

March 3, 2025

TO ALL VILLAGE MAYORS:

Please see the important email below and attached letter from NYCOM regarding AIM funding.

We urge you to **sign on to the attached letter** asking Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie to **support increased AIM funding in 2025-26 and beyond.**

Contact NYCOM directly ASAP at norma@nycom.com to sign on to this letter.

Thank you,

Suffolk County Village Officials Association

Dear Mayor,

As you know, after a 15-year drought, the 2024-25 Adopted State Budget finally included a \$50 million increase in unrestricted aid for cities, villages and towns (referred to as Temporary Municipal Assistance). While we appreciate that this did not translate into significant dollars for all of our members, it was a major step forward and hopefully the beginning of a stronger and more meaningful state-local partnership.

Governor Hochul's 2025-26 Executive Budget does include the additional \$50 million but we would like the final 2025-26 State Budget to build upon this critical investment so that we can strengthen our communities and lower the property tax burden on our residents. In that vein, I am asking that you use this [link](#) (by Friday, March 7th) to join our sign-on letter (attached) to Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Heastie, urging them to come together in support of increased AIM funding in 2025-26 and beyond.

With the backing of New York's nearly 600 mayors, we greatly improve our chances for success.

Thank you for all that you do!

Barbara Van Epps
NYCOM Executive Director

cc: Managers and Administrators



New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

119 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210
Ph (518) 463-1185 • info@nycom.org • www.nycom.org

Executive Committee

President

RuthAnn S. Loveless
Mayor, Hamilton

First Vice President

William J. Aiello
Mayor, Olean

Second Vice President

William F. Brazill
Mayor, Minoa

Treasurer

Kathy M. Sheehan
Mayor, Albany

Immediate Past President

Francis X. Murray
Mayor, Rockville Centre

Members

Eric L. Adams
Mayor, New York

Margaret B. Blackman
Mayor, Brockport

John J. Buckley
Mayor, Hornell

John A. Burrell
Mayor, Ellicottville

Scott M. Burto
Mayor, West Carthage

Barbara C. Donno
Mayor, Plandome Manor

Jerry Fremouw
Mayor, Clyde

Jared M. Kraham
Mayor, Binghamton

Shawyn Patterson-Howard
Mayor, Mount Vernon

Christopher P. Scanlon
Mayor, Buffalo

Ben Walsh
Mayor, Syracuse

Affiliate Representative

John D. Goodwin
NYS City/County
Management Association

Past Presidents: Ex-Officio

Robert T. Kennedy
Mayor, Freeport

Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor, Schenectady

Thomas M. Roach
Mayor, White Plains

Richard B. Milne
Mayor, Honeoye Falls

Executive Director

Barbara J. Van Epps

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor
State of New York
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader
332 State Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl Heastie
Assembly Speaker
LOB – Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Hochul, Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie,

On behalf of our cities and villages, we sincerely thank you for the first increase in unrestricted municipal aid in 15 years that was included as part of the 2024-25 State Budget. The additional \$50 million in funding is a welcome and much-needed step toward addressing the fiscal challenges our local governments face. We appreciate this recognition of the critical role municipalities play in improving the quality of life across New York State.

Unfortunately, local governments continue to grapple with the impacts of inflation, the end of federal ARPA funds, the flattening of sales tax revenue – and now the threat of losing federal aid. These factors, coupled with 15 years of level funding and a two percent tax cap, have placed significant financial strain on many municipalities. To ensure that local governments are better positioned to weather the economic challenges they face, we urge you as part of the 2025-26 State Budget to build upon your recent investment by committing to consistent and predictable annual increases in AIM funding.

Our cities and villages are on the frontlines of ensuring property tax affordability and public safety, so like yours, these are our priorities too. However, our ability to address these critical issues is directly tied to the level of support we receive from the State. We are truly stronger together so we ask that you help us to achieve these shared goals – goals that unite local officials, state leaders, legislators, and most importantly, every resident of New York.

We greatly appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you to make our communities and our State the best they can be.

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