

Snapshot: New York City Spending For Asylum Seekers

May 8, 2023



New York City
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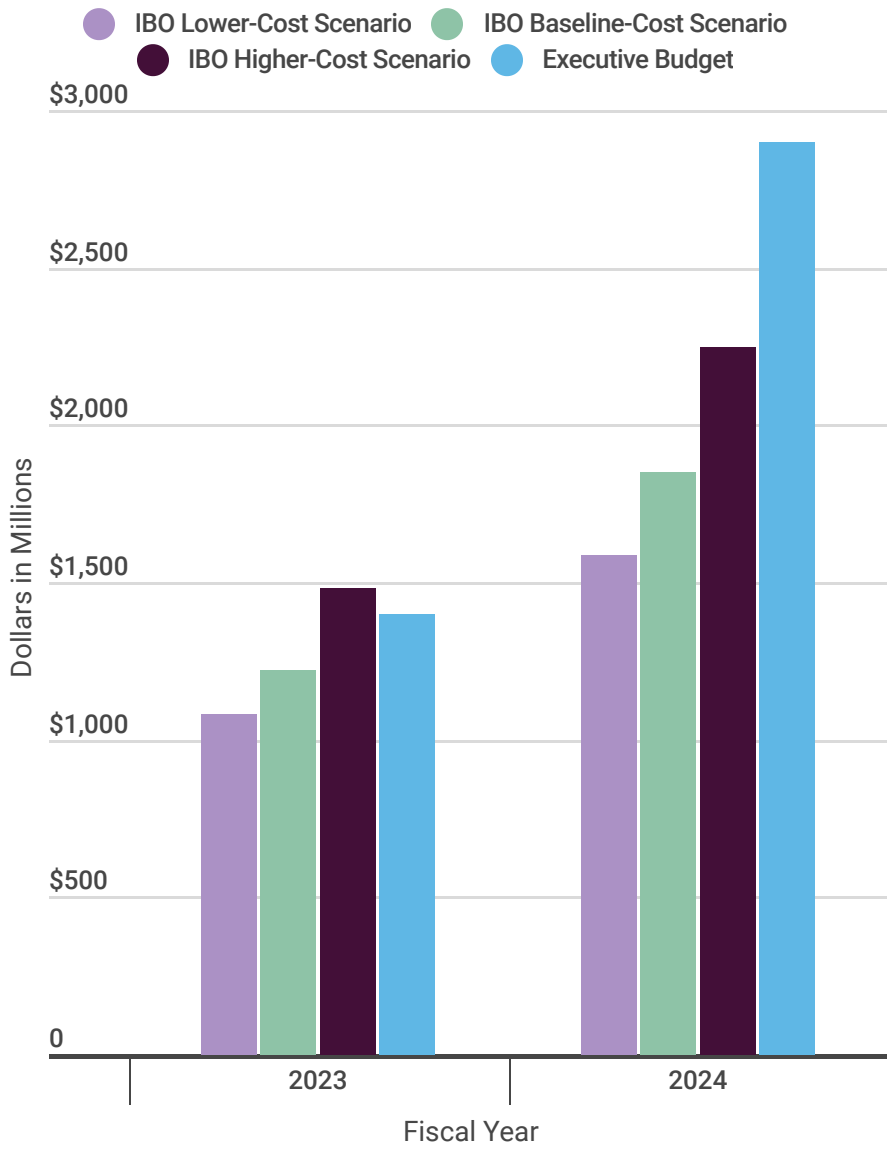
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IBO Projects Lower Asylum Seeker Costs than the Executive Budget

Given the Uncertainty Around Asylum Seekers, IBO Modeled Three Cost Scenarios



SOURCE: IBO analysis of Executive Budget data

All three of IBO’s cost scenarios are lower than the Executive Budget projection of \$4.3 billion across fiscal years 2023 and 2024. IBO’s higher-cost scenario is approximately \$600 million less than the Executive Budget for this period. Given the fluidity of the situation, IBO cannot know how many asylum seekers will arrive. Variations in how many asylum seekers arrive to New York City, how long they stay, and their use of city services are the subject of these models.

- For our baseline-cost scenario, IBO estimates that the asylum-seeking population in 2024 will continue to follow trends of arrivals, stays, and exits seen in 2023, and that the current cost of providing shelter and food and other city services for asylum seekers will remain constant. This scenario totals \$3.1 billion across 2023 and 2024, \$1.2 billion lower than the Executive Budget.
- IBO’s lower-cost scenario assumes that, while the asylum-seeking population will continue to grow over the course of 2024, the city will find cost efficiencies next year, lowering the per-household cost of providing shelter and food for asylum seekers.
- IBO’s higher-cost scenario assumes that the asylum-seeking population will continue to grow over the course of 2024 and that the cost to shelter and care for asylum seekers will be higher than current rates as the city continues to ramp up emergency spending.

The Executive Budget contains funding for asylum seekers budgeted across nine agencies. Similarly, IBO examined funding across these agencies. IBO’s scenarios include costs for shelter—whether through the Department of Homeless Services or other emergency housing—accounting for approximately 80 percent of our cost estimate. The remaining 20 percent includes costs for administrative, legal, information technology, emergency management, health, and other services.

The recently adopted New York State Budget included funding to reimburse New York City for 29 percent of costs associated with sheltering asylum seekers, up to \$1 billion in reimbursement over two years. Across each of IBO’s three cost scenarios, the city will not receive the full \$1 billion.

Asylum Seekers Cost Scenarios

By Fiscal Year, dollars in millions

Scenario	2023	2024	Total
IBO Lower-Cost Scenario	\$1,083	\$1,588	\$2,671
IBO Baseline-Cost Scenario	\$1,222	\$1,851	\$3,073
IBO Higher-Cost Scenario	\$1,481	\$2,246	\$3,728
Executive Budget	\$1,400	\$2,900	\$4,300