

## Hochul's budget proposal includes \$7.7 billion on tax credit for film/tv industry

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*Production set in Hollywood. (FILE)*

ALBANY, N.Y. (WRGB) — Major investments in film production could be coming to New York State.

A final budget is still nowhere to be seen – now six days past its original deadline– and Governor Kathy Hochul’s proposal includes money meant to bring filmmaking projects to the Empire State.

In her proposed budget, she’s looking to allocate a total of \$7.7 billion over the next decade to production companies who film in New York.

The state’s Film Tax Credit Program currently offers \$420 million in tax credits annually to encourage film projects in the state, but Hochul is looking to bump that up to \$700 million a year through 2034, reimbursing production companies 30-percent of costs.

***“When a production comes into a community, it can be anywhere from \$125,000 to \$165,000 per day in that particular community,” said Deb Goedeke, Albany County Film Commissioner.***

Goedeke says that’s roughly how much the recent productions of HBO’s *The Gilded Age* and *White House Plumbers* brought to the Capital Region.

**CBS6’s BRIANA SUPARDI:** *“Do you think these film productions would still come here to film if it wasn’t for the tax credits?”*

**DEB GOEDEKE:** *“No, I don’t believe they would. They would find a state where they would get the tax credits. The productions are all about saving money and time.”*

But others disagree – saying investments into film productions are not worth the pay off.

“We released eight studies that show the bang for your buck is very low,” said Elizabeth Marcello, Senior Research Analyst at Reinvent Albany, a watchdog group.

***“There’s not the promised economic gains we see in the return. There’s not the promised jobs. We don’t see that play out in the economy,” she adds.***

According to Reinvent Albany, the group analyzed 2022 data from the state’s Empire State Development Authority’s 2022 Fourth Quarter Report on Film Tax Credits and found that each full-time film/TV production job currently costs New York State taxpayers \$66,819 per year — which has some asking why that money isn’t being used to create other jobs that better serve the public.

“Why aren't we paying people to care for our children, care for our elderly, why aren't we paying people to replace lead pipes or build schools,” said Marcello.

“There are other things we should be doing with these taxpayer dollars rather than paying Hollywood to create these jobs,” Marcello added.

CBS6 reached out to the state for comment.

“New York’s film tax incentives support tens of thousands of good-paying jobs and billions in annual spending across the state, and when New York lowered its film tax credit in 2020 as other states raised theirs, it resulted in vacant film studios and jobs moving across the Hudson. This is not movie magic, it’s basic economics. New York’s film industry brings jobs and investment to our state, provides a return on investment for New York taxpayers, and is vital to our economy,” said Kristin Devoe, a spokesperson with the state’s Empire State Development.

According to the state, since 2014 1,502 projects have applied to participate in the incentive program, creating over 1.7 million hires and over \$35 billion in spending across New York State.