amounts such as prepaid items along with assignments such as judgments and claims. The remainder of fund balance is the unassigned portion which is available for appropriation when necessary.

**GASB 45**

GASB 45 is an accounting standard that requires governments to reflect in their financial statements the estimated future cost of paying for benefits, such as retiree health insurance, that has been earned due to the service years provided to-date by existing retirees and current employees.

**Gain**

A position and/or job title not currently authorized in a department, which is transferred in from another department or budget entity.

**General Fund**

The principal operating fund of the county, which includes the budgets, revenues, and expenditures for most county departments.

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)**

Conventions, rules and procedures that define accepted accounting and financial reporting practice, including broad guidelines and detailed practices. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

**Grant**

A contribution by a government or other organization to support a particular function, service, or program.

**Grant Budget/Expenditures**

Budgets/expenditures in the Grant Special Revenue Fund related to defined projects funded by contributions from other governments or organizations to support particular functions, services or programs. The Grant Fund is not a part of the operating budget but appears in the Budget documents in order to secure necessary legislative authorizations.

**Indirect Costs**

Costs associated with, but not directly attributable to, the operation of county departments. These "overhead" costs are usually incurred by other departments in support of all operating departments.

**Inter-departmental Billing**

The reimbursement received by a division, such as Information and Support Services, for services provided to other county departments. Interdepartmental billings are quasi-revenues budgeted as negative appropriations.

**Inter-departmental Payment**

An appropriation of funds for reimbursing other county departments, such as Information and Support Services, for services provided by departments.

**Inter-fund Transfers/Revenue**

Amounts transferred from one fund to another.

**Job Group**

The grouping of similar position classifications and their assignment to a range of salaries within a county pay scale.

**Line-Item Budget**

A budget that lists each expenditure and revenue category separately, along with the amount budgeted for each specified category.

**Local Source Revenue**

Funds that the county receives as income from local sources, such as property and sales taxes, service fees, and interest income, as opposed to funds received from other governments.

**New Position**

A new position in an existing job title and/or a new job title not previously budgeted.

**NFTA**

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, created in 1967 as a public benefit corporation under the Public Authorities Law of the State, administers the regional transit system in Erie and Niagara Counties which includes a transit line, public buses, and airport facilities. The NFTA receives a portion of the county sales tax plus a subsidy from the county general fund.

**OTB Revenues**

Revenues received from a portion of profits of the Western Regional Off-Track Betting ("OTB") Corporation from a pari-mutuel wagering tax.

**Other than Personal Services**

Expenditures for all non-personal services, goods and services including supplies, equipment, contractual services, utilities, rental, and repairs.

**Personal Services**

Expenditures for salaries and wages for full-time, regular part-time as well as part-time and seasonal employees, overtime costs, shift differential, and holiday pay, etc.

**Project**

A project is a distinct organizational unit with a separate budget which is identified by a unique name usually used in a capital fund.

**Proposed Budget (Tentative Budget)**

The budget plan for the upcoming fiscal year recommended to the County Legislature by the County Executive for its formal approval. The Erie County Charter designates this as the "Tentative Budget." It is popularly known as the "Proposed Budget".

**Public Library Fund**

The Public Library Fund is used to record transactions of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library which is supported, in whole or in part, by real property taxes. The use of the Library Fund assures compliance with Education Law, Section 259, which provides that all monies received from taxes or other public sources for library purposes shall be kept in a separate fund.

The Public Library Fund is a special revenue fund. The accounting is the same as the General Fund including the use of budgetary, revenue, expenditure, and fund balance accounts. It is a part of the county's operating budget and is considered an operating fund.

**Reallocation**

A change in job group but not in position title for a currently authorized position; an upgrading of a position.

**Real Property Tax**

The net County tax requirement determined by subtracting the total estimated revenues from the total proposed expenditures as set forth in the budget (Erie County Charter, Article 26, Financial Procedures, Section 2609).

**Reclassification**

A change in position title which may or may not change the job group for a currently authorized position.

**Reductions from Personal Services Account**

The Reductions from Personal Services account is a net savings calculated by estimating the impact on all personal services budgets caused by employee turnover, vacancies, increased overtime, or other personnel transactions. The savings estimate is then adjusted for any negative impact on associated budgeted revenue calculations. The final net savings calculation is budgeted in the form of a negative appropriation.

**Reserve**

Funds which are accumulated, held and set-aside for future use or the payment of some future obligation. Funds held in reserve may be restricted to particular uses or they may be unrestricted.

**Revenue**

Funds that the county receives as income, including tax payments, service fees, receipts from other governments, fines, forfeitures, grants, and interest income, etc.

**Road Fund**

A Special Revenue Fund used to account for all revenues and expenditures related to the maintenance of county roads and bridges, snow removal, and the construction and reconstruction of county roads not required to be recorded in the Capital Projects Fund. The Road Fund is a part of the operating budget of the county and is considered an operating fund.

**Transfer**

A currently authorized position and/or job title in a department, which is transferred to another department or fund.

**Sales Tax**

A charge placed on certain goods when they are purchased from a vendor. Sales Tax revenue accounts for a considerable portion of the discretionary budget. Erie County's local sales tax rate is 4.75%.

**Sewer District Budgets/Expenditures**

Budgets/expenditures in the Sewer Special Revenue Fund related to the annual program and spending plan for sewer facility operations, services, and normal maintenance. Sewer districts are self-supporting entities with a separate property tax levy. The Sewer Fund is not a part of the operating budget, nor is it considered an operating fund.

**Source**

A category of revenue, such as local source, state aid, or federal aid.

**Surplus**

The excess of revenues over expenditures during an accounting period.

**Taxable Assessed Valuation**

The value of non-exempt (taxable) real property in a taxing jurisdiction on which the jurisdiction's portion of the County real property tax levy is spread.

**Taxable Assessed Value Tax Rate**

The amount of property tax levied for each \$1,000 of taxable assessed valuation of real property in each taxing jurisdiction. It is calculated by dividing each jurisdiction's share of the County real property tax levy by the taxable assessed valuation of all non-exempt (taxable) real property in the jurisdiction, and dividing the result by 1,000.

**Utilities Fund**

An Enterprise Fund created to provide financial accounting and support necessary for the operation of the Erie County Utilities Aggregation. This fund allows members of the aggregation (cities, towns, villages, and authorities in Erie and neighboring counties) to jointly purchase natural gas, heating oil, and electric utilities at reduced cost. The Utilities Fund is part of the operating budget and is considered an operating fund.

**Visit Buffalo Niagara**

Visit Buffalo Niagara, formerly known as the Convention and Visitors Bureau, is an organization funded with taxpayer dollars and organized to serve as the county's marketing arm to the nation and world. Visit Buffalo Niagara is tasked with attracting visitors and conventions to the Buffalo Niagara region.

