

RMS End of Week Update 10/23/2026



NYS Early Voting Begins 10/24/2026

2026 General Election Early Voting begins Saturday October 24th and will run through November 1st.

To find your early voting polling place please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Unveils Second Wave of Regulatory Reforms Under 'Express NY' Initiative

This week Governor Hochul announced the second wave of state regulatory reform actions through her EXPRESS NY initiative to make government work better for New Yorkers. The 75 regulatory reform actions across 17 state agencies build on the [first wave of 50 reforms announced in June](#). To date, EXPRESS NY has advanced more than 120 actions spanning more than 20 state agencies and authorities. According to the press release the reforms are estimated to save New Yorkers tens of millions of dollars and an estimated 5 million hours in time previously spent filling out unnecessary paperwork, waiting in line, navigating confusing instructions and websites. More than 2.5 million New Yorkers are expected to benefit from these actions.

“Last year, I set out to find ways to make government work better and help New Yorkers access the essential services they need. Today, as we advance another 75 regulatory reforms to cut red tape and save New Yorkers time and money, we make real progress

towards delivering on the promise of a government that works for New Yorkers, not against them,” Governor Hochul said. “These steps will increase access to vital services for families, students and patients, help small businesses get ahead, and cut down on burdensome red tape that wastes people’s time. This is the most ambitious effort to modernize government in state history, and our work is only getting started to deliver for New Yorkers.”

Last fall, the Governor launched this initiative by issuing a call for recommendations across all state agencies. Each state agency was asked to recommend regulations or rules that could be eliminated or modified to improve the delivery of government services. In June, the first 50 actions were generated from that list following months of coordinated review and assessment across government.

In addition, Governor Hochul put out a call for New Yorkers across the state to submit their own regulatory reform ideas earlier this year. The state’s EXPRESS NY portal received an overwhelming response, with nearly 4,000 proposals from all 62 of New York’s Counties. Several New Yorkers’ submissions from the EXPRESS NY portal directly inform actions taken in this second wave of regulatory reforms announced today. This latest wave of regulatory reforms will help bring down housing costs, increase access to child care, and help small businesses thrive. The 75 regulatory reform actions are focused across four primary areas:

Expanding Access To Child Care, Health Care, And Mental Health Services

- **Expanding the supply of child care educators** by broadening the list of eligible fields of study, creating new career pathways in early childhood education. This will expand the qualified applicant pool and create new career pathways in early childhood education.
- **Making it easier to operate child care in school buildings** by aligning facility requirements between the Office of Children and Family Services and the State Education Department for school-aged children who are receiving child care in school buildings. This will allow providers to operate in school buildings without costly renovations, while maintaining strong safety and quality standards.
- **Reducing administrative delays around often duplicative background checks** for child care educators, allowing providers to prevent closures due to staff absences while maintaining critical safeguards, including state-required staff-to-child ratios and appropriate supervision.
- **Broadening pathways for child care educators to grow their careers** by allowing for extensive work experience to count towards becoming a child care director, creating career mobility for more educators in programs across the state.
- **Providing flexibility for child care directors** to serve multiple sites by allowing child care directors at day care centers to work across two sites, giving providers increased flexibility without sacrificing program quality and safety standards.

- **Speeding up certification for mental health services** by updating the Office of Mental Health's Prior Approval Review (PAR) process, which has not changed in over fifteen years, allowing up to 1,700 programs to benefit. Changes will allow new mental health services to come online more quickly, expanding treatment for New Yorkers, by providing flexibility to reclassify a project to a lower or higher level of review based on factors like the impact on the local community, complexity, or expenditure of resources
- **Allowing nursing homes to focus on serving residents**, by reducing reporting frequencies of nursing home bed census reporting from weekly to monthly. This will lighten the administrative burden for 598 nursing homes while preserving key oversight metrics.
- **Streamlining home care agency reporting** by eliminating a redundant reporting requirement for licensed Home Care Service Agencies, through integrating relevant data into their annual registration process. This will eliminate duplicate paperwork for approximately 1,200 home care providers and allow administrators to spend more time on patient-care and services.
- **Increasing support to young adults in foster care** by allowing virtual caseworker visits, provided they give informed consent. This provides greater flexibility for young adults (18 or older) as they transition into independence.

Saving Students and Families Time And Money

- **Modernizing community college residency rules** by eliminating steep tuition penalties for in-state students who miss the filing deadline. Prior to this change, students could face more than \$5,000 in penalties. Additionally, this reform will cut administrative red tape for families and expand affordable access to college credits.
- **Allowing colleges to waive tuition liability when students face emergencies** so that students facing health, family, or other unforeseen emergencies in the second half of an academic term are no longer required to pay for their tuition if they were unable to complete their studies in a given semester. This will also discourage mid-semester disenrollment, helping students stay on track toward degree completion while boosting overall college retention.
- **Safeguarding affordable housing in rural communities** by modernizing regulations of the Rural Rental Assistance Program to better preserve affordable senior and low-income housing in rural communities for the needs of today. As federal loans mature and federal subsidies expire, these updated rules empower HCR to provide direct state rent subsidies and state oversight for these properties to ensure low-income elderly residents don't lose their housing when federal support ends.

Cutting Red Tape for Businesses

- **Modernizing the Department of Labor payroll system** based directly on employer feedback and submissions into the EXPRESS NY Portal regarding

overly complicated and confusing reporting requirements. These changes will reduce administrative burdens for small businesses and streamline routine labor compliance across the state, reducing administrative burdens for nearly 50,000 small businesses and saving them more than 11,000 hours per year.

- **Expanding charitable fundraising through beverage labeling** through the State Liquor Authority (SLA) to increase fundraising opportunities for charitable organizations. Previously, labeling rules limited the ability of businesses to use their product to raise awareness and provide financial support for important causes.

Modernizing State Operations

- **Modernizing 29 state labor dispute proceedings** including labor relations claims and dispute procedures, authorizing electronic filing, eliminating unnecessary verification requirements, allowing oral summations, and repealing outdated publication rules which will impact nearly 800,000 public and private sector employees and employers.
- **Modernizing community safety and crime prevention rules** by repealing obsolete crime prevention regulations from 1983 to reflect the evolution to modern crime-fighting initiatives. These new programs, along with other data-driven strategies and technical assistance to local law enforcement and community organizations, have coincided with record lows in gun violence.
- **Repealing outdated wildlife management area regulations**, streamlining public use rules across activities such as vehicle use, camping, and boating, under a single, modernized statewide framework.
- **Repealing eleven outdated workers' compensation rules** including an unused rule for judges, two defunct Medical Appeals Unit regulations, four obsolete regulations over disputed medical bills, and obsolete third-party recovery rules.
- **Repealing obsolete transitional care funding rules** which governed short-term transitional care funding for young adults aging out of foster care or residential schools.
- **Eliminating redundant Medicaid self-disclosure filings** if providers are ineligible for the self-disclosure program. This will remove unnecessary administrative filings by providers.
- **Streamlining eight technology policies** by establishing centralized, uniform standards, repealing obsolete guidance, and consolidating agency technology practices. By eliminating redundant administrative overhead, these enterprise-wide reforms will save time across state agencies, allowing personnel to focus on improving services for New Yorkers.

To view the full report please click [here](#).

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Governor Hochul Announces Awards of \$32.5 Million to Expand Healthcare Workforce Training Across New York State Regions

This week, Governor Hochul announced the recipients of \$32.5 million in annual competitive grants under the Increasing Training Capacity in Statewide Health Care Facilities program. A total of 34 not-for-profit healthcare facilities across all 10 state regions have been selected to expand and enhance workforce training programs, each designed to address the unique healthcare workforce needs of their communities.

“At a time when our federal government is pulling back support for the healthcare workforce, New York is investing in training the professionals New Yorkers rely on to deliver high-quality care,” Governor Hochul said. “We will always take action to strengthen our state’s healthcare system to protect the care New Yorkers and their families rely on.”

State Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "New York State is facing a healthcare workforce shortage that demands urgent action. These awards empower healthcare facilities to expand their training infrastructure in ways that are responsive to their communities' unique needs. By supporting diverse healthcare professions, we are building a stronger, more resilient healthcare workforce across our state."

The five-year awards, effective October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2031, reflects the state's commitment to building a robust healthcare workforce pipeline. The Health Resources and Services Administration projects continued healthcare workforce shortages across nursing, allied health, behavioral health, primary care, oral health and other critical healthcare disciplines through 2036.

Rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach, each selected facility assessed its regional and local healthcare workforce needs and designed tailored training programs to address those specific gaps. Award recipients will support diverse healthcare disciplines. Awards, ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 annually, will support facility-based training programs for current and future employees pursuing recognized licenses and certifications. Eligible uses include tuition and fees, instructor salaries, simulation lab equipment, wage subsidies and recruitment costs.

The awards represent part of Governor Hochul's broader \$10 billion healthcare investment, which includes wages and bonuses to increase healthcare employment, retention and recruitment. The Increasing Training Capacity program uniquely addresses the supply-side challenge by enabling healthcare facilities to increase the number of qualified professionals they can train annually in response to their specific community needs.

Award recipients include a diverse portfolio of general hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and diagnostic and treatment centers. The geographic distribution across all 10 state

regions: Capital, Central, Finger Lakes, Long Island, Mid-Hudson, Mohawk Valley, New York City, North Country, Southern Tier and Western, ensures that workforce training expansion reaches healthcare facilities and communities statewide.

Grant Award Recipients:

Capital Region

Ellis Hospital

Hudson Headwaters Health Network

St. Peter's Hospital

Central Region

Loretto Health and Rehabilitation

Seneca Hill Manor Inc.

St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center

Finger Lakes Region

Newark-Wayne Community Hospital

Rochester General Hospital

University of Rochester

Long Island Region

Catholic Health System of Long Island

John T. Mather Memorial Hospital

Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation

Rosalind and Joseph Gurwin Jewish Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Mid-Hudson Region

Good Samaritan Hospital of Suffern

Sun River Health Inc.

White Plains Hospital Medical Center

Mohawk Valley Region

Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

MVHS Inc.

Rome Memorial Hospital

New York City Region

Eger Health Care & Rehabilitation Center

Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale

Jewish Home Lifecare Manhattan

Montefiore Medical Center

The Jamaica Hospital

North Country Region

Carthage Area Hospital Inc.
Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital
Samaritan Medical Center

Southern Tier Region

Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca
Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital
United Health Services Hospitals Inc.

Western Region

Catholic Health System
Jericho Road Ministries Inc.
The Chautauqua Center
UPMC Chautauqua at WCA

*Please note that all awards are contingent upon review and approval of the Office of the State Comptroller.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera said, “I want to thank Governor Hochul for awarding grants to institutions across the state, including Montefiore Medical Center and the Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale in my district. Our State is creating critical pathways to rewarding healthcare careers through these investments and improving recruitment and retention to build a stronger, more sustainable healthcare system.”

Assemblymember Amy Paulin said, “Our healthcare workforce is not keeping up with the needs of our communities. Building our workforce, improving retention, and keeping staff trained on the latest medical technology is critically important. Governor Hochul’s commitment to building a stronger healthcare workforce will benefit families across our state, country and world.”

To view the full press release please click [here](#).

Helpful Links and Resources

[2026 RMS HMH End of Session Update](#)

[RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table](#)

[RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table](#)

[FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan](#)

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker](#)

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Department of Financial Services information and resources
New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page

Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers

Office of Mental Health

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

OPWDD

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

State Education Department

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/>