

## FAQs for New York State Payments Search Open Book New York

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### 1. What does State Payments data include?

It includes individual voucher-level data for payments made to payees/vendors since April 1, 2012 for State agencies and public authorities that receive State appropriations.

Only agencies and authorities that have made payments will appear on the selection list in State Payments.

### 2. What does the data exclude?

- Expenses that have not yet been paid (accrued expenditure data) and accounting adjustments that correct agency posting errors or reclassify spending based on accounting rules that applied after the State closed its books.

For this reason, the data will differ from spending information provided in the State Comptroller's reports to the Legislature on a Cash Basis of Accounting and in the New York State Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

- Accounting detail and spending data categorized by functions (e.g., healthcare, education, etc.). We will add this enhancement to State Payments in the future. In the meantime, you can find that data in the [Summary of Annual State Spending and Receipted Report](#).
- Certain payments that the State pays from funds collected in a fiduciary capacity; such as employee withholdings for taxes, insurance or other payroll deductions.
- Payments to individuals whose confidentiality is protected by statute, such as crime victims, court jurors and for tax refund recipients.
- Payments made through an external system such as payroll payments to State employees and Medicaid payments to providers. However, you can obtain total disbursements for these payments from State Spending. You can search by agency or category of spending.

### 3. Where does the data come from and how frequently is it updated?

The Statewide Financial System (SFS), the State's accounting system, provides daily updates to State Payments data.

4. Why doesn't an agency/business unit appear in the selection list?

Only State agencies and public authorities that have made payments will appear on the selection list.

5. Which agencies/business units are public authorities and why don't all disbursements display for them?

Public authorities are listed under the Public Benefit Corporation category.

Many disbursements for public authorities don't display in State Payments because they don't flow through the State Treasury and the Legislature rarely appropriates their operational expenses. That spending is considered 'off budget'.

6. Who can I contact if I have a question?

See [Contact Us](#) for assistance.