The purpose of this Advocacy Update is to make sure everyone understands what is happening with respect to AIM payments for the 2019-20 state fiscal year. Many of you have received emails from the Office of the State Comptroller and/or participated in the webinar on this topic yesterday afternoon.

First, all city AIM payments will be received in the same time and manner that they have been in the past. (Click here to see the payment schedule.) For the 51 villages whose AIM amount is more than 2% of their 2017 total expenditures, you should have already received your AIM payment from the State Comptroller in September.

All other villages will receive what is being referred to as an “AIM-related payment” which will be paid out of county sales tax revenues that are intercepted by the State Comptroller, as now mandated by State law. This payment amount will be the same as what you previously received in AIM funding. However, the timing of the payments will change. Previously you received your AIM payment in September. Under the new law, if you are a village with a fiscal year ending on May 31, you will now receive your AIM-related payment on or before May 15 in 2020 and each year thereafter. If you are a village with a fiscal year that ends on a date other than May 31, you will now receive your AIM-related payment on or before December 15 in 2019 and each year thereafter.

If you are a village in either Nassau or Erie County and you did not receive an AIM payment in September, the timing of your AIM-related payment currently is uncertain. This is due to the fact that there is no authority for the Office of the State Comptroller to intercept the county sales tax money to make the AIM-related payments because the sales tax revenue is already dedicated for other purposes, as dictated by the statutes governing the control boards that exist in these counties. Although the NYS Division of the Budget (DOB) is working on a solution to this problem, due to the uncertainty as to when one will be identified, the State Comptroller’s Office has advised villages in Erie and Nassau counties to consider the impact of not receiving such payments during your current fiscal year.

NYCOM has emphasized to DOB the critical importance of resolving this issue consistent with the intent of the new law. We will continue to keep you apprised of any developments and to reiterate that AIM must be a State-funded program for all villages and towns. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Barbara@nycom.org or 518-463-1185.

For more information on the amount and timing of AIM and AIM-related payments, as well as to view the webinar slide show, click here.