

THIS IS THE YEAR TO REINVEST IN CUNY!

Let's bring home the \$500 million we need.

In January, Governor Hochul boldly committed \$1.5 billion to CUNY and SUNY over the next five budget cycles. This month, **the Senate and the Assembly saw the wisdom of the Governor's proposal, but also expressed that five years is too long.** We commend the Governor, the Majority Leader and the Speaker for their commitment to higher education as a way to uplift students and the New York State economy. Decades of underfunding at CUNY created a rolling crisis, and COVID revealed the extent of that crisis. This is the year to act decisively, reverse course, and fund CUNY!

- **Racial and economic justice.** CUNY has more than 75% students of color. Approximately half of CUNY students come from families that earn less than \$30,000 per year. Across the CUNY and SUNY systems, whiter campuses have greater access to full-time faculty than campuses with larger POC populations. Investing in CUNY is racial and economic justice.
- **Economic impact.** In 2019, CUNY graduates contributed more than \$4.2 billion to the New York State tax base, and earned fully \$28 billion more than they would have without their college degrees. Investing in CUNY has a guaranteed economic return.
- **Pandemic recovery.** The pandemic devastated New York families and upended the New York economy. Under ordinary circumstances, CUNY has been a vehicle of economic stability for New Yorkers. But

under these circumstances, CUNY is more vital than ever. Investing in CUNY is a key element of pandemic recovery.

These issues have persisted in large part because the state's commitment to CUNY senior colleges has declined 18% per full-time equivalent student since the onset of the 2008 Great Recession, adjusting for inflation, and a shocking 38% since the early 1990s. They have persisted because the state is legally obligated to fund 40% of CUNY community colleges, but it funds less than 25%. This is the year to decisively reverse this trend, to begin to redress this rolling crisis.

To provide a high quality education, and to help move more students into the middle class and contribute billions of dollars to the state tax base, this is the year for a major investment to transform public higher education and thereby transform New York.

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Continued

CUNY needs \$500 million dollars over last year's operating budget

- \$305 million for the New Deal for CUNY
 - Full time faculty (\$153 million)
 - Mental health counselors (\$29 million)
 - Academic advisors (\$50 million)
 - Adjunct pay parity (\$42 million)
 - Tuition reduction (\$31 million)
- \$59 million to close the TAP Gap
- \$60 million to bolster the community colleges
 - Hold harmless for enrollment declines (\$20 million)
 - Per FTE base aid increase (\$40 million)
- \$76 million for targeted enhancements
 - Nursing program (\$4.5 million)
 - Childcare centers (\$3.5 million)
 - Disability services (\$13 million)
 - Doctoral funding enhancements (\$8 million)
 - Fringe benefits (\$47 million)



CAPITAL BUDGET. The average age of a CUNY building is over 50 years old! While these investments are an improvement on the past, CUNY requested \$1.247 billion to address years of foregone capital needs. The final budget should meet CUNY's full 2022-2023 request and commit to a five-year plan that will enable the administration to plan. These enhancements are especially paramount in light of the many needs the COVID pandemic has so brutally exposed.

Please be in touch with any costing questions.

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