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The ABO Monitor

A Biannual Publication of the New York Authorities Budget Office

News and Updates From Around the ABO

Budget Update

The FY 2026-27 State Budget was finalized in May and delivered a number of measures to improve the overall well-being of New York and its citizens. Two items of note to the ABO were a $6 million allocation for the redevelopment of the Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS), and a $250,000 increase in general support for the office.

The inclusion of $6 million for PARIS reflects a commitment from the Governor outlined in her State of the State address to overhaul the existing data system which all state and local authorities must report into annually. The ABO will be working with the State Comptroller to deliver a new system which is easier for authorities to navigate while enhancing the quality of data and how it can be utilized.

Broome County Industrial Development Agency and Local Development Corporation Review

In May the ABO published a compliance review of the Broome County IDA and Broome County LDC. It covered authority activities and operations from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

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Director's Note

-From Josh Norkin

Fiscal responsibility continues to play an outsized role in the national discourse. Inflation remains stubbornly high and costs for everyday goods have strained finances. In New York, Governor Hochul has prioritized affordability, and her State of the State pledged increased ABO oversight of tax incentives to ensure public dollars are accounted for.

Industrial development agencies (IDAs) issue approximately $222 million in state and local sales tax exemptions. GML Section 875(3)(b) requires IDAs to recapture any state sales and use tax exemption benefits "taken or purported to be taken by any such person to which the person is not entitled or which are in excess of the amounts authorized." IDAs must then remit any money recaptured under this section to the State Commissioner of Tax and Finance.

Many IDAs have strong policies and are diligent about recapture. However, there are gaps in compliance, and all IDAs should closely analyze whether they have the correct policies in place to ensure strict compliance with the law. In 2019, the ABO reviewed a limited number of sales tax exemptions provided by IDAs and found that 20 percent of projects claiming amounts in excess of approved sales tax exemptions were not subsequently recaptured. Last summer, an OSC audit found that a single IDA failed to recapture approximately $500,000 in sales tax exemptions claimed by projects during a three-year period.

The ABO has recently begun to review projects across New York to ensure that IDAs are in compliance with the law. Additionally, new reporting requirements in PARIS (discussed later in this newsletter's PARIS Tips and Tricks) will affirmatively ask IDAs about the recapture of financial benefits. As always, should you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at info@abo.ny.gov.

Guest Authority Spotlight

New York State Energy Reseach Authority

About NYSERDA

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) works to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and emissions reduction across New York's economy and energy system. Since its founding in 1975, NYSERDA's mission, vision, and programs are continually evolving to improve the lives of New Yorkers. In addition to supporting clean energy and technologies, NYSERDA works to advance equity and inclusivity, jobs and economic development, public health, and community resilience. NYSERDA programs and initiatives help consumers and businesses reduce energy usage and save money. Collectively, NYSERDA's efforts are key to developing a cleaner, more reliable, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers.

Recent Advancements

NYSERDA's portfolio of clean energy programs and related investments continue to deliver cost savings, efficiency, and clean energy for all New Yorkers along with career opportunities – as over 185,000 people are employed in clean energy jobs. NYSERDA's investments in workforce development and training are helping to advance job and economic growth while delivering benefits equitably to New Yorkers across the State with 40,000 workers trained through its programs. NYSERDA is ensuring that 40% of the benefits from clean energy and energy efficiency programs, projects, or investments go to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with a goal of 45%. Investments target workforce development, housing, pollution reduction, and renewable energy to facilitate a just transition to a green economy.

Buildings and transportation are the two largest contributors of harmful emissions that we are working to address. Participating New Yorkers save over $2.3 billion on their energy bills annually through NYSERDA and utility energy efficiency programs. The electric vehicle Drive Clean Rebate program has provided over $197 million in rebates for new purchases of electric vehicles.

As part of its commitment to advancing a diverse mix of energy resources, NYSERDA continues to build out renewables such as wind and solar. Through NYSERDA programs, in the last five years alone, 38 large-scale solar and wind projects have been approved. During this same period, NYSERDA has grown New York's operating wind fleet to almost 3,000 megawatts (MW), with nearly 500 MW under construction. Due to growth in the solar sector, New York recently reached a milestone 8 gigawatts (GW) of distributed solar installed– enough to power over 1.3 million homes and businesses. This puts the state ahead of schedule to meet the goal of 10 GW by 2030 and secures New York's position as the top community solar market in the country.

Our recently released inaugural Accomplishments Report provides a comprehensive update on the progress and impact of NYSERDA's diverse portfolio of programs through the end of 2025. Notably, wind and solar energy contributions in support of the electric grid helped save New Yorkers money during summer heat wave, benefits that have continued during recent heat waves. In fact, South Fork Wind delivered nearly 10 gigawatt-hours of electricity to Long Island's grid this month from July 1 to July 4, providing New Yorkers with reliable, locally generated energy during peak-demand windows. NYSERDA estimates that distributed solar helped avoid $200 million in capacity costs during this time – in addition to last July's heat wave where distributed solar avoided approximately $90 million in capacity costs.

As we look to the future, NYSERDA contributed to New York's State Energy Plan that will guide energy decision making through 2040 and is currently co-leading the process to develop a Master Plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development in New York which supports Governor Hochul's directive to facilitate the development of five gigawatts of new firm, emission-free, nuclear power.

NYSERDA works every day to navigate new challenges and opportunities to catalyze a clean energy transition that supports a healthier and thriving future for all New Yorkers. To learn more about NYSERDA's work, please visit our website.

Doreen M. Harris

President and CEO, NYSERDA

NEW YORK STATE | NYSERDA New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

New and Updates – continued from page 1

The findings concluded that the board of directors did not fulfill its legal fiduciary obligations, failed to follow its own approved policies, and abdicated fiduciary responsibilities to executive management without proper oversight. Executive management also failed to carry out BCIDA's policies and procedures or meet BCIDA's legal obligations. The review culminated in ten overarching recommendations to address the ABO's findings. The IDA has 90 days to respond in writing to the ABO on the progress implementing the recommendations outlined in the report.

Website Transparency Reviews

The ABO regularly reviews public authority websites to help ensure all information required under the law is available online and easily accessible to the public. The ABO has conducted reviews of five local authorities so far in 2026: Chemung County CRC, Jamestown LDC, Mount Pleasant IDA, Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority, and Saratoga EDC. Additionally, the ABO completed a review of one state authority, the Utility Debt Securitization Authority.

For a more complete analysis of website reviews completed by the ABO over the years, please see the special report released in October 2025 detailing the findings of 51 public authorities' websites reviewed by the ABO between May 2021 and June 2024.

The ABO also updated its website transparency guidance and checklist last fall which can be used by authorities to track that they've posted all their statutorily required information.

Compliance Corner

The ABO regularly fields questions from state and local authorities seeking to ensure they fulfill their mission while abiding by the state's laws, rules, and regulations. A common issue the ABO encounters relates to statutory obligations regarding property disposal, and an authority's duties and reporting obligations under the law.

Title 5-a of Article 9 of the Public Authorities Law (PAL) governs the disposal of public authority property. The provisions were part of the Public Authorities Accountability Act and updated by the Public Authorities Reform Act, whose intent is to promote accountability and full public disclosure by all public authorities.

Section 2895 of PAL defines "property" as personal property with over $5,000 in value, as well as any real property. Real property typically refers to land and any structures or improvements, while personal property generally applies to all other items owned by the public authority such as equipment, vehicles, and materials. Section 2896 of PAL requires public authorities to annually publish of all their real property, including a list and full description of all real and personal property disposed of during the period.

Section 2897 of PAL requires public bidding for property disposals, except in certain circumstances where disposal may be negotiated. If the authority does not hold a public bid, Section 2897(6)(d) of PAL requires public authorities to submit a written explanation of the circumstances involving the disposal of property through a negotiated transaction to the Authorities Budget Office (ABO) not less than 90 days prior to the scheduled date of the transaction. This obligation applies to all authorities except for land banks, as provided in Section 1609(a-1) of Not-For-Profit Corporation Law.

The written explanation of the circumstances involving the disposal of property through a negotiated transaction applies to: (1) personal property with an estimated fair market value more than $15,000; (2) real property having an estimated fair market value greater than $100,000; (3) real property disposed of by lease if the annual rent over the lease term is greater than $15,000; and (4) real property, or real and related personal property, disposed of by exchange, regardless of value.

The ABO requires explanatory statements to include: (1) a description of the parties involved in the property transaction; (2) justification for disposing of property by negotiation; (3) identification of property, including its location; (4) estimated fair market value of the property; (5) proposed sale price of the property; (6) size of the property; and (7) expected date of sale of the property.

For more information, please visit ABO's website for Policy Guidance 15-03 on Explanatory Statement of the Circumstances of Property Disposal by Negotiation as well as our Frequently Asked Questions page.

Preferred Source Procurement Delivers Impact

Guest Contribution by Maureen E. O'Brien, President & CEO, NYSID

It is well understood that public authorities across New York State face the ongoing challenge of balancing procurement requirements, being fiscally responsible, and meeting ever-evolving operational demands. New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. (NYSID) offers a practical, bid-free procurement solution that helps meet those objectives while creating meaningful community impact, most notably jobs for people with disabilities.

In 1975, the State Legislature adopted language enacting the Preferred Source Program, harnessing the purchasing power of the state to create jobs for people with disabilities.

Here's how it works: NYSID is the nonprofit designated by New York State to administer the Preferred Source Program. Public authorities and other public entities contract with NYSID whose membership, a statewide network of qualified nonprofit service providers and private-sector partners, then perform the work while employing people with disabilities. This gives public authorities access to high-quality, cost-effective products and services while supporting meaningful, competitive integrated employment opportunities for New Yorkers with disabilities and qualified veterans in accordance with state purchasing requirements.

The Why Behind Your Buy

Contracting with NYSID aligns public authorities with New York State Finance Law Section 162**,** which requires public entities to work with designated preferred sources before pursuing other procurement methods for particular goods and services[1]. Purchasing decision-makers can streamline procurement while accessing a wide range of products and services tailored to meet procurement needs.

It also simplifies the purchasing process by eliminating the need for lengthy competitive bidding. And pricing is approved by the New York State Office of General Services (OGS), guaranteeing responsible stewardship of public funds.

Click here for OGS Preferred Source Guidelines and List of Preferred Source Offerings

[1] ABO Guidance 18-01 provides additional information related to Preferred Source Procurement requirements.

NYSID offers NYS-sourced tissue products, environmentally favorable janitorial and sanitation supplies, customized branded apparel, safety equipment, and many more items. The products are competitively priced and produced or assembled by qualified workforces, ensuring quality and dependable delivery.

NYSID service offerings include custodial work and facility maintenance, groundskeeping and landscaping, temporary staffing, document scanning, mailroom and logistics support, assembly and kitting, recycling, and other business solutions. NYSID customizes its services to meet unique needs, with clear performance standards, reporting, and a well-trained workforce.

Brian is a mainstay in the mail fulfillment affirmative business at Center for Disability Services in Albany, where his work ethic is second to none.

Procurement With Purpose

More than a procurement resource, every NYSID purchase supports meaningful employment opportunities that empower New Yorkers with disabilities to achieve greater independence, dignity, and economic self-sufficiency.

Together, we are helping advance Governor Hochul's Employment First vision by creating pathways to competitive, integrated employment while delivering exceptional value to public authorities and other New York State entities. On behalf of the nearly 6,500 individuals working on NYSID contracts, we appreciate your compliance with the Preferred Source Law while supporting a procurement model that delivers value to all.

For more information and the full list of products and services NYSID has to offer, please visit SHOP.NYSID.ORG. And please follow us on LinkedIn to stay up-to-date on all of our latest activity.

Maureen E. O'Brien

President & CEO, NYSID

Shop our commerce site: SHOP.NYSID.ORG

LinkedIn

50 YEARS OF NYSID FORGING FUTURES

PARIS Tips and Tricks

General Municipal Law (GML) requires IDAs to develop policies for the return of all or a portion of the financial assistance provided to a project upon a material violation of project terms (commonly known as a recapture or clawback policy). GML also requires that IDAs recapture (or clawback) sales and use exemptions that an agent or project operator is not entitled to, that are in excess of the amounts authorized by the IDA, or if a project falls short of its agreed-upon conditions.

A recent update to PARIS will now allow this information to be captured annually. Beginning with the 2026 reporting year, two new questions will appear on the "Authority Related Governance Information" screen related to IDA clawback provisions:

1. Has the authority developed policies for the return of all or part of the financial assistance in accordance with Section 874 of GML?
2. Did the authority recapture financial benefits during the reporting period?
    - If *Yes*, enter the total dollar amount of all recaptured benefits during the reporting period. *(**TIP:** This is the cumulative amount across all projects)*

In addition, there is a new question on the "IDA Project" screen that requires users to declare whether any benefits were recaptured during the reporting period, and if *Yes* they would need to enter the total dollar amount of all recaptured benefits during the reporting period. *(**TIP:** This is reported individually by project. This question is available on both the individual project screen and the bulk load template for IDA projects.)*

Upcoming Board Member Trainings (register online at https://abo.ny.gov/form/board-member-online-training-reg):

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026 - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- Friday, October 23, 2026 - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- Wednesday, November 18, 2026 - 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Upcoming PARIS Trainings (register online at https://abo.ny.gov/form/paris-online-training-reg):

- Thursday, October 8, 2026 - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- Thursday, November 5, 2026 - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Get to Know an ABO Employee: Ashley Parslow, Deputy Director of Compliance

- Where did you graduate from college?
    - *Siena*
- What was your first job?
    - *I worked at the Office of the NYS Comptroller (OSC) doing audits of State agencies and public authorities before coming to the ABO.*
- When did you come to the ABO?
    - *Summer of 2007*
- What is a skill or experience you had prior to this job that has allowed you to excel in your role?
    - *My experience working with different people and learning from their perspectives has been one of the most valuable skills I've brought to this role. It's helped me learn how to listen, communicate effectively, find common ground, and work towards solutions.*
- What's the most interesting thing you've learned in your role?
    - *Every public authority and every day at work is different, it keeps the work interesting, challenging and I'm always learning something new.*
- Where is your favorite place to travel?
    - *York Beach, Maine! Great place to relax and enjoy the ocean, fresh lobster, and the Nubble Lighthouse.*
- What's your favorite season?
    - *It's a toss-up, I love them all, especially the warm ones. But if I had to pick one, a warm Fall would be my favorite.*