

# INVESTMENT IN CUNY CAN'T WAIT

CUNY is essential for a just  
recovery from the COVID crisis.

**INVESTMENT** in CUNY is a key to a just future for New York. Strengthening CUNY will help the communities hardest hit by COVID, increasing economic mobility for low-income New Yorkers and people of color. But CUNY is being eviscerated when New York needs it most.

Since June, twenty percent of CUNY's State funding has been "withheld" by the Governor, leading to mass layoffs of adjunct instructors, increases in class sizes and deep cuts to services, leaving students with inadequate support during this difficult year. Now CUNY faces more cuts in the Executive Budget.

This is the time to invest more—not less—in CUNY. The City College of NY generates [\\$1.9B in annual income and 16,760 jobs](#) per year, with a 3-to-1 return on investment for taxpayers. There are 25 CUNY colleges, ALL with a proven ability to rally New York's economy, narrow the inequalities broadened by

COVID and improve the life chances of millions of New Yorkers. CUNY [leads the nation](#) in enabling low-income students to advance into the middle class and beyond.

The Legislature can create a just, inclusive COVID recovery by building on needed federal stimulus and taxing the rich to invest boldly in the public good.

As part of the [CUNY Rising Alliance](#), PSC/CUNY supports the New Deal for CUNY, proposed legislation that enacts free tuition starting in FY2023 and establishes minimum staff-to-student ratios for mental health counselors, academic advisors and full-time faculty, while professionalizing compensation for adjunct faculty.

The PSC urges the Legislature to restore CUNY funding that would be cut in the Executive Budget and to fund the first year of the New Deal for CUNY.

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**RAISE TAXES ON THE RICH:  
\$50 – \$70 Billion for NYS**

**RESTORE CUNY FUNDS CUT IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET:  
\$41.8 Million**

**NEW DEAL FOR CUNY IN FY 2022:  
\$153.8 Million**

**OFFSET THE TAP GAP:  
\$78 Million**



Professional Staff Congress  
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## RAISE TAXES ON THE RICH: \$50 – \$70 BILLION FOR NEW YORK STATE

Tax increases for the rich and bold investments in the people of New York—that's how we all benefit from the COVID recovery. Learn more at [investinourny.org](http://investinourny.org)

## RESTORE CUNY FUNDS CUT IN THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET: \$41.8 MILLION

### SENIOR COLLEGES

Senior College Operations	\$26.2 Million
School of Labor and Urban Studies	\$1.5 Million
CUNY Pipeline   Citizenship Now	\$270 Thousand
<b>Senior College Restorations Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$28 Million</b>

### COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges held harmless against enrollment loss	\$9.95 Million
Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)	\$2.5 Million
Rental Aid	\$447 Thousand
Childcare Centers	\$902 Thousand
<b>Community College Restorations Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$13.8 Million</b>

## FUND THE NEW DEAL FOR CUNY IN FY 2022: \$153.8 MILLION

FY2022 would be year one of a five-year phase-in of the New Deal for CUNY. [Learn more.](#)

### Freeze Tuition in FY2022 | \$26.3 Million

The New Deal for CUNY would enact free tuition starting FY2023. Tuition at CUNY senior colleges should be frozen at its current level for FY2022. New York's tuition-driven funding model is starving CUNY. Full funding and free tuition is a better way.

### Counselors and Advisors | \$5.6 Million

Pressed by systemic racism and high rates of unemployment, homelessness and food-insecurity, CUNY students needed more advisement and counseling before COVID. Now they need it even more.

### Full-time Faculty & Professionalized Adjunct Compensation | \$90.6 Million

CUNY's labor system leaves adjuncts exploited, full-time faculty overworked and students shortchanged. 5,000 new full-time faculty are needed and adjunct pay must continue to increase.

### Increase Base Aid by \$500 per FTE | \$31.3 Million

To begin New Deal for CUNY investments in faculty, staff and students, and free tuition, the Base Aid rate of funding for community colleges should be increased by \$500 from \$2,947 per FTE to \$3,447 per FTE.

## OFFSET THE TAP GAP: \$78 MILLION

CUNY senior college tuition is \$6,930, but the State's TAP payment to CUNY is capped at \$5,000 per student. By law, the \$1,930 "gap" must be waived. The waivers for all TAP recipients in FY2022 are projected to amount to \$78 million in lost revenue, which must be restored.

## FUND CUNY'S CAPITAL REQUEST: \$810 MILLION FROM NYS AND NYC

Albany must fund CUNY's COVID Capital Renewal needs and the University Wide Upgrade of Science Labs. The obvious infrastructure needs before COVID-19 are still necessary, but now the entire university requires upgraded HVAC systems, air filters and a host of other items not imagined last year to maintain health and safety protocols.