



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

A Publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

August 19, 2022 Edition



“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”

-George Orwell, 1984-



President Biden Signs Inflation Reduction Act into Law

On Tuesday, August 16, President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. The signing follows the narrow passage of the bill by the United States Senate on Sunday August 7, following an hours-long “vote-a-rama”, in which Vice President Kamala Harris provided the tie-breaking vote, and a passage in the United States House of Representatives on Friday August 12th by a margin of 220-207. The new law, which President Biden has called the biggest step forward on climate ever, aims to fund sweeping clean energy projects while also combating persisting inflation and addressing healthcare issues such as prescription drug costs.

The IRA includes several provisions that look to have powerful impacts on the environment and the economy. These include a \$7,500 credit that taxpayers can access by purchasing electric vehicles, billions of dollars in rebates for Americans who invest in energy efficient appliances, and an expansion of tax credits for coal and gas-based facilities that use carbon capture technology.

Additionally, a study by the University of Massachusetts Amherst’s Political Economy Research Institute predicts that the IRA will generate an average of 912,000 jobs per year over a 10-year period, thanks to combined public and private investments of nearly \$100 billion yearly – many of these being in the clean energy space.

Interestingly, the reconciliation deal also includes bonuses that are unlocked when certain labor standards are met. The IRA provides for hundreds of billions of dollars in energy security and climate change programs; these include production tax credits and investment tax credits, which are available for producing clean energy and investing in energy generated from renewable sources. These credits would also be tiered, offering greater incentives to production facilities that pay prevailing wages and fulfill apprenticeship requirements.

In the News – New York State



Governor Hochul Announces More Than \$500 Million Awarded to New York State from Biden Administration to Support Small Businesses Through the American Rescue Plan

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced New York State has been awarded \$501.5 million in federal funds through the State Small Business Credit Initiative (“SSBCI”), which was reauthorized and expanded as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Managed by the U.S. Department of Treasury, SSBCI provides funds to support programs for small businesses, with emphasis on those still struggling from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and helping traditionally disadvantaged small businesses succeed in the post pandemic economy.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and far too many small business owners are still feeling the economic toll of the pandemic," Governor Hochul said. "This historic funding will be a game changer - serving as a crucial lifeline for small businesses, fueling innovative growth, and helping uplift the most vulnerable communities across New York State. I thank President Biden, Secretary Yellen, Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand and Democrats in the New York Congressional delegation for their leadership on the American Rescue Plan and look forward to continuing to work together as we move the Empire State's economy forward."

Proposed programs include:

Capital Access Program:

- **\$29.4 Million Capital Access Program (Expansion of Existing Program)** - These programs provide portfolio insurance to lenders that make loans to small businesses to incentivize the expansion of loaning to these entities.

Affordable Debt Programs:

- **\$106.1 Million Capital Loan Fund (New Program)** - Provides long-term capital investments via debt instruments and credit structures. The eligible uses for these capital loans is highly flexible, with a focus on providing capital support to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.
- **\$55.5 Million Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (Expansion of Existing Program)** - This fund will address inequitable capital access, to address gaps facing new companies, underbanked communities, small businesses which are more likely to be minority-owned.
- **\$47 Million New York Forward Loan Fund (Expansion of Existing Program)** - A loan program funded with investors pooled capital, to make flexible, low interest loans to small businesses and nonprofit organizations, through participating Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) lenders.
- **\$22 Million Bonding Guarantee Program (Expansion of Existing Program)** - Provides surety bonding to reduce risks associated with bonding for small businesses.
- **\$22 Million Contractor Financing Revolving Loan Fund (New Program)** - Provides needed funding to contractors in need of matching dollars to secure federal, state, and local contracts.

Equitable Venture investments:

- **\$102 Million Emerging and Regional Partner Program Fund (New Program)** - This program will support the growth and establishment of diverse, emerging, and regional private sector fund managers.
- **\$52 Million Community and Regional Partner Program Fund (New Program)** - ESD will provide selected accelerators with funds that will be leveraged with private dollars to invest in New York State start-up companies.
- **\$30 Million Pre-seed and Seed Matching Fund Program (New Program)** - ESD will work with angel groups and pre-seed investors across New York State to continue to support high growth start-up companies at the earliest stages of their growth and development.
- **\$35 Million New York State Innovation Venture Capital Fund (Expansion of Existing Program)** - Since 2015, ESD has managed the New York Ventures fund, an investment program with more than 40 portfolio companies—65% of whom are founded or led by women and/or minorities. SSBCI funds would further capitalize this direct investment fund program.

In the News – New York City



Adams Administration Announces 'Project Open Arms'

New York City Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Department of Education (DOE) Chancellor David C. Banks, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Manuel Castro, and New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Gary Jenkins today announced ‘Project Open Arms’ a comprehensive plan to support families seeking asylum and ensure children are provided a full range of services to start their New York City public education on the first day of school next month. This multi-agency plan highlights wraparound services to ensure asylum-seeking families and their children will have access to critical academic, social-emotional, and language-based supports needed to be successful in New York City public schools.

Under the plan, the city is prioritizing strong interagency collaboration to provide families with a broad range of resources. DOE has been working in close coordination with its agency partners, including MOIA and DSS, to connect families with the resources they need in preparation for the start of the school year on September 8th.

“Our city has been, and will always be, a city of immigrants that welcomes newcomers with open arms,” said Mayor Adams. “‘Project Open Arms’ ensures we are well-prepared to assist asylum-seekers as the school year begins and that we are offering wraparound services to students and families. With strong collaboration with our partners, both in and out of government, this plan highlights how we can lead with compassion and ‘Get Stuff Done’ for those who need it most.”

“Project Open Arms is a multi-agency effort that will provide children and families seeking asylum with the services they need to thrive,” said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom. “It is critical to equip these students with the full range of academic, language access, and social-emotional resources to succeed as they adjust to a new and unfamiliar environment. We are grateful to our sister agencies and community-based partners for their heroic efforts to assist these families and look forward to deepening this work as we prepare for the start of the school year.” According to the most recent analysis, most asylum-seeking families are concentrated in School Districts 2, 3, 10, 14, 24, and 30. As of Thursday, August 18, DSS estimates that at least 1,000 children, including 3- and 4-year-olds, will enter the city’s school system in the upcoming school year.



Statement from City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and Health Committee Chair Lynn Schulman on Detection of Polio in New York City

We learned polio was detected in New York City’s wastewater, suggesting that the virus is circulating. As we continue to grapple with COVID-19 and Monkeypox, we now face another public health risk, but the defense is simple and proven. It is imperative that all New Yorkers make sure they have received their full polio vaccination, which is standard for children and nearly 100% effective. There are clear disparities in the vaccination rate across our city, where some neighborhoods have less coverage and more risk.

The City and all officials need to ensure we address these gaps so New Yorkers are protected from this virus. All parents and caregivers should make sure their young children have the full course of vaccination against polio. All adults who are unvaccinated, or have not received the full course, should get the full vaccination now. New Yorkers should contact their primary care providers first, and call 311 in the event that is not an option for vaccination. New Yorkers can visit the City’s vaccine record database to confirm immunization records for themselves and family members. The Council will continue monitoring this potential outbreak and the City’s response, remaining in coordination with our City and State health officials.”

The polio vaccine is proven to be 99% effective and is a standard vaccination for children. New Yorkers should visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)’s polio webpage for more information. A breakdown of New York City vaccination coverage is available via the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). New Yorkers can check their vaccine records with the DOHMH.

Briefs

Governor Hochul Announces \$10 Million to Support the Creation of Threat Assessment and Management Teams in Counties Across New York State

Governor Hochul Issued Executive Order 18 in Wake of Buffalo Attack, Requiring Each County and City of New York to Develop Plans to Confront Domestic Terrorism Grant Funding Now Available to All 57 Counties and New York City to Support Development of Threat Assessment and Management Teams, a Key Component in Meeting Requirements of Domestic Terrorism Prevention Plans. Counties Receiving Funding Must Submit Their Plans to State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, as Required in Executive Order, by December 31, 2022

Governor Hochul Announces Launch of Historic \$150 Million Expansion of Tuition Assistance Program to Part-Time Students

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the launch of the historic \$150 million expansion of New York State's popular Tuition Assistance Program, which will now provide TAP to approximately 75,000 additional students who are pursuing their degree part-time. Expanding Part-Time TAP to fully part-time learners creates pathways to an affordable education for individuals of all ages who are often balancing other responsibilities such as a family and work. Full-time TAP awards can be up to \$5,665 annually for a full-time student; part-time TAP will be available on a pro-rated basis to eligible students taking six to 11 credits per semester with no full-time prerequisite.



Mayor Adams Removes Abandoned Outdoor Dining Sheds, Completes Initial Blitz Demolishing 24 Neglected Sheds

Mayor Adams announced the completion of an initial blitz in which the city removed 24 identified sheds outside now closed restaurants in the matter of a few days. As none of the sheds are currently attached to functioning restaurants, these abandoned sheds have, in many cases, fallen into disrepair and created conditions that facilitate illicit and illegal behavior — affecting quality of life in neighborhoods across the city. These deserted sheds — representing a small minority of the nearly 13,000 Open Restaurants participants — have distracted from an otherwise popular, successful program, and their removal represents an important step towards a permanent program that all New Yorkers can be proud of, with clear design guidelines and stronger enforcement.

“Outdoor dining has transformed New York City and saved 100,000 jobs during the pandemic, but we cannot allow abandoned dining sheds to litter our streets,” said Mayor Adams. “These deserted dining sheds have become eyesores for neighbors and havens for rats, and we are going to tear them down. And, with this initiative, we are also taking the essential step towards a permanent Open Restaurants program that all New Yorkers can be proud of every day. I want to say it loud and clear: Outdoor dining is here to stay.”

NYS Common Retirement Fund Reports Estimated First Quarter Results

The New York State Common Retirement Fund’s (Fund) estimated return in the first quarter of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23 was -8.24% for the three-month period ending June 30, 2022, according to New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The Fund ended the quarter with an estimated value of \$246.3 billion.

“The first three months of the fiscal year brought upheaval to the financial markets amid Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, rising inflation and supply chain issues that continue to effect the economy,” DiNapoli said. “The Fund’s prudent management and diverse holdings have helped make it one of the best-funded public pension funds in the nation and it remains well-positioned to weather the up and downs of the markets. Retirees’ and members’ benefits remain secure.”

The Fund's estimated value reflects benefits of \$3.69 billion paid out to retirees and beneficiaries during the quarter. Its audited value as of fiscal year end March 31, 2022 was \$272.1 billion and the annual return was 9.51%.

As of June 30, 2022, the Fund had 44.7% of its assets invested in publicly traded equities. The remaining Fund assets by allocation are invested in cash, bonds, and mortgages (22.4%), private equity (15%), real estate and real assets (12.1%) and credit, absolute return strategies and opportunistic alternatives (5.8%).

Coming Up

New York State

No Scheduled Hearings

New York City

Monday, August 22nd

Committee on Education, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, August 23rd

Committee on Health, Council Chambers – City Hall, 10 a.m.

Oversight – Monkeypox Virus (MPV) in New York City.

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