



New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials

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December 15, 2021

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Executive Director

Peter A. Baynes

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

Dear Governor Hochul:

As mayors doing all we can to make our communities and our state a better place in which to live and work, we greatly appreciate the collaborative approach you are taking with local governments. It has been too many years since New York has had a Governor willing and eager to work with municipal leaders.

The most meaningful way you can demonstrate your commitment to a new state-local partnership is to provide the first increase in municipal aid in 12 years. As you know, AIM funding – New York's version of revenue sharing aid – has remained stagnant while municipal costs and other challenges have increased annually. Our statewide municipal association, NYCOM, has shared with you a proposal that would retain the AIM program at current levels but also provide a \$210 million cost-of-living increase to municipal aid and allocate it in a rational, understandable way through a new "Municipal Investment Initiative." The MII would also include measures to ensure the most beneficial use of the aid and a prohibition against the state intercepting local sales tax revenue to pay for any state aid to municipalities.

You were a local official and clearly understand the ability of municipalities to maximize the effective use of every dollar in aid we receive. No one knows what a community wants more than a mayor does. As the state's frontline troops in the battle to improve New York's quality-of-life, we mayors can assure you that a renewed state investment in local governments will pay great dividends in 2022 and years to come.

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to collaborate with your partners in government.

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