

NYC's Budget in \$100

In June 2025, New York City adopted a budget of over \$115,000,000,000 (or \$115 billion), larger than the budgets of nearly every US state. This money funds everything from schools and hospitals to parks and libraries.

While most people are familiar with personal budgeting, very few need to plan how to spend billions of dollars. To make the City's budget more digestible, IBO breaks the budget down into a scale of \$100 to help those unfamiliar with the City budget understand how New York City plans its spending.

Like households deciding between rent, groceries, entertainment, or savings, the City must balance services such as schools, housing, and public safety against obligations like pensions and debt payments. Just like a household, the budget is ultimately a policy document that reflects the priorities of the City. Understanding the budget can empower New Yorkers to engage in civic processes and shape future decisions.

This report uses data from the fiscal year 2026 Adopted Budget (i.e., the "Expense Budget"), published on June 30, 2025. The budget changes throughout the fiscal year as new needs emerge and revenue changes. The Expense Budget focuses on day-to-day spending on services and operations. It is separate from the City's Capital Budget, which covers long-term projects for building and upgrading City Infrastructure. For more information on the City's Capital Budget, please see [IBO's guide](#).

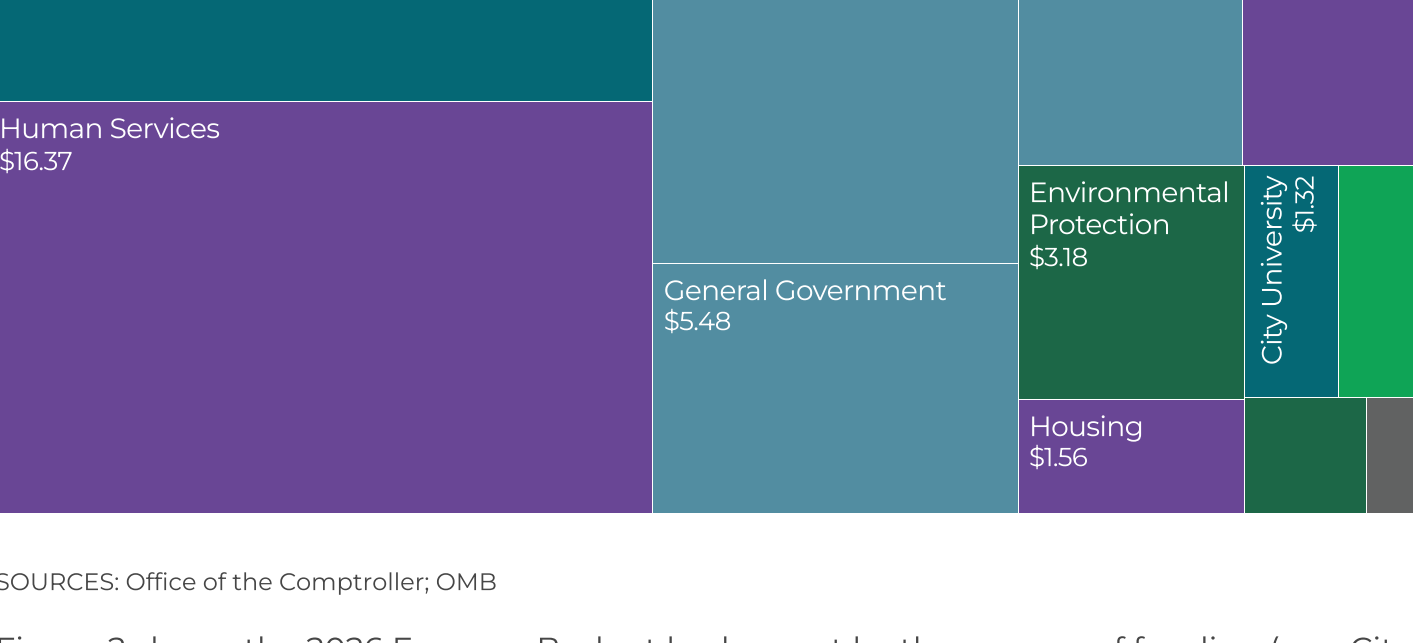
Budgets are a government's best guess at how much money it will bring in and spend in a given year, based on past spending patterns, economic forecasts, and other factors. They're not perfect, no one can predict the future exactly, so agencies rarely spend the exact amounts listed in the budget. Actual spending often ends up higher or lower depending on things like changes in costs, new priorities, or unexpected events.

For this resource, IBO focuses on **planned (budgeted) amounts for agencies in the current fiscal year**. For historical context, IBO's [Budget and Finance Data](#) offers details on actual agency spending in previous years.

Where New York City Budgeted Its Money in 2026

Budgeted dollars are reported by the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, which groups agencies by function. Figure 1 presents the City budget broken out by "budget categories" (groups of agencies with similar functions, as defined by the Office of the Comptroller in the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#)). The full agency breakdown of budget categories is presented in the [Appendix](#).

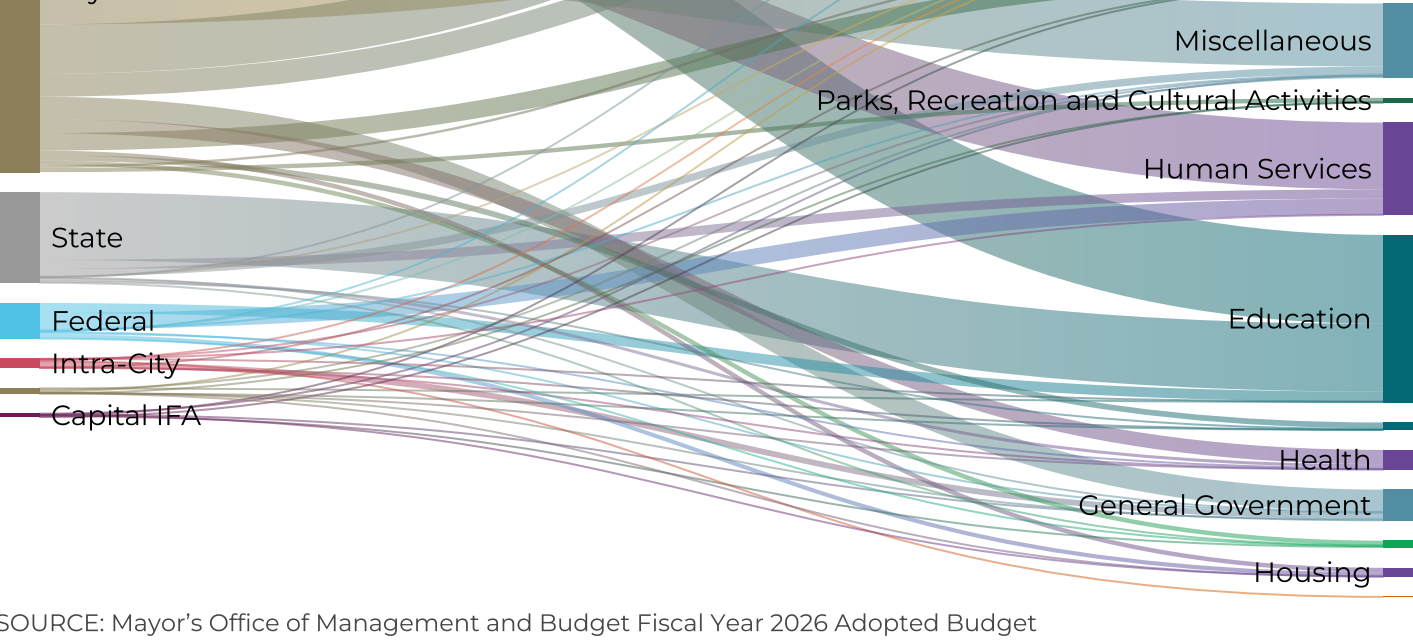
Figure 1
How New York City Budgeted \$100 in Fiscal Year 2025



SOURCES: Office of the Comptroller; OMB

Figure 2 shows the 2026 Expense Budget broken out by the sources of funding (e.g., City, State, Federal) and how those funds flow to the budget categories. City funds account for the largest share of revenue in the City's general fund (over 80%), while Federal and State revenues account for most of the remaining budget funds.

Figure 2
New York City Fiscal Year 2026 Adopted Budget by Revenue Source and Area of Spending



SOURCE: Mayor's Office of Management and Budget Fiscal Year 2026 Adopted Budget

This section provides a briefly describes the major activities of each budget category and addresses some common misconceptions. Descriptions are intended to give a general sense of each agency's activities, not a comprehensive description – please visit each agency's website to find more details.

To see IBO reports on each topic below, click on the icon on the left.



Education \$29.71

The largest share of the budget, \$29.71 out of every \$100, goes to the Education budget category, which exclusively contains the Department of Education (DOE). DOE, also referred to as New York City Public Schools, "provides primary and secondary education to over one million students, from early childhood to grade 12," per the [Mayor's Management Report](#). See IBO's [Education Spending Since 1990](#) for more details on DOE's spending. See more data on student demographics, student achievement, and resources for schools in IBO's [Education Indicators](#).



Human Services \$16.37

\$16.37 out of every \$100 goes to the Human Services budget category, which includes activities like administering food assistance, cash assistance, and rental support, running the City's shelter system, overseeing child welfare and juvenile justice, and providing meals and seniors centers to aging adults. These agencies also pay their employees to connect residents to federal programs (like SNAP and Medicaid).



Miscellaneous \$13.18

The Miscellaneous category primarily represents City spending on personnel costs not reflected in agency budgets, and accounts for \$13.18 out of \$100 in the budget. These costs include employee health benefits and collective bargaining reserves. This category also includes Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) payroll taxes and subsidies, including subsidies for reduced-fare MetroCards for seniors and low-income New Yorkers.



Public Safety & Judicial System \$10.11

\$10.11 of every \$100 goes towards public safety and judicial system costs, covering all emergency response agencies, such as the New York Police Department, the Fire Department of New York, and New York City Emergency Management. This category includes City spending on items such as equipment, fuel, training, medical supplies, and more. In addition, all five District Attorneys, the Department of Probation, and oversight agencies, like the Civilian Complaint Review Board, are also included in this category.



City Employee Pensions \$8.90

The City contributes to five pension systems that serve different groups of public employees: The New York Employees' Retirement System (NYCERS), the Board of Education Retirement System (BERS), the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), the Fire Pension Fund (BPF), and the Police Pension Fund (PPF). Together, these contributions cost \$8.90 out of \$100 and are centrally managed by the Office of Management and Budget.



Debt Service \$5.66

Making up \$5.66 out of \$100, debt service payments do not fund services directly. Instead, this budget category pays for the City's borrowing to finance the Capital Budget. The [Capital Budget](#) pays for large projects like new schools, bridges, and housing developments. These projects are budgeted separately because they typically require long-term planning and large investments. Projects that cost more than \$50,000 and have an expected life of 5 or more years are eligible for inclusion in the Capital Budget.



Government Operations \$5.48

\$5.48 out of \$100 covers all the City agencies that oversee City operations (notably the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget), agencies who perform oversight and analysis of the City's Budget (such as the Comptroller's Office and the Independent Budget Office), and the offices of elected officials and their staff (including City Council, Borough Presidents, and Community Boards). Other administrative and technical agencies, such as the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Office of Payroll Administration, and the Department of Design and Construction, are also included in this category.



Health \$3.49

\$3.49 out of every \$100 go towards the health budget category, which includes spending on activities like public health programming, enforcing health regulations, responding to health emergencies, disease prevention, and funding public hospitals and clinics. The category includes Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which is a City-operated agency, and City contributions to NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest municipal health care system in the United States.



Environmental Protection \$3.18

\$3.18 out of \$100 goes to protecting the natural environment and ensuring clean air and water for residents. The agencies under this category include the Department of Sanitation, responsible for garbage collection, waste processing, street cleaning, and enforcing sanitation rules, and the Department of Environmental Protection, which manages the City's vast water system, wastewater, and enforces environmental guidelines.



Housing \$1.56

Making up \$1.56 out of \$100, agencies in the housing category enforce the housing code, oversee housing vouchers, incentivize affordable housing construction, conduct inspections, and enforce building codes. It also includes some direct contributions to the New York City Housing Authority, which provides affordable housing through buildings it owns and operates, and through rental subsidy vouchers. The actual construction of new housing units is captured in the Capital Budget, not the Expense Budget.



CUNY Community Colleges \$1.32

The City funds City University of New York (CUNY) Community Colleges and contributes a smaller share to senior colleges, \$1.32 out of \$100 in total. A large part of community college and most senior college funding comes from the State and tuition revenue.



Transportation Services \$1.28

\$1.28 out of \$100 funds the transportation budget category, which includes activities like paving and maintaining streets, highways, bridges, tunnels, and public plazas, managing traffic lights and signals, and operating the Staten Island Ferry. It also includes some direct contributions to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which is a state-run public authority that operates and maintains subway, bus, and train systems.



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs \$0.84

\$0.84 out of \$100 goes to maintaining City parks, green spaces, recreational activities, and cultural programming (e.g., funding to support museums, theaters, and cultural institutions). Many City parks also receive non-City funding from conservancies (e.g., the Central Park Conservancy) or other sources.



Libraries \$0.44

Only \$0.44 out of \$100 goes towards funding the three public library systems (New York, Brooklyn, Queens), including the Research Library. Each system supplements City funding with private donations and State aid.

Learn More About New York City's Budget

IBO is committed to enhancing understanding of New York City's budget, public policy, and economy through independent and nonpartisan analysis and evaluation. For more information on New York City's budgetary process and structure, see IBO's [How the Budget Is Made](#). Visit IBO's [website](#) to learn more about its recent publications on current budget and policy issues.

Appendix

Breakdown of City Agencies by Budget Category

For more information on an agency's role and responsibilities, see agency descriptions and key functions as presented in the [2025 Mayor's Management Report](#).

Budget Category	City Agency	Agency Budget in Terms of \$100
Education	Department of Education	\$29.71
Category Total		\$29.71
Human Services	Admin For Children's Services	\$2.67
	Department for the Aging	\$0.51
	Department of Social Services	\$10.17
	Dept of Homeless Services	\$3.02
Category Total		\$16.37
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	\$13.18
Category Total		\$13.18
Public Safety & Judicial	Police Department	\$5.33
	Fire Department	\$2.23
	Department of Correction	\$1.03
	Office of Criminal Justice	\$0.74
	District Attorneys	\$0.51
	Department Of Probation	\$0.10
	Department Of Emergency Management	\$0.07
	NYC Taxi and Limousine Comm	\$0.05
	Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor	\$0.03
	Civilian Complaint Review Board	\$0.02
	Board Of Correction	\$0.00
	Public Administrators	\$0.00
Category Total		\$10.11
City Employee Pensions	Pension Contributions	\$8.90
Category Total		\$8.90
General Government	Dept of Citywide Admin Servs	\$1.51
	Dept of Youth & Community Dev	\$1.29
	Dept of Info Tech & Telecom	\$0.69
	Department of Finance	\$0.32
	Dept of Small Business Services	\$0.24
	Law Department	\$0.24
	Mayoralty	\$0.17
	Dept of Design & Construction	\$0.14
	Board of Elections	\$0.12
	Office of the Comptroller	\$0.11
	Financial Info Services Agency	\$0.10
	City Council	\$0.10
	Campaign Finance Board	\$0.09
	Office of Admin Trials & Hearings	\$0.07
	Department of Consumer Affairs	\$0.06
	Department of City Planning	\$0.05
	Department of Investigation	\$0.05
	Other Administrative Agencies	\$0.10
	Borough Presidents	\$0.03
	Community Boards	\$0.02
Category Total		\$5.48
Debt Service	Debt Service	\$4.14
Category Total		\$4.14
Health	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	\$2.07
	Health and Hospitals Corp	\$1.42
Category Total		\$3.49
Environmental Protection	Department of Sanitation	\$1.69
	Department of Environmental Protection	\$1.49
Category Total		\$3.18
Housing	Housing Preservation and Development	\$1.37
	Department of Buildings	\$0.20
Category Total		\$1.56
City University	City University of New York Community Colleges	\$1.32
Category Total		\$1.32
Transportation Services	Department of Transportation	\$1.28
Category Total		\$1.28
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities	Department of Parks and Recreation	\$0.58
	Department of Cultural Affairs	\$0.25
Category Total		\$0.84
Libraries	Public Libraries	\$0.44
Category Total		\$0.44

A [detailed breakdown of budget categories](#) is available as an Excel file.