

Show Me the Money!

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What are income taxes? And what are they for?

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Where does the U.S. budget come from and what is it spent on? Approximately \$1.48 trillion of the \$3.8 trillion federal budget comes from income taxes from individuals. In the winter of 2016, CUP collaborated with Julia Joseph's 11th grade U.S. History class at the International Community High School in the Bronx to learn about income taxes and investigate the funding of local, state, and federal governments.

To investigate, students participated in a scavenger hunt to find signs of tax funded programs in their neighborhood, surveyed community members about income taxes, and imagined ways government funding could be different. This booklet is a guide to what they discovered.



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WHAT ARE INCOME TAXES?

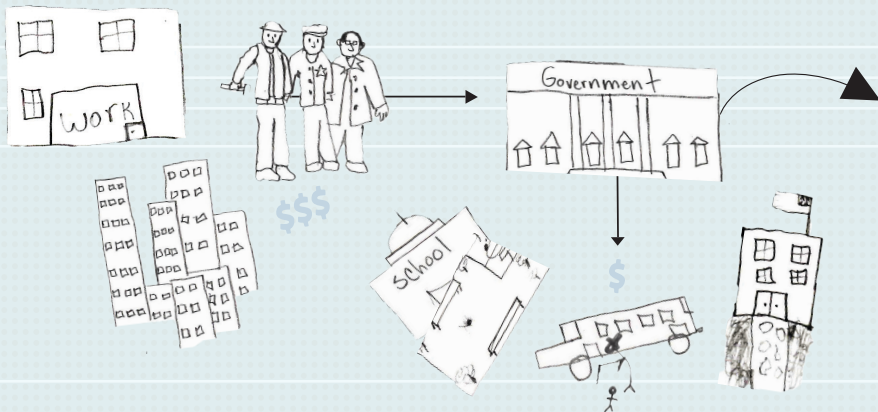
Income

is money received through work, gifts, inheritance, etc.



Tax

is a fee paid to local, state, or federal governments to support government programs and activities.

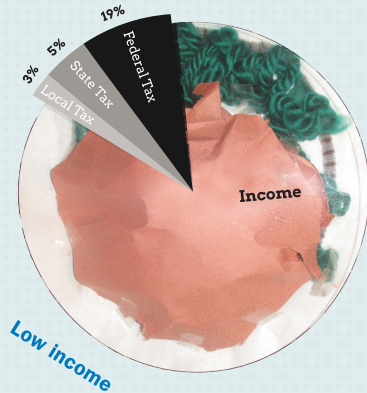


Individual Income Tax

is a percentage of money a person has to pay the government based on the amount of money they earned or received.

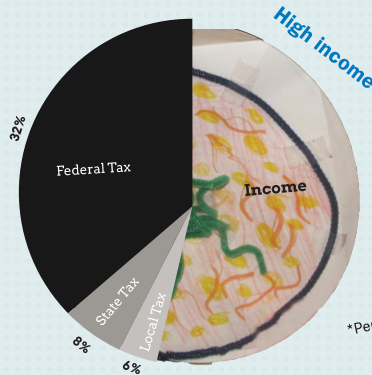
ARE ALL TAXES EQUAL?

The amount of money taken out of a paycheck for income taxes in New York State varies based on how much money that person makes. This is called a **progressive tax.**



If you make \$25,000 or less in 1 year, then you pay a maximum of 28% in income taxes to the government, but you may not pay anything at all.

vs.



If you make \$75,000 or more in 1 year, then you pay a minimum of 45% in income taxes to the government.

progressive tax.

The fee paid to local, state, or federal governments increases as the taxable amount, such as income, increases. The more money you make the more income taxes you pay.

*Percentages are based on the tax rate for a single individuals total income in 2015.

"Income tax is the money that the government takes out of your paycheck."
-Alpha Oumar Bah,
ICHS Student



WHERE DOES OUR MONEY GO?

The money from income taxes goes to a lot of different government programs and activities, such as buses, road repairs, park maintenance, healthcare, and paying government employees. Where can you find evidence of taxes at work in your neighborhood?

"Tax money is used to maintain our city."
-Alpha Oumar Bah, ICBS Student

"We all use public services, so we should all have to pay income taxes."
-Aboubak Soumare, ICBS student

NYC Local Government Budget • \$75 Billion

- Education • 29%
- Social Services • 19%
- Government Retirement and Benefits • 16%
- Police, Fire, and Corrections • 10%
- Debt • 9%
- Local Government • 8%
- Health, Sanitation, and Environmental Protection • 6%
- Transportation and Housing • 2%
- Recreation and Cultural • 1%

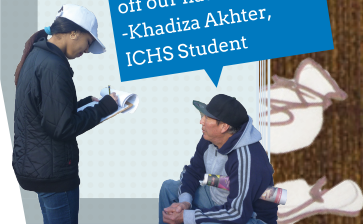
NY State Government Budget • \$142 Billion

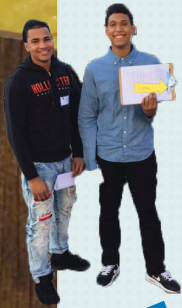
- Healthcare • 38%
- Education • 22%
- Transportation • 6%
- Social Welfare • 6%
- State Government • 5%
- Social Services • 4%
- Criminal Justice • 4%
- Debt • 3%
- Social Security, Unemployment, and Labor • 3%
- Parks and Recreation • 1%

"Taxes are the soul of our country. Taxes support our hospitals, schools, and even pay off our nations debt."
-Khadiza Akhter, ICBS Student



BROOK AVENUE





Transportation



US Federal Government Budget • \$3.8 Trillion

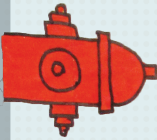
- Social Security, Unemployment, and Labor • 33.25%
- Healthcare • 27.42%
- Military • 15.88%
- Debt • 5.97%
- Veterans Benefit • 4.19%
- Food and Agriculture • 3.54%
- Education • 2.67%
- Transportation • 2.22%
- Housing and Community • 1.6%
- International Affairs • 1.31%
- Energy and Environment • 1.17%
- Science • 0.78%



Police and Corrections

"I've lived in New York City for over 40 years and I still don't know what income taxes are used for." - Anonymous community member

E 141ST STREET



Healthcare



"It's not about how much income tax money I pay, it's about how efficiently that money is used. Are we using money for police and military wisely? Or can we redirect that money towards a better use?" - Anonymous community member



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?



"Taxes force people to give money that benefits everyone in a country, not just themselves."
-Rony Tejada Sosa, ICHS Student



Local Government

To support your local community, find a Community Board near you at <http://www.nyc.gov.html/cau/html/cb.shtml>

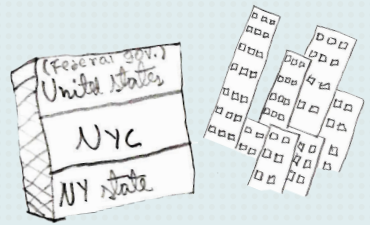


State Government

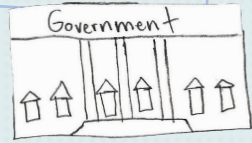
To tell New York your opinion, contact Governor Andrew Cuomo at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

Without taxes, we would not have all of these public services."
-Montserrat Pina Mejia, ICBS Student

"The state government should collect more money because each state is very different and has different needs."
-Cesarina Checo, ICBS Student



Federal Government
To influence funding at the federal level, contact the U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee at budget.republicans@mail.house.gov or call 202-226-7270.



CUP

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The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP)

is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. CUP projects demystify the urban policy and planning issues that impact our communities, so that more individuals can better participate in shaping them.

City Studies are CUP's project-based in-class and afterschool programs that use design and art as tools to research the city.

ICHS

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International Community High School

(ICHS) is a progressive public school for English Language Learners in the South Bronx. To learn more, visit ichs.weebly.com

Thanks to our Interviewees:

Deja Holden, ICHS staff, and Bronx community members

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Claire Duvernet

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