

NEW YORK'S FUNDING MODEL FOR CUNY IS BROKEN

Fund educational justice, racial justice and wage justice. Fund CUNY.

CUNY's current funding model is unsustainable. State operating support remains flat, contractual increases are not funded, and the gap continues to grow between the maximum amount colleges can collect in TAP payments and the actual tuition cost. As a result, CUNY has had to cannibalize its academic budget to cover basic operating expenses (including salaries and benefits, maintenance and utilities), and has cut academic programs and rationed student support.

CUNY needs **\$332 million more for its senior colleges** and **\$18 million more for its community colleges** in next year's State budget. New York rightly approaches college affordability and access as issues of racial and economic

“Access without resources is not access.”

—Barbara Bowen, President,
Professional Staff Congress

justice. But the quality of college education New York offers is an equally powerful racial and economic justice issue. More than half of CUNY's undergraduate instruction is provided by adjunct faculty, who earn a near-poverty wage, while full-time faculty are paid less than at peer institutions. CUNY's role as the national leader in enabling students to move out of poverty could be under threat.

PSC REQUESTS THE FUNDING CUNY NEEDS:

Eliminate TAP GAP	\$86 Million
Collective Bargaining, Wage Justice for Adjuncts	\$150 Million
New Faculty, Advisors and Counselors	\$60 Million
Unfunded Mandatory Costs & Critical Maintenance	\$36 Million
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Total New Investments for CUNY Senior Colleges	\$332 Million
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Increase Base Aid to Community Colleges	\$18 Million
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Restore Legislative Investments in CUNY	\$12 Million
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Make this the year that Albany fixes CUNY funding.

Eliminate the TAP Gap (\$86 Million).

By law, CUNY must waive the difference between tuition (currently \$6,730 at the senior colleges) and \$5,000 for full-time students receiving maximum TAP awards. Students who receive partial TAP awards must receive partial tuition waivers. This "TAP Gap" between the amount the State pays to support the education of the 53,000 TAP recipients at CUNY senior colleges and the actual tuition cost of their education grows with every tuition hike and creates a growing hole in CUNY's operating budget.

Fund future collective bargaining costs and wage justice for adjuncts (\$150 Million).

CUNY needs funding to cover the cost of contractual salary increases and wage justice for adjuncts. Faculty salaries at CUNY lag tens of thousands of dollars behind those at comparable institutions. CUNY's 12,000 adjunct lecturers are paid a near-poverty average wage of \$3,500 per course, far less than adjuncts at other NYC colleges.

Fund new full-time faculty lines, advisors and counselors (\$60 Million).

The University has 4,000 fewer full-time faculty today than in 1975, when it enrolled 24,000 fewer students. Student-to-advisor ratios are as high as 1,500:1 at some colleges. The ratio of students to mental health counselors is 2,400:1. CUNY students need time with

faculty who can provide mentorship, and enough counselors and advisors to provide support.

Fund CUNY's mandatory costs (\$36 Million).

The Executive Budget proposes \$48 million for fringe benefit increases at CUNY senior colleges, less than CUNY requested and far less than is needed to cover mandatory cost increases overall. CUNY needs funding to cover its full fringe benefit costs plus funding for rent, energy and critical operating maintenance, as well as contractual salary increments.

Increase the per-student funding rate for community colleges by \$250 (\$18 Million).

The Base Aid Rate of funding for community colleges should be increased by \$250 from \$2,847 per FTE to \$3,097 per FTE. CUNY community college students are predominantly low-income people of color. Many are first-generation students or new immigrants. They need more resources at their colleges.

Restore legislative investments in ASAP, Opportunity Programs (\$12 Million).

The Executive Budget eliminates funding added by the Legislature to targeted programs at CUNY, including the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, the Opportunity Programs, the CUNY School for Labor and Urban Studies, and the CUNY Pipeline initiative.



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