



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE

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Find Out How Your City Tax Dollars Are Spent

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Get a Personalized Accounting on IBO's Web Site

With thousands of New Yorkers rushing to make today's tax filing deadline, many are asking: "Where do my tax dollars go?" The New York City Independent Budget Office can provide the answer through a unique on-line service that can give any New York City taxpayer a receipt itemizing how their dollars are being spent.

"When you go to the supermarket, you get a receipt. Yet you do not get a receipt for one of your biggest expenditures—the income taxes you pay," says IBO Director Ronnie Lowenstein. "We think New Yorkers deserve the same kind of accounting of how their government spends income tax dollars."

A household that pays \$800 in city income taxes (roughly the median amount owed by taxpayers) would receive a receipt showing that the three most expensive items on their bill are public elementary and high schools (\$129.01), police (\$85.08) and Medicaid (\$74.71). Among the smaller items on the bill are garbage/recycling collection and street cleaning (\$12.86), public libraries (\$2.95), after-school programs (\$2.22), and street construction and maintenance (\$0.78).

To generate your tax receipt, simply log on to IBO's Web site at www.ibo.nyc.ny.us and enter the total taxes from your 2001 state and city tax form (it is completely confidential). In just a few seconds an itemized tabulation will be produced that tells you in dollars and cents how much of your money is going to education, law enforcement, welfare, parks and playgrounds, sanitation, child welfare, museums and libraries, and other services. The receipt can be printed out or just read on your screen.

The personal tax receipt is a free service of the Independent Budget Office. IBO provides nonpartisan budgetary, economic, and policy analysis for public officials and residents of New York City, and seeks to increase New Yorkers' understanding of and participation in the budget process.