

Open Data and Methodology

The data collected over the past year is made available to fulfill the promise of open data and transparency. By making available the data FPWA collected, organized, and analyzed over the past year – all of which is public, but only in PDF format - we hope to empower individuals and policymakers to better advocate on behalf of their communities. [Users can also visit our Tableau page](#) to share charts on social media or embed them into their digital media.

[Sign up](#) to receive data alerts and [download the data sets](#).

The Federal Funds Tracker relies on a number of data sources, requires certain assumptions, normalizes data to reflect intent, and categorizes grant data for uniformity and analysis. Data will be updated each year when new budget documents are released.

Current Year Data: For FY 2019 figures, we rely on the *New York City's Office of Management and Budget's Budget Function Analysis (BFA^{xxvi})* report from the FY 2019 Adopted Budget. The BFA details the expense budget of certain agencies by major functional areas and are updated for the Preliminary, Executive, and Adopted Budgets. **Each year, we will update the Federal Funds Tracker with data from the Preliminary Budget**, which reflects the most up to date estimates of the current fiscal year. The disadvantage of the BFA is that expenses are estimates. The advantage is that the BFA provides a level of detail not available elsewhere by detailing federal grants by program area, which is simply a way to categorize an agency's spending into program areas.

Historical Data: For FY 2010 through FY 2018 trend analyses, we rely on data from the New York City Comptroller's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report ([CAFR^{xxvii}](#)). These reports are published in October of each year and report on "actual" spending during the previous fiscal year — that is, what the city *actually* spent versus the estimated spending in current year budget documents. These data are adjusted for inflation. **Each year, we will update the trends in actual spending when the CAFR is released.**

Exclusions: Historical data excludes one-time funding sources from the economic stimulus provided by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) following the Great Recession, and Disaster Relief aid, such as for Hurricane Sandy. ARRA was effective in [creating jobs^{xxviii}](#) and [keeping families out of poverty^{xxix}](#) in the aftermath of the Great Recession, and Disaster Recovery funds are critical for emergency-preparedness and infrastructure investments, but one-time fiscal boosts do not reflect Congresses longer-term spending intent.

Primary Federal Grants and City-Wide Federal Grants: Because city officials have discretion in how grants are allocated among agencies, and do not have the same flexibility in other cases, we categorize agency grants as "primary" grants if they exclusively and consistently supported an agency since FY 2010 (24 percent of the four agencies' federal grants) or "city-wide" grants if they have consistently *but not exclusively* supported one or more of the Federal Funds Tracker's four agencies since FY 2010 (76 percent of the four agencies' federal grants).