



BLOG | CITY BUDGET

Unnecessary Increase

Despite 18,000 Vacancies, NYC FY 2023 Executive Budget Adds 3,000 New Positions

May 4, 2022

Mayor Eric Adams' Preliminary Budget, released in February, included a Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) with approximately \$1 billion in annually recurring savings. About 24 percent of those savings came from eliminating 7,026 vacant full-time positions at 42 agencies.¹ CBC [applauded](#) "reducing unneeded vacant positions to realize recurring savings" as one of the budget's "important, welcome, and refreshing initial steps in the right direction."²

However, in April 2022, Mayor Adams' Executive Budget added 3,011 positions in fiscal year 2023 (2,892 full-time and 119 full-time equivalents). These, plus the 1,843 positions added outside of the PEG in the Preliminary Budget, effectively reverses 69 percent of the February PEG reductions.³ Overall, the plans decrease total authorized City headcount just 0.65 percent, from 334,369 in November 2021 to 332,197 in April 2022.

While the Executive Budget added positions in 30 agencies, more than two-thirds of the new positions were in just six agencies. (See Table 1.) The largest increase, 774 positions, was at the Department of Parks and Recreation, followed by 577 positions at the Department of Correction, and 274 positions at the City Council.

In [18,000 Vacant City Jobs Is More Than Enough](#), CBC found that the vacancy elimination should not constrain City hiring since there still were ample vacant positions and most agencies had vacancy rates of 5 percent or higher.⁴ Instead, the City's processes for managing vacancies, recruiting staff, and hiring, coupled with a bureaucratic civil service process, were impediments to filling vacant positions in priority areas.

Rather than add positions, the City should redistribute available vacancies across departments, within agencies, or across agencies. Furthermore, until the City reduces managerial and procedural roadblocks to hiring, City agencies may struggle to fill priority vacancies.

Table 1: Full-Time and Full-Time Equivalent Authorized Headcount by Agency, FY 2023 Preliminary and FY 2023 Executive Budgets

	FY 2023		Change
	Preliminary	Executive	
Parks	7,309	8,083	774
Correction	9,091	9,668	577
<i>Civilian</i>	2,031	2,030	(1)
<i>Uniformed</i>	7,060	7,638	578
City Council	570	844	274
Fire	17,363	17,550	187
<i>Civilian</i>	6,411	6,598	187
<i>Uniformed</i>	10,952	10,952	0
Mayoralty	1,275	1,410	135
Health and Mental Hygiene	7,101	7,213	112
Sanitation	9,680	9,767	87
<i>Civilian</i>	2,289	2,318	29
<i>Uniformed</i>	7,391	7,449	58
Transportation	6,021	6,100	79
Housing Preservation & Dvlpmt	2,653	2,729	76
Homeless Services	1,993	2,057	64
Campaign Finance	111	170	59
Youth and Community Dvlpmt	510	558	48
Small Business Services	330	367	37
Consumer and Worker Protection	447	484	37
Information Tech & Telecomm	1,734	1,760	26
Citywide Savings Initiative	(1,473)	(1,004)	469
All Other	264,471	264,441	(30)
TOTAL	329,186	332,197	3,011

Sources: City of New York, Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, November 2021 Financial Plan: Full-time and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Levels (November 30, 2021), Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget: Full-time and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Levels (February 16, 2022), and Fiscal Year 2023 Executive Budget: Full-time and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Levels (April 26, 2022).

By Ana Champeny

ENDNOTES

- [1] Ana Champeny, “18,000 Vacant City Jobs Is More Than Enough; Vacancy Reduction Should Not Impede Hiring; How NYC Manages Will,” *Citizens Budget Commission Blog* (March 30, 2022), <https://cbcny.org/research/18000-vacant-city-jobs-more-enough>.
- [2] Andrew Rein, *Statement Regarding the New York City Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget* (Citizens Budget Commission, February 16, 2022), <https://cbcny.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-new-york-city-fiscal-year-2023-preliminary-budget>.
- [3] City of New York, Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget, *November 2021 Financial Plan: Full-time and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Levels* (November 30, 2021), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/omb/downloads/pdf/nov21-stafflevels.pdf>, *Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget: Full-time and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Levels* (February 16, 2022), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/omb/downloads/pdf/feb22-stafflevels.pdf>, and *Fiscal Year 2023 Executive Budget: Full-time and Full-Time Equivalent Staffing Levels* (April 26, 2022), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/omb/downloads/pdf/exec22-stafflevels.pdf>.
- [4] Ana Champeny, “18,000 Vacant City Jobs Is More Than Enough; Vacancy Reduction Should Not Impede Hiring; How NYC Manages Will,” *Citizens Budget Commission Blog* (March 30, 2022), <https://cbcny.org/research/18000-vacant-city-jobs-more-enough>.