

# CONGRESSWOMAN NITA LOWEY

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## FACT SHEET: The Impact of the Looming Budget Sequester on Westchester and Rockland Counties, New York State

On March 1<sup>st</sup> – unless Congress acts – the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will sequester \$85 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 spending, as mandated by the 2011 Budget Control Act. **These looming budget cuts would do lasting damage to the economies of Westchester and Rockland Counties as well as New York State.** These cuts would hurt the region's economy, slow job creation and lead to a reduction in critical services and investments in areas such as education, law enforcement, and medical research.

Below is more detailed information on the impact of sequestration on New York's 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (NY-17), as well as New York State. Unless otherwise noted, figures are based on the Congressional Budget Office estimate that the across-the-board cuts would reduce defense spending by 7.9% and non-defense spending by 5.3%. Actual reductions could differ due to a number of technical factors.

### Early Childhood and K-12 Education

At a time when local school districts are already struggling to continue important services, sequestration threatens to strain school budgets even further.

- **Schools in Westchester and Rockland Counties stand to lose approximately \$4.4 million from sequestration.** Potential cuts to two federal programs – Title I, which seeks to improve academic achievement for the disadvantaged, and IDEA, which helps schools educate children with disabilities – would be significant. The reduction in funding to school districts would include:
  - \$15,264 for Blink Brook-Rye
  - \$22,378 for Briarcliff Manor
  - \$29,909 for Byram Hills
  - \$41,999 for Chappaqua
  - \$121,614 for Clarkstown
  - \$18,931 for Croton-Harmon
  - \$48,325 for Dobbs Ferry
  - \$843,520 for East Ramapo
  - \$20,350 for Elmsford
  - \$46,042 for Greenburgh Central 7
  - \$54,770 for Harrison
  - \$41,010 for Hendrick Hudson
  - \$163,121 for Haverstraw-Stony Point (North Rockland)
  - \$20,877 for Irvington
  - \$94,784 for Lakeland
  - \$25,830 for Mount Pleasant
  - \$30,397 for Nanuet
  - \$50,067 for Nyack

- \$83,976 for Ossining
  - \$33,620 for Pearl River
  - \$92,043 for Peekskill
  - \$36,327 for Pleasantville
  - \$6,898 for Pocantico Hills
  - \$119,589 for Port Chester-Rye
  - \$78,796 for Ramapo
  - \$20,055 for Rye Neck
  - \$56,369 for South Orangetown
  - \$60,580 for Tarrytowns
  - \$22,566 for Valhalla
  - \$156,363 for White Plains
  - \$51,661 for Yorktown
- When considering all federal programs, the New York State School Boards Association estimates that **across-the-board cuts will cost school districts in the Lower Hudson Valley an average of \$100,000.**
  - Statewide, Title I grants would be cut by more than \$45 million; IDEA Special Education grants would be reduced by approximately \$36.3 million; and Head Start funding for New York State would be cut by approximately \$26 million, meaning that services would be eliminated for approximately 4,300 children in New York.

### Higher Education

**A 5.3% cut under sequestration would cost students at local colleges and universities more than \$224,000 in tuition assistance this school year.** While Pell Grants are exempt from sequestration, other federal college affordability services, such as Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Federal Work Study assistance, would be reduced.

### First Responders and Law Enforcement

If the sequester goes into effect, **funding for first responders and law enforcement in New York State would be cut by over \$860,000.** That includes:

- **The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program:** The Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, which provides first responders with protective gear, emergency vehicles, and training, would see a reduction of approximately \$534,774 in 2013.
- **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants:** Fire department throughout the state would also receive \$331,332 less in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants to hire trained firefighters.
- As a result of cuts to the **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP)**, which provides payments to state and local governments that incur costs for incarcerating undocumented aliens who break the law, **law enforcement officials in NY-17 would see a reduction of over \$85,300 in SCAAP funding from FY12 levels**, with Rockland County losing \$22,354 and Westchester County \$62,955.

### Military Readiness

While our troops on the front lines would be protected from across-the-board cuts, military installations and defense contractors in NY-17 would not be spared.

- The Army estimates that **budget uncertainty would reduce funding to Camp Smith in Cortlandt Manor by \$3.1 million.**

- In 2012, prime contractors in NY-17 received \$117 million in Department of Defense (DoD) contracts. **An across-the-board cut could cost entities in NY-17 more than \$9 million in 2013.**
- The Aerospace Industries Association estimates that **28,809 defense-dependent jobs in New York State are at risk due to sequestration, and DoD has reported that 11,928 of its civilian employees in New York would be furloughed, resulting in approximately \$66 million in lost wages.**

### **Medical Research**

In 2012, Westchester and Rockland facilities such as New York Medical College received 62 different National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants, totaling more than \$25 million. **If the NIH awards were to be reduced by 5.3%, it would cost Westchester and Rockland Counties more than \$1.3 million in funding for cutting-edge medical research.** This would not only delay groundbreaking medical advances happening in our community, but it could also lead to a reduction in good, high-paying, high-tech jobs – exactly the type of activity we want to promote in our region.

New York is home to many of the biggest and best biomedical research facilities in the world. **Statewide, sequestration could cost New York medical researchers more than \$105 million.** A former director of NIH stated recently that sequestration would set back medical research by a generation.

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