

Laboratories & Research

2025 Executive Proposed Budget

Core Programs & Functions (cont.)

The Department of Laboratories & Research Provides Necessary Services to the Community, including:

Criminal Justice-Related Services – Support of the Judicial System process to uphold laws and prosecute criminals.

Public Health & Safety-Related Services – Provides necessary services to keep out communities safe.

Office of the Medical Examiner	Forensic Sciences	Forensic Toxicology	Environmental Services	Microbiological Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigates & determines the cause and manner of death “due to unlawful act, criminal neglect, violence, casualties, or by sudden or unexplained circumstances.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of physical evidence (e.g., DNA, Seized Drug (controlled substances), fibers, hair, fire debris (arson), & gunshot residue). - Audio, video, & image analyses. - Local, State, & National Entities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis for the presence of alcohol, drugs, & other toxic compounds (post-mortem medicolegal investigations). - Provides information to the ME’s office in order to formulate conclusions regarding circumstances of death. - Also performs DWI investigations & drug facilitated sexual assault investigations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of drinking water, wastewater treatment operations & abnormal emergency events. - Government Agencies, Health Officials, Engineers, Hospitals, Homeowners, Residents, & Others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis & identification of infectious agents that may cause diseases of public health significance. - One of Four CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Labs in NYS (Testing for Biological Agents of Bioterrorism & New and Emergent Pathogens, including Covid-19). - Covid-19 Response

Budget Summary

ITEM	2024	2025
Operating Positions	105	105
Trust Positions	4	4
TOTAL POSITIONS	109	109
Personal Service	\$9,786,666	\$10,300,175
Equipment	\$195,868	\$100,783
Materials & Supplies	\$1,319,500	\$1,363,501
Contractual Expenses	\$1,264,142	\$1,283,731
Inter-Departmental Charges	\$4,840,736	\$4,535,778
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$17,406,912	\$17,583,968

Budget Summary

ITEM	2024	2025
Inter-Departmental Revenue	\$5,000	\$6,000
Departmental Revenue	\$2,609,708	\$2,662,432
State & Federal Aid	\$2,467,697	\$2,517,050
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,082,405	\$5,185,482
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	\$12,324,507	\$12,398,486

New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Environmental Services)

- Lead-Free Parks Act Drinking Fountain Testing
- Bronx River Watershed Study – NYC DEP
 - Testing of Combined Sewer/Storm Overflow Events' impact on the Bronx River
- Ossining Beach Swimming Area Feasibility
 - Water sampling project
- Accreditation for Quantitative Analysis of PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl Substances)
 - Emerging contaminate class that is the current focus of Federal and NYS regulations.
 - PFAS validation in progress for 18 PFAs will be complete early Q1 2025
- Laboratory Information System Upgrade
- Enterococcus Beach Monitoring – New Methodology Validated
 - More resource efficient
- New Client Accounts
 - Village of Bronxville – Water Supply Monitoring
 - Boomi Environmental Consulting
 - Hudson Valley Stream Conservancy
 - Blue Ski Home Inspector
 - Hilltop Hanover Farms

New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Forensic Sciences)

- ANAB Full Re-Accreditation Completed
- Completed validation of two electron microscopes
 - Increases the lab's capabilities for completing gunshot residue analysis.
- Governor's 2023 State of the State Initiative to reduce violent crimes
 - Now participate in a new searchable forensics DNA index and now accept swabs of guns recovered in connection with criminal possession offenses.
- New Instrument Validations For:
 - Marijuana & Psychedelic Testing
 - Fentanyl Analog Analysis
 - Trace Evidence (Paints & Fibers)
- County DA Partnership
 - DA Conviction Review Unit – Determine if adjudicated cases are suitable for testing
 - Cold Case Unit – Assist to identify unknown victims of crimes

New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Microbiology)

- Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization-Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF) Testing
 - Faster turnaround times and confirmatory identification for bacterial cultures
- New Putnam County DOH Contract - Mycobacteriology (TB) Testing
- Continuation of MPOX Testing

New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Toxicology)

- Validation of Improved LC-QTOF Technology
 - Initial screening of drugs – higher sensitivity, higher level of confidence in screening results, reducing turnaround times for cases.
- Validation of New Method for Quantitation of Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC in urine
 - Several cases already identified with Delta-8 THC
- Transition of Confirmation Methods from Gas to Liquid Chromatography
 - Less sample prep required, reduced testing time, reduced costs
 - Already moved PCP/Ketamine and Cocaine to this new methodology

New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Medical Examiner)

- **Implementation of Best Practices**
 - Shift from full autopsies to external exams (prevention of unnecessary autopsies) due to:
 - Increased access to electronic medical record data
 - Improved Forensics and Toxicology data
- **Partnership with Department of Community Mental Health**
 - Data extraction of suicide prevention statistics
 - In process of developing fentanyl overdose statistics to support DOCMH efforts
- **Total # of cases reviewed by the ME's Office in 2024 is trending higher than 2023**