



2014 Ulster County Budget Fact Sheet

Safety Net Takeover

Michael P. Hein
County Executive

I. Overview

County Executive Hein's 2014 Executive Budget includes the takeover of 2/3 of the local share of the Safety Net Program as part of his planned three-year phased takeover of the local share of the Safety Net Program from the Towns and the City of Kingston. This plan will provide approximately \$4.0 million in budgetary relief to Ulster County Towns and the City of Kingston in 2014. When fully implemented in 2015, Ulster County will provide over three years approximately \$12 million in relief to the Towns and City of Kingston.

II. Background

The Safety Net Assistance Program is a State-mandated program that provides assistance to single adults, childless couples and other individuals and families who do not qualify for Family Assistance or other Federally-funded Temporary Assistance programs. New York State Law requires that Safety Net Assistance be funded through a State and a local share. Traditionally, the State and local share has been 50% each.

Since 1946, New York State required towns and cities to fund the local share of the Safety Net Assistance Program, unless the county legislature adopts a resolution directing that all or a part of the cost be charged to the county. Until last year, Ulster County was the only county in New York State that has not completely taken over the Safety Net Program.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the State of New York increased the local share of the Safety Net Program from the traditional 50% share to 71% of total program expense, while reducing the State's contribution to only 29%. Additionally, the State Legislature voted in 2009 to increase the benefits provided to Safety Net recipients by 30% phased in through 2012. While the original plan had the State offsetting any local cost associated with this benefit increase, the State changed direction and passed the full impact of the 30% increase in welfare benefits to the County, Towns and City of Kingston beginning April 1, 2012.

III. Proposed 2014 Budget Action

The 2014 Executive Budget continues the planned three-year County takeover of the local share of the Safety Net Program that began in 2013. Under this plan, the County assumed a third of the cost in 2013 and will assume two-thirds of the cost in 2014 and the entire cost in 2015. The following table illustrates the estimated savings for Ulster County towns and the City of Kingston in 2014:

Municipality	2014 Local Savings from County Takeover of 2/3 Safety Net Expense
Denning	\$17,814
Esopus	\$211,478
Gardner	\$23,403
Hardenburgh	\$0
Hurley	\$71,916
Kingston	\$12,148
Lloyd	\$109,406
Marbletown	\$52,666
Marlboro	\$89,807
New Paltz	\$80,532
Olive	\$59,846
Plattekill	\$157,415
Rochester	\$155,630
Rosendale	\$81,967
Saugerties	\$319,138
Shandaken	\$58,216
Shawangunk	\$100,325
Ulster	\$273,652
Wawarsing	\$537,291
Woodstock	\$45,175
Sub-total	\$2,457,822
City of Kingston	\$1,423,292
Total	\$3,881,114

IV. Fiscal Impact

The estimated impact to the 2014 County Budget from this proposal is an expense of approximately \$4.0 million.