

# When will New York stop starving CUNY?

**CUNY** lacks the resources essential for student success. Underfunding has led to shortages of supplies and equipment, limited hours for writing and tutoring centers, reduced hours for libraries, and even reduced course offerings. 22% of CUNY students report being unable to register for a course needed for graduation. New York invests mightily in financial aid to ensure broad access to CUNY, but access without resources is not enough.

Many CUNY students succeed despite economic and academic challenges, the demands of work and family, and the pressures of being a first-generation student. But many take extra years to graduate or never attain degrees at all.

By failing to adequately fund CUNY, **the State is creating additional barriers to student success.** Funding per student for the senior colleges has fallen 21% since FY 2009, adjusting for inflation. Funding for the community colleges has increased, but not to the extent needed. Deep cuts to academic departments and rationed student services have been the result.

The solution is State investment. City and federal investment should also rise. Tuition should not increase. The University needs **\$208 million more for its senior colleges** and **\$24.6 million more for its community colleges** in next year's State budget.

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## The State Funding CUNY Needs in FY2021

Unmet Mandatory Needs:	\$97 Million
Offset the TAP Gap:	\$79 Million
New Faculty, Advisors and Mental Health Counselors:	\$30 Million
Restore Legislative Investments in Senior Colleges:	\$2 Million
Senior Colleges Total:	<b>\$208 Million</b>
Community College Base Aid:	\$18 Million
Restore Legislative Investments in Community Colleges:	\$6.6 Million
Community College Total:	<b>\$24.6 Million</b>
<b>CUNY Total:</b>	<b>\$232.6 Million</b>

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# Access Without Resources Betrays CUNY Students

CUNY has one full-time faculty member for every 29 FTE students. The national average ratio of full-time faculty to FTE students is 1:18. The University depends on adjunct faculty to provide the majority of its instruction. There is only one mental health counselor at CUNY for every 2,700 students; the

shortage is so severe the University is resorting to a \$120 per student fee to fund new counselor lines. Academic advisors, who help keep students on pace to graduate, are so scarce that CUNY has proposed using algorithms to triage advisement.

## New York Must Invest in CUNY Student Success

### **Fully fund CUNY's operating costs (\$97 Million)**

The Executive Budget proposes \$24 million for fringe benefit increases at CUNY senior colleges, half the amount CUNY requested for fringe benefits and almost \$100 million less than is needed to cover mandatory cost increases overall. CUNY needs funding to cover its full fringe benefit costs and collective bargaining increases, plus funding for rent, energy and critical operating maintenance.

### **Allocate funds to offset the full TAP Gap (\$79 Million)**

The "TAP Gap" is the difference between the amount the State pays to support the education of the 56,000 TAP recipients at CUNY senior colleges and the actual tuition cost of their education. Tuition is currently \$6,930 at the CUNY senior colleges, but the State's TAP payment to CUNY is capped at \$5,000 per student. By law, the \$1,930 difference must be waived. The TAP Gap grows with every tuition hike. The waivers for all TAP recipients this year will amount to a combined \$79 million in lost revenue. Next year's planned tuition hike would increase the TAP Gap further.

### **Increase Base Aid by \$250 per FTE (\$18 Million)**

The Executive Budget would reduce funding for CUNY community colleges by \$3.6 million, due to enrollment declines. 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, not fewer. The Base Aid Rate of funding for community colleges should be increased by \$250 from \$2,947 per FTE to \$3,197 per FTE to fund education and services.

### **Fund new mental health counselors, full-time faculty lines and advisors (NYS: \$30 Million | NYC: \$30 Million)**

CUNY students need expanded mental health services, counseling and other supportive services. But the State and City should each provide part of the funding. CUNY students, who face high rates of homelessness and food-insecurity, should not be burdened with another fee. The ratio of students to mental health counselors is an outrageously low 2,700:1. CUNY has 4,000 fewer full-time faculty today than in 1975 though it has 24,000 more students, and the student-to-advisor ratios are as high as 1,500:1 at some colleges.

### **Restore Legislative Investments (\$8.6 Million)**

The Executive Budget eliminates funding added by the Legislature to targeted programs at CUNY, including the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), the CUNY School for Labor and Urban Studies (SLU), CUNY LEADs and the CUNY child care centers.

