It is time to fill the GAP in TAP

It’s unfair that CUNY and SUNY must fund the tuition shortfall for all students receiving TAP grants. Increasing the Maximum TAP Award WILL NOT FIX this GAP

Per state law, CUNY and SUNY four-year campuses must fund the difference between TAP awards ($5,000) and the full tuition rates of $6,730 (CUNY) and $6,870 (SUNY) out of their own operating revenue. The cost for 2018-19 is **$139 million** and will be more in 2019-20.

New York has invested heavily in making college affordable to students. The Tuition Assistance Program spends $900 million a year to support more than 300,000 students. However, SUNY and CUNY must fund, or “eat”, the difference as the “gap” between TAP awards and actual tuition costs grows with every annual tuition increase. It is unfair that campuses must cover it with their own operating revenue. The TAP GAP has cost public colleges $700 million since 2012.