



## SUMMARY OF FY 2025-26 BUDGET REQUESTS

### Priority Requests:

- **Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes:**
  - Close the gap for long-term care facilities by providing a **\$1.6 billion (all-funds) Medicaid increase (\$800 million state-share)** from the \$385 million (all-funds) increase (\$192 million state-share) proposed by the Governor. **Ensure the distribution to facilities is done through a per-diem methodology instead of across the board.**
  - **Restore the Capital Reimbursement cuts** from the FY 2024-25 budget and support investment to modernize facilities.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide **\$15 million to Monroe County** to assist with community long-term care challenges.
  - Establish an **Upstate Nursing Home Workforce and Quality Pool.**
- **Academic Dental Centers:**
  - Increase the **overall Medicaid rate for dentistry care at EIOH to at least \$300 per visit** and increase the rate for all six academic dental centers.
  - Continue to provide **\$750,000** for the Fellowship to Address Oral Health Disparities.
  - Support legislation such as:
    - **A.9863 (Lunsford)/ S.8882 (Cooney) of 2024:** Creates a pilot program in Monroe County for the SMARTeeth app and mechanisms for reimbursement.
    - **A.1454 (Aubry)/S.4334 (Sepulveda) of 2024:** Add Dentistry to the Doctors Across NY Program OR create a **new Dentists Across NY Program and fund it at \$6 million** similar to what is outlined in A. 2339 (Woerner).
    - **A.8363A (Woerner)/ S.9216 (Stavisky) of 2024:** Expands the "experience" standard to authorize experienced dentists licensed in other jurisdictions to be licensed in NYS through certain mechanisms and thresholds.
- **Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap for Hospitals:**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide a \$305 million (all-funds) Medicaid increase for hospitals and provide an additional \$220 million (all-funds), for a total of **\$525 million (all-funds) in Medicaid support.**
  - **Reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$500 million** in state funds from the Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP).
  - **Reject the Governor's proposal to revert the Medicaid DSH payments** made to voluntary hospitals as Upper Payment Limit payments to ICP payments.
- **Mt. Hope Family Center:**
  - Provide **\$250,000** in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center
- **Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs) and Centers of Excellence (COEs):**
  - **Increase funding to \$1.5 million** for each of the 15 CATs and each of the 15 COEs.
- **Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities:**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide **another \$1.3 billion in support for the Safety Net Transformation Program.**
  - Increase support for the **Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF) from \$52 million to \$100 million.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide **Medicaid reimbursement under the Hospitals at Home Program.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to authorize NYS to enter the **Interstate Nursing Licensure Compact.** Also, NYS should be authorized to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- **Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP):**
  - **Restore \$3.445 million** in funding for ECRIP that was cut in the executive budget proposal.
- **Empire AI:**
  - **Add \$90 million in funding to Empire AI.**
- **Student Aid:**
  - **Restore the FY 24-25 cut to Bundy Aid** by increasing aid from \$16.3 million to \$35.1 million and reinstating eligibility for all private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.
  - **Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the HEOP to \$46.8 million and increase support by 20% from last year's \$49 million to \$58.8 million.**
  - **Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the STEP to \$20.9 million and increase support by 20% from last year's \$21.8 million to \$26.1 million and pass S.3417 (Stavisky).**
- **340B Antidiscrimination Act and Pharmacy Measures:**
  - **Include the 340B Antidiscrimination Act** in the FY 2025-26 budget.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to create the **Pharmacy Benefit Manager Rebate Transparency.**
  - **Pass A.1720 (Rosenthal) to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging".**
- **Authorize Peace Officers at Highland Hospital.**





## SUMMARY OF FY 2025-26 BUDGET REQUESTS



### Support Patient Care and Healthcare Providers:

#### **Distribute the funds allocated in the FY 24-25 budget:**

- Announce the awards for the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program IV and V Health Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Telehealth Transformation Program.

#### **Support Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes:**

- Close the gap for long-term care facilities by providing a \$1.6 billion (all-funds) Medicaid increase (\$800 million state-share) from the \$385 million (all-funds) increase (\$192 million state-share) proposed by the Governor. Ensure the distribution to facilities is done through a per-diem methodology instead of across the board.
- Restore the Capital Reimbursement cuts from the FY 2024-25 budget and support investment to modernize facilities.
- Support the Governor's proposal to provide \$15 million to Monroe County to assist with community long-term care challenges.
- Establish an Upstate Nursing Home Workforce and Quality Pool.
- Update the Medicaid Rate Methodology.
- Support the Governor's proposal to authorize certified medication assistants to administer routine, pre-filled or prepackaged medications in nursing homes A.1272 (Clark).

#### **Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap for Hospitals:**

- Support the Governor's proposal to provide a \$305 million (all-funds) Medicaid increase for hospitals and provide an additional \$220 million (all-funds), for a total of \$525 million (all-funds) in Medicaid support.
- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$500 million in state funds from the Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP).
- Reject the Governor's proposal to revert the Medicaid DSH payments made to voluntary hospitals as Upper Payment Limit payments to ICP payments.

#### **Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities:**

- Support the Governor's proposal to provide another \$1.3 billion in support for the Safety Net Transformation Program.
- Increase support for the Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF) from \$52 million to \$100 million.
- Support the Governor's proposal to maintain funding support for the Health Homes Program in NYS.
- Support the Governor's proposal to provide Medicaid reimbursement under the Hospitals at Home Program.

- Reject the Governor's proposal to create another unfunded reporting mandate with the Community Benefit Spend.
- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the Physician Excess Medical Malpractice pool.
- Increase support for the Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program from \$3 million to \$6 million.
- Reject the Governor's decrease to \$3.9 million for the Patricia McGee Scholarship Program and level fund the program at \$4.9 million.
- Support the Governor's proposal to maintain funding for the Doctors Across NY program at \$15.8 million.
- Support the Governor's proposal to authorize NYS to enter the Interstate Nursing Licensure Compact. Also, NYS should be authorized to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- Support the Governor's proposal to move the process for issuing physician licenses in NYS under DOH.
- Permit qualified out-of-state healthcare professionals in high need to practice in NYS under a temporary practice permit while awaiting New York state licensure (S.9761/A.10096-A of 2024).
- Support the Governor's proposal to classify EMS as an essential service.

#### **Support maternal, child, and family health programs:**

- Support the Governor's proposal to provide a new \$20 million flexible funding stream to ensure that abortion services providers are properly reimbursed.
- Support the Governor's proposal to codify abortion as protected emergency medical care in NYS.
- Support the Governor's proposal for a NYS Birth Allowance for Beginning Year, or the BABY Benefit, which would provide a \$100 per month benefit during pregnancy and an additional \$1,200 payment at birth for New Yorkers who receive public assistance.
- Support the Governor's proposal to extend coverage for fertility preservation services to Medicaid members.
- Support the Governor's proposal to partner with Baby2Baby to provide maternal health and newborn supply boxes to all new mothers who are enrolled in Medicaid.
- Support the Governor's proposal to allow International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants to enroll as Medicaid providers.
- Support the Governor's proposal to launch the Monroe Ladder Demonstration Program to address the negative impacts of the "benefits cliff".

#### **Reimburse Applied Behavior Analysts/ Analysis (ABAs) and Behavior Technicians (BTs) equitably:**

- Reject the Governor's proposed \$9.6 million cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates for Behavior Technicians (BTs)/ Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services.

#### **Support UR Medicine Home Care:**

- Update and fund the statutory provisions in public health law for State Aid to Certified Home Health Agencies to meet community need across NYS regions, accomplished by incorporating A.1493 (Paulin) and providing \$70 million in support.

#### **Address complex case discharge delays:**

- Update and maintain Medicaid rates that adequately cover the cost of care for residential and community services.





## SUMMARY OF FY 2025-26 BUDGET REQUESTS



- Support the Governor's proposal to provide \$25 million for Regional Disability Clinics.
- Implement the NYS cross-system hospital discharge pilot model for youth as proposed by Hillside and Northern Rivers.
- Establish agency-neutral guidelines to support coordination of services for people and families who need care across multiple agencies.

### **Support the 340B Antidiscrimination Act and Pharmacy Measures:**

- Include the 340B Antidiscrimination Act in the FY 2025-26 budget.
- Support the Governor's proposal to create the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Rebate Transparency.
- Pass A.1720 (Rosenthal) to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging".
- Support the Governor's proposal to evaluate access to GLP-1 drugs for Medicaid members at high risk of major cardiovascular events.

### **Authorize Peace Officers at Highland Hospital:**

- Pass legislation to authorize peace officers at Highland Hospital.

### **Address New York's Oral Health Crisis:**

- Increase the overall Medicaid rate for dentistry care at EIOH to at least \$300 per visit and increase the rate for all six academic dental centers.
- Support through the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program RFP IV, EIOH's \$28 million Eastman Dental Clinical Expansion Project.
- Continue to provide \$750,000 for the Fellowship to Address Oral Health Disparities.
- Support legislation such as:
  - A.9863 (Lunsford)/ S.8882 (Cooney) of 2024: Creates a pilot program in Monroe County for the SMARTeeth app and mechanisms for reimbursement.
  - A.1454 (Aubry)/S.4334 (Sepulveda) of 2024: Add Dentistry to the Doctors Across NY Program OR create a new Dentists Across NY Program and fund it at \$6 million similar to what is outlined in A. 2339 (Woerner).
  - A.8363A (Woerner)/ S.9216 (Stavisky) of 2024: Expands the "experience" standard to authorize experienced dentists licensed in other jurisdictions to be licensed in NYS through certain mechanisms and thresholds.

- A.8365A (Woerner)/ S.8348A (Brouk) of 2024: Establish a campaign to promote public awareness of the causes of oral disease.

### **Support Public Health Programs:**

#### **Mt. Hope Family Center:**

- Provide \$250,000 in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center.

#### **Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program:**

- Support the Governor's proposal to level fund the COPS program at \$12.125 million.

#### **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):**

- Provide support in the NYS budget to pilot, within Monroe County, FASD services provided through OPWDD and pass A.999 (Clark)/S.382 (Brouk).

#### **Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs):**

- Fully fund the CCCEDs at \$1.5 million from \$1.178 million.

#### **Suicide Prevention:**

- Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the \$200,000 in support for the Sources of Strength Program.

#### **School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs):**

- Reject the Governor's cut to the SBHCs to \$20 million and level fund the Centers at \$23.8 million.
- Support and sign into law A.957 (Paulin)/S.1224 (Rivera) of 2024 and keep SBHCs in FFS.

#### **NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers ("NYCHECK"):**

- Increase support for the seven NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers from \$4 million to \$5 million.

#### **NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN):**

- Reject the Governor's cut to the OHCN to \$9.5 million and increase support from last year's 14.5 million to \$20 million.

#### **Cancer Services Program (CSP):**

- Support the Governor's proposal to level fund CSP at \$19.825 million.

#### **Centers of Excellence in Alzheimer's Disease (CEAD):**

- Support the Governor's proposal to level fund the CEAD at \$26.36 million.

#### **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):**

- Support the Governor's proposal to level fund NFP at \$3 million.

#### **Licensure for Genetic Counselors:**

- Pass A.183 (Rosenthal) and provide licensure.

#### **Licensure for Creative Arts Therapists:**

- Pass A.9018 (Bronson)/S.8715 (Brouk) of 2024 and provide funding support.

#### **Pediatric Cancer Neuropsychological Needs Assessment Act:**

- Pass A.10063 (Mayer)/S.8750 (Burdick) of 2024.

#### **Child Care Providers and Families:**

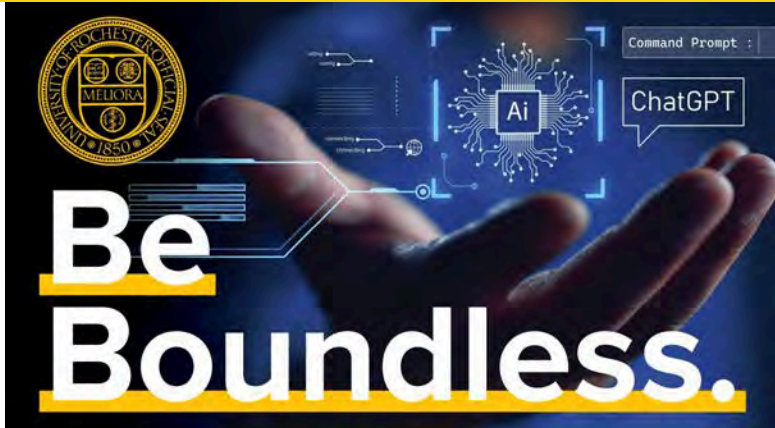
- Support and build upon the Governor's proposal to increase the NYS child tax credit up to \$1,000 per child under age 4 and up to \$500 per child from four through 16.
- Create and provide \$1.2 billion for a permanent state child care fund to increase child care worker compensation. Also develop a plan for subsequent years to establish a minimum pay scale and career ladder based upon agreed upon criteria.
- Support the Governor's proposal to create a \$110 million Child Care Construction Fund.







## SUMMARY OF FY 2025-26 BUDGET REQUESTS



### **Early-Intervention (EI) Services:**

- Provide a 5% EI rate increase through the Covered Lives Assessment.

### **Support Higher Education for All:**

#### **Bundy Aid:**

- Restore the FY 24-25 cut to Bundy Aid by increasing aid from \$16.3 million to \$35.1 million and reinstating eligibility for all private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.

#### **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP):**

- Provide an additional \$68 million to support the TAP and ensure all students, including returning adult learners and graduate students, have access to higher education.

#### **Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP):**

- Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the HEOP to \$46.8 million and increase support by 20% from last year's \$49 million to \$58.8 million.

#### **Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP):**

- Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the STEP to \$20.9 million and increase support by 20% from last year's \$21.8 million to \$26.1 million.
- Pass S.3417 (Stavisky).

#### **Support Medical, Nursing, and Dental Education:**

- Increase support for the Diversity in Medicine Program from \$3.644 million to \$4 million and maintain support for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship at \$1.25 million.
- Maintain support for the Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program at \$941,000.

#### **Higher Education Facilities Capital Matching Grants Program (HECap):**

- Provide an additional round of \$50 million for the HECap.

### **Support the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE):**

- Support the Governor's proposal to level fund the LLE at \$1 million.

### **Support Economic Development, Life Sciences, and Biomedical Research Programs**

#### **Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs) and Centers of Excellence (COEs):**

- Increase funding to \$1.5 million for each of the 15 CATs and 15 COEs.

#### **Empire AI:**

- Add an additional \$90 million in funding to Empire AI.

#### **Business Incubation:**

- Support \$5 million in level funding for the Innovation Hot Spots.

#### **Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP):**

- Increase funding to \$4.345 million for the MEP program.

#### **High Tech Matching Grants and Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START):**

- Support \$12 million in level funding for the High Tech Matching Grants and START initiative.

#### **New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NYFIRST):**

- Add an additional \$10 million to help New York's medical schools recruit and retain leaders in research.

#### **Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP):**

- Restore \$3.445 million in funding for ECRIP that was cut in the executive budget proposal.

#### **Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP):**

- Increase funding to \$18 million for SCIRP.

### **Support Arts Programs:**

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support the New York State Council on the Arts. While the amount MAG receives in annual operating support has decreased, we are grateful for NYSCA funding, which provides critical support for exhibitions, programming, and facility improvements.
- We are thankful for the recent \$45,000 Market NY award to MAG from the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council to develop a marketing plan that attracted increased tourism for an exhibition by internationally recognized artist Yayoi Kusama from late 2023 through spring of 2024.





# SUPPORT PATIENT CARE AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

## NYS FY 2025-2026 PATIENT CARE PRIORITIES:

- **Distribute the funds allocated in the FY 24-25 budget:**
  - **Announce the awards** for the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program IV and V Health Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Telehealth Transformation Program.
- **Support Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes:**
  - Close the gap for long-term care facilities by providing a **\$1.6 billion (all-funds) Medicaid increase (\$800 million state-share)** from the \$385 million (all-funds) increase (\$192 million state-share) proposed by the Governor. **Ensure the distribution to facilities is done through a per-diem methodology instead of across the board.**
  - **Restore the Capital Reimbursement cuts** from the FY 2024-25 budget and support investment to modernize facilities.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide **\$15 million to Monroe County** to assist with community long-term care challenges.
  - Establish an **Upstate Nursing Home Workforce and Quality Pool.**
  - Update the **Medicaid Rate Methodology.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to authorize **certified medication assistants** to administer routine, pre-filled or prepackaged medications in nursing homes A.1272 (Clark).
- **Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap for Hospitals:**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide a **\$305 million (all-funds) Medicaid increase** for hospitals and provide an additional **\$220 million (all-funds)**, for a **total of \$525 million (all-funds) in Medicaid support.**
  - Reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$500 million in state funds from the **Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP).**
  - **Reject the Governor's proposal to revert the Medicaid DSH payments** made to voluntary hospitals as Upper Payment Limit payments to ICP payments.
- **Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities:**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide another **\$1.3 billion in support for the Safety Net Transformation Program.**
  - Increase support for the **Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF)** from \$52 million to \$100 million.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to maintain funding support for the **Health Homes Program** in NYS.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide Medicaid reimbursement under the **Hospitals at Home Program.**
  - Reject the Governor's proposal to create another unfunded reporting mandate with the **Community Benefit Spend.**
  - Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the **Physician Excess Medical Malpractice pool.**
  - Increase support for the **Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program** from \$3 million to \$6 million.
  - Reject the Governor's decrease to \$3.9 million for the **Patricia McGee Scholarship Program** and level fund the program at **\$4.9 million.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to maintain funding for the **Doctors Across NY program** at **\$15.8 million.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to authorize NYS to enter the **Interstate Nursing Licensure Compact.** Also, NYS should be authorized to enter the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to move the **process for issuing physician licenses in NYS under DOH.**
  - Permit qualified out-of-state healthcare professionals in high need to practice in NYS under a temporary practice permit while awaiting New York state licensure (**S.9761/A.10096-A of 2024**).
  - Support the Governor's proposal to classify **EMS as an essential service.**
- **Support maternal, child, and family health programs:**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide a **new \$20 million flexible funding stream to ensure that abortion services providers** are properly reimbursed.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to **codify abortion as protected emergency medical care** in NYS.
  - Support the Governor's proposal for a **NYS Birth Allowance for Beginning Year, or the BABY Benefit**, which would provide a \$100 per month benefit during pregnancy and an additional \$1,200 payment at birth for New Yorkers who receive public assistance.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to **extend coverage for fertility preservation services to Medicaid members.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to partner with Baby2Baby to provide **maternal health and newborn supply boxes** to all new mothers who are enrolled in Medicaid.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to **allow International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants to enroll as Medicaid providers.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to launch the **Monroe Ladder Demonstration Program** to address the negative impacts of the "benefits cliff".
- **Reimburse Applied Behavior Analysts/ Analysis (ABAs) and Behavior Technicians (RBT) equitably:**
  - **Reject the Governor's proposed \$9.6 million cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates** for BTs and ABA services.
- **Support UR Medicine Home Care:**
  - Update and fund the statutory provisions in public health law for State Aid to Certified Home Health Agencies to meet community need across NYS regions, accomplished by incorporating **A.1493 (Paulin)** and providing **\$70 million in support.**
- **Address complex case discharge delays:**
  - **Update and maintain Medicaid rates** that adequately cover the cost of care for residential and community-based services.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to provide **\$25 million for Regional Disability Clinics.**
  - Implement the **NYS cross-system hospital discharge pilot model for youth** as proposed by Hillside and Northern Rivers.
  - Establish agency-neutral guidelines to support **coordination of services** for people and families who need care across multiple agencies.
- **Support the 340B Antidiscrimination Act and Pharmacy Measures::**
  - Include the **340B Antidiscrimination Act** in the FY 2025-26 budget.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to create the **Pharmacy Benefit Manager Rebate Transparency.**
  - **Pass A.1720 (Rosenthal)** to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging".
  - Support the Governor's proposal to **evaluate access to GLP-1 drugs for Medicaid members** at high risk of major cardiovascular events.
- **Authorize Peace Officers at Highland Hospital:**
  - Pass legislation to **authorize peace officers at Highland Hospital.**





# SUPPORT PATIENT CARE AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



**Distribute the funds allocated in the FY 24-25 budget:** Programs such as the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program have been vital for us but our region hasn't always received our fair share. In the previous round of the program from 2023, the Finger Lakes providers received only \$21,279,355 of the \$658,000,000 awarded statewide – 3.2 percent of the total amount awarded and the lowest among all regions in the state. The most recent RFP's for Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program IV and V Health Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Telehealth Transformation Program were due in May 2024 but no awards have been made to date.

- We urge NYS DOH to announce the awards for the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program IV and V Health Information Technology, Cybersecurity, and Telehealth Transformation Program.

### Support Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes:

More than 6,000 nursing home beds have been taken offline over the past 6 years across NYS (with roughly 1,430 available but unstaffed nursing home beds in the Finger Lakes area, roughly 650 of those beds being in Monroe County). Medicaid members in need of care for nursing home placements remain backed up in the hospital or must be placed in facilities outside of their communities – causing family members to drive hours for a visit. A report published last year by Common Ground Health indicated that the Finger Lakes region has one of the largest, if not the largest, aging populations within NYS. They found that a 44% increase in the population aged 65 and above is expected by 2040 in our region. The lack of support for long-term care facilities, coupled with staffing ratio mandates that provide no incentives for recruitment and harmful cuts, has helped create the boarding issues you see in hospital settings. Currently, the cost of providing high-quality nursing home care in New

York averages \$354 per resident, per day, while the Medicaid rate stands at only \$255. This results in an average daily shortfall of \$99. Furthermore, the recent Medicaid rate increase of \$13.55, intended to alleviate financial pressures, was nearly offset by cuts to capital funding, the imputed capital costs, and the freezing of case-mix adjustments. This has left nursing homes at a significant disadvantage, widening a funding gap notably higher than the national average and comparable states.

- Close the gap for long-term care facilities by providing a \$1.6 billion (all-funds) Medicaid increase (\$800 million state-share) from the \$385 million (all-funds) increase (\$192 million state-share) proposed by the Governor. Ensure the distribution to facilities is done through a per-diem methodology instead of across the board.
- Restore the Capital Reimbursement cuts from the FY 2024-25 budget and support investment to modernize facilities.
- Support the Governor's proposal to provide \$15 million to Monroe County to assist with community long term care challenges.
- Establish an Upstate Nursing Home Workforce and Quality Pool aimed at offering financial assistance to non-profit nursing homes in the Upstate region.
- Update the Medicaid Rate Methodology.
- Support the Governor's proposal to authorize certified medication assistants to administer routine, pre-filled or prepackaged medications in nursing homes A.1272 (Clark).

### Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap for Hospitals:

In a recent fiscal survey of hospitals across the state conducted by HANYS, hospitals statewide project a median 0.0% operating margin in 2024. With three out of every four hospitals struggling financially. Our system plays an outsized role in health care delivery in upstate NY as the largest provider, safety net, and private employer. Inadequate reimbursement under Medicaid and Medicare, health care cuts by the State, like with the 340B program, rising expenses, driven by labor and supply costs, coupled with the inability to discharge patients into nursing/rehab beds in the community, are impacting our ability to be financially stable. URM posted a nearly \$80 million loss last year and three out of the four last years we have had negative operating margins. During this time, we have instituted hiring freezes, across-the-board cuts, deferred maintenance, and delayed projects. For years, NYS has asked us to do more with less.







# SUPPORT PATIENT CARE AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



- Support the Governor’s proposal to provide a \$305 million (all-funds) Medicaid increase for hospitals and provide an additional \$220 million (all-funds), for a total of \$525 million (all-funds) in Medicaid support.
- Reject the Governor’s proposal to cut \$500 million in state funds from the Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP).
- Reject the Governor’s proposal to revert the Medicaid DSH payments made to voluntary hospitals as Upper Payment Limit payments to ICP payments.

### Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities:

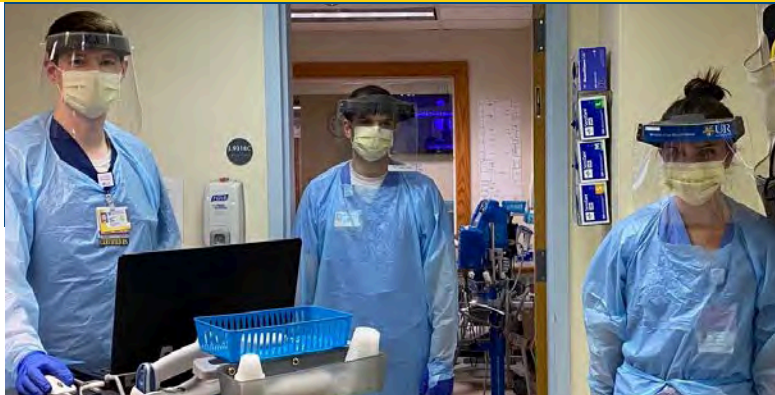
The NYS Department of Labor estimates that, on average, about 170,000 healthcare jobs will be open each year in the state between 2020 and 2030. But the state produces only about 41,000 new workers to fill healthcare workforce openings each year. The University of Rochester’s School of Nursing is an innovator and leader in the field of nursing. UR Nursing ranks among the top (#31) nursing schools in research funding from the National Institutes of Health. 91% of the School’s faculty are actively practicing in their field. Today, our School has an enrollment of more than 650 students across our academic programs at the School. The University of Rochester School of Medicine admits 96 MD and 8 MD/PhD students annually who learn in the Double Helix Curriculum, the first in the country to integrate clinical and basic science all four years and continues to offer early meaningful clinical experience. With opportunities in research, community service, and international health, students can pursue personal interests within the curriculum. There is a total of 865 trainees in ACGME-accredited programs. Nearly 500 graduate students and 200 postdoctoral appointees are in training to become the basic, translational, and clinical investigators of the future. There are 1,973 total full-time faculty at the school. Even with the successes we have seen and the internal programs we have put in place, our region continues to struggle with workforce shortages in the healthcare space.

- Support the Governor’s proposal to provide another \$1.3 billion in support for the Safety Net Transformation Program.
- Increase support for the Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF) from \$52 million to \$100 million.
- Support the Governor’s proposal to maintain funding support for the Health Homes Program in NYS.
- Support the Governor’s proposal to allow for Medicaid reimbursement under the Hospitals at Home Program.
- Reject the Governor’s proposal creating another unfunded reporting mandate with the Community Benefit Spend.
- Reject the Governor’s proposal to cut the Physician Excess Medical Malpractice pool.
- Increase support for the Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program from \$3 million to \$6 million.
- Reject the Governor’s decrease to \$3.9 million for the Patricia McGee Scholarship Program and level fund the program at \$4.9 million.
- Support the Governor’s proposal to maintain funding for the Doctors Across NY program at \$15.8 million.
- Support the Governor’s proposal to authorize NYS to enter the Interstate Nursing Licensure Compact. Also, NYS should be authorized to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.
- Support the Governor’s proposal to move the process for issuing physician licenses in NYS under DOH.
- Permit qualified out-of-state healthcare professionals in high need to practice in NYS under a temporary practice permit while awaiting New York state licensure (S.9761/A.10096-A of 2024).
- Support the Governor’s proposal to classify EMS as an essential service.





# SUPPORT PATIENT CARE AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



## Support maternal, child, and family health programs:

UR Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology provides a full range of services, from annual checkups, to gynecologic oncology, to prenatal care and breastfeeding consultations. We also partner with our colleagues to help women with depression, heart disease, osteoporosis, breast disease, and dermatologic conditions. The 132-bed Golisano Children's Hospital at the University of Rochester Medical Center is the area's only children's hospital. It serves as the referral center for all seriously ill or injured children from the 17-county Finger Lakes region. The hospital is committed to treating all children regardless of their family's ability to pay.

- Support the Governor's proposal to provide a new \$20 million flexible funding stream to ensure that abortion services providers are properly reimbursed for providing abortions.
- Support the Governor's proposal to codify abortion as protected emergency medical care in NYS.
- Support the Governor's proposal for a NYS Birth Allowance for Beginning Year, or the BABY Benefit, which would provide a \$100 per month benefit during pregnancy and an additional \$1,200 payment at birth for New Yorkers who receive public assistance.
- Support the Governor's proposal to extend coverage for fertility preservation services to Medicaid members.
- Support the Governor's proposal to partner with Baby2Baby to provide maternal health and newborn supply boxes to all new mothers who are enrolled in Medicaid.
- Support the Governor's proposal to allow International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants to enroll as Medicaid providers.
- Support the Governor's proposal to launch the Monroe Ladder Demonstration Program to address the negative impacts of the "benefits cliff".

## Reimburse Applied Behavior Analysts/ Analysis (ABAs) and Behavior Technicians (BTs) equitably:

Through the University of Rochester's Psychiatric Emergency Department (Psych. ED), we serve on average 300 patients a year 21 years of age or younger. This unit's primary purpose is to provide individuals with a psychiatric evaluation to determine if inpatient hospital intervention is needed and, if so, to facilitate admission to an inpatient psychiatric unit. Roughly 61 percent of those 300 patients that come into the Psych ED in crisis are I/DD patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A majority of those with ASD are Medicaid eligible. For the last year, thanks to the support from NYS, the services provided through Applied Behavior Analysts/ Analysis (ABAs) and Behavior Technicians (BTs) for these individuals has been reimbursed under Medicaid at a flat rate of \$76. However, the Governor is proposing to significantly decrease the reimbursement rate for BTs.

- **Reject the Governor's proposed \$9.6 million cut to Medicaid reimbursement rates for Behavior Technicians (BTs)/ Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services.**

## Support UR Medicine Home Care:

UR Medicine Home Care is a full-service, not-for-profit, Medicare-certified home health agency that provides nursing care, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, home health aides, hospice care, medical social work, and infusion therapy to patients in Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates counties. Currently, the majority of NY's Home Care providers are functioning well below sustainable fiscal margins, and are without the funding needed for the capacity to meet the current, and substantially rising, demand for care.

- **Update and fund the statutory provisions in public health law for State Aid to Certified Home Health Agencies to meet community need across NYS regions, accomplished by incorporating A.1493 (Paulin) and providing \$70 million in support.**





# SUPPORT PATIENT CARE AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS



## Address complex case discharge delays:

At Strong Memorial Hospital and across our system we have seen an increase in patients with acute behavioral health crises, specifically patients with Intellectual and/or Development Disabilities (IDD). These patients have had increased lengths of stays in the hospital and have needed additional staff support to ensure proper care. The extended stay in hospitals can be attributed to a variety of factors including a lack of service options which has created an environment where hundreds of New Yorkers with complex behavioral care needs unnecessarily languish in emergency departments and hospital beds annually, often for months or years. Hospitals are serving as a long-term destination rather than a way station for those who, once their acute behavioral care needs are met, are better served in a non-hospital setting.

- **Update and maintain Medicaid rates that adequately cover the cost of care for residential and community-based services.**
- **Support the Governor's proposal to provide \$25 million for Regional Disability Clinics.**
- **Implement the NYS cross-system hospital discharge pilot model for youth as proposed by Hillside and Northern Rivers and explore a crisis respite transition program pilot for children with behaviors that require high-intensity support.**
- **Establish agency-neutral guidelines to support coordination of services for people and families who need care across multiple agencies.**

## Support the 340B Antidiscrimination Act and Pharmacy Measures:

The 340B drug discount program was established in 1992 in the federal Public Health Service Act. It requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid or Medicare Part B to sell outpatient drugs at a discount to eligible safety-net providers serving the nation's most vulnerable patients. While the program is administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the discounts provided to covered entities for outpatient drugs come from pharmaceutical manufacturers alone. A.7789 of 2024 and S.1913 both seek to prevent the abusive practices described above by prohibiting pharmaceutical manufacturers or pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from denying, prohibiting, conditioning, or otherwise limiting the dispensing of drugs from a covered entity. In 2021 and 2023, respectively, Arkansas and Louisiana became the first two states to enact laws protecting covered entities from manufacturers' restrictions on contract pharmacy. Since then, more than 20 states have introduced bills to protect covered entities' access to contract pharmacy.

- **Include the 340B Antidiscrimination Act in the FY 2025-26 budget (S.1913, A.7789 of 2024).**
- **Support the Governor's proposal to create the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Rebate Transparency.**
- **Pass A.1720 (Rosenthal) to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging".**
- **Support the Governor's proposal to evaluate access to GLP-1 drugs for Medicaid members at high risk of major cardiovascular events.**

## Authorize Peace Officers at Highland Hospital:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that healthcare workers are five times more likely to suffer a workplace violence (WPV) injury than the general working population and they accounted for 73% of all non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses due to violence in 2018. In 2018, the University of Rochester gained peace officer status including at Strong Memorial Hospital. However, this legislation did not encompass our second-largest hospital, Highland Hospital. Like other hospitals, Highland Hospital has seen an increase in serious incidents and its current security framework limits their ability to respond effectively. Having peace officer authority would help ensure the safety of our patients and staff.

- **Pass legislation to authorize peace officers at Highland Hospital.**



# ADDRESSING NEW YORK'S ORAL HEALTH CRISIS

## NYS FY 2025-26 DENTAL PRIORITIES:

- Increase the overall Medicaid rate for dentistry care at EIOH to at least \$300 per visit and increase the rate for all six academic dental centers.
- Support, through the **Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program RFP IV**, EIOH's \$28 million Eastman Dental Clinical Expansion Project.
- Continue to provide **\$750,000 for the Fellowship to Address Oral Health Disparities**.
- Support legislation such as:
  - **A.9863 (Lunsford)/ S.8882 (Cooney) of 2024:** Creates a pilot program in Monroe County for the SMARTeeth app and mechanisms for reimbursement.
  - **A.1454 (Aubry)/S.4334 (Sepulveda) of 2024:** Add Dentistry to the Doctors Across NY Program OR create a **new Dentists Across NY Program and fund it at \$6 million** similar to what is outlined in **A. 2339 (Woerner)**.
  - **A.8363A (Woerner)/ S.9216 (Stavisky) of 2024:** Expands the "experience" standard to authorize experienced dentists licensed in other jurisdictions to be licensed in NYS through certain mechanisms and thresholds.
  - **A.8365A (Woerner)/ S.8348A (Brouk) of 2024:** Establish a campaign to promote public awareness of the causes of oral disease.



## About the Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH):

For more than 100 years, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) at the University of Rochester has been a safety net provider for the community and a recognized national leader in outreach dentistry through time-tested strategies like school-based programs, remote clinics, community health centers and hospitals. EIOH is unique among academic health centers in the US, of which there are six centers in NYS. Despite the absence of an undergraduate dental school, we have internationally recognized dental residency programs, vibrant oral biology research that is in the top tier of NIH rankings, and robust clinical services in all dental specialties with a strong community orientation, all with the mission to provide

exceptional graduate training and first-rate research and clinical care. As one of the region's few dental care providers accepting Medicaid and the largest provider accepting Medicaid outside of NYC, patients at EIOH face considerable waits to be seen for care. **EIOH sees 200,000 visits per year, 65% are underserved and 25% are outreach. About 65% of the patients at EIOH are covered by Medicaid. More than 40% of the patients who are seen at EIOH have complex diseases and conditions that usually cannot be treated elsewhere.**

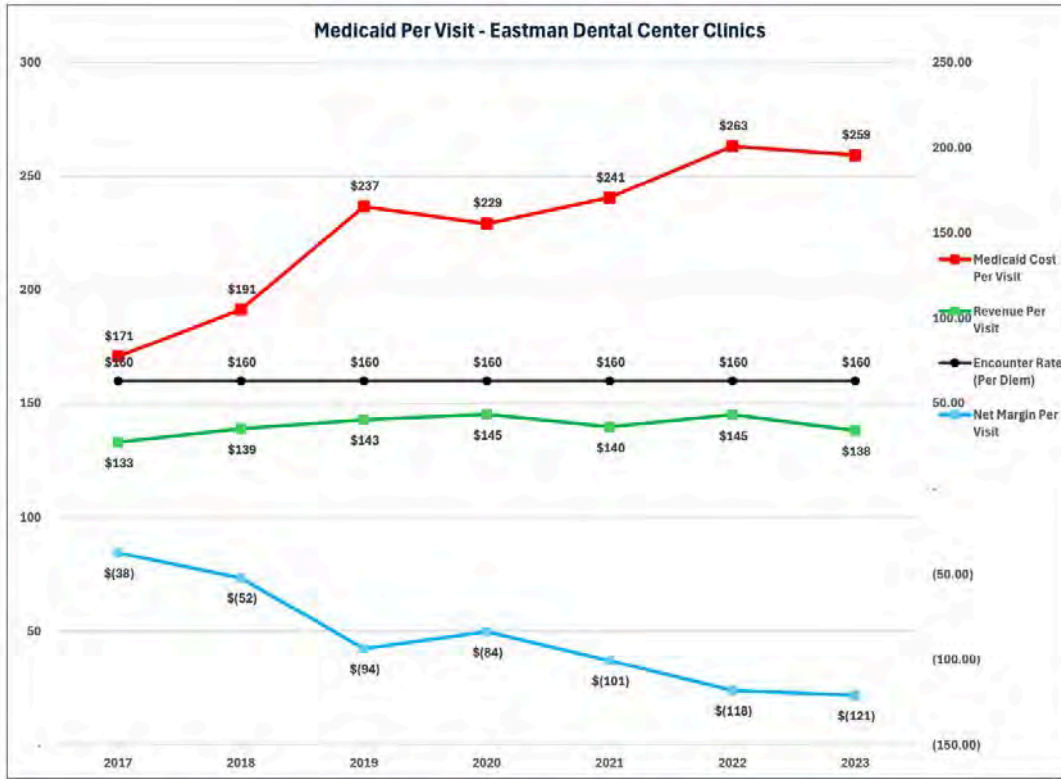
## THE FACTS:

- EIOH has **30,151 patients on the waitlist to receive dental care**, with 75% of those patients being Medicaid-eligible and 33% of those patients children ages 9-17.
- These patients on the waitlist **represent 55 different counties**.
- The waiting time for children requiring treatment under general anesthesia (GA) is approximately **one year**.
- For patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) or other conditions, such as Alzheimer's, who need treatment under GA, the wait time extends to **3.5 to 4 years**.
- Another critical statistic is the number of **urgent care dental visits, which totals around 30,000 annually**. These patients are unable to receive routine care, and if our clinic does not see them, they often end up in the Emergency Department (ED), where treatment typically involves opioids.
- The cost of a dental visit is approximately \$259, compared to \$1,800 for an ED visit. This means that, in Rochester alone, **our services save the healthcare system an estimated \$46 million annually**.





# MEDICAID VISIT RATE & THE COST TO EIOH







## SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

### NYS FY 2025-26 PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES:

- **Mt. Hope Family Center:**
  - Provide **\$250,000** in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center.
- **Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program:**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to level fund the COPS program at **\$12.125 million**.
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):**
  - Provide support in the NYS budget to **pilot, within Monroe County, FASD services provided through OPWDD** and pass A.999 (Clark)/S.382 (Brouk).
- **Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs):**
  - Fully fund the CCCEDs at **\$1.5 million from \$1.178 million**.
- **Suicide Prevention:**
  - Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the **\$200,000 in support for the Sources of Strength Program**.
- **School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs):**
  - Reject the Governor's cut to the SBHCs to \$20 million and level fund the Centers at **\$23.8 million**.
  - Support and sign into law **A.957 (Paulin)/S.1224 (Rivera)** of 2024 and keep SBHCs in FFS.
- **NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers ("NYCHECK"):**
  - Increase support for the seven NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers from **\$4 million to \$5 million**.
- **NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN):**
  - Reject the Governor's cut to the OHCN to \$9.5 million and increase support from last year's **14.5 million to \$20 million**.
- **Cancer Services Program (CSP):**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to level fund CSP at **\$19.825 million**.
- **Centers of Excellence in Alzheimer's Disease (CEAD):**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to level fund the CEAD at **\$26.36 million**.
- **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to level fund NFP at **\$3 million**.
- **Licensure for Genetic Counselors:**
  - Pass **A.183 (Rosenthal)** and provide licensure.
- **Licensure for Creative Arts Therapists:**
  - Pass **A.9018 (Bronson)/S.8715 (Brouk)** of 2024 and provide funding support.
- **Pediatric Cancer Neuropsychological Needs Assessment Act:**
  - Pass **A.10063 (Mayer)/S.8750 (Burdick)** of 2024.
- **Child Care Providers and Families:**
  - Support and build upon the Governor's proposal to increase the **NYS child tax credit** up to \$1,000 per child under age 4 and up to \$500 per child from four through 16.
  - **Create and provide \$1.2 billion for a permanent state child care fund** to increase child care worker compensation. Also develop a plan for subsequent years to establish a minimum pay scale and career ladder based upon agreed upon criteria.
  - Support the Governor's proposal to create a **\$110 million Child Care Construction Fund**.
- **Early-Intervention (EI) Services:**
  - Provide a **5% EI rate increase** through the Covered Lives Assessment.



#### Support Mt. Hope Family Center:

For over 45 years, the University of Rochester's Mt. Hope Family Center has delivered life-changing, evidence-based interventions to at-risk children and families with an overarching goal of reducing the devastating impact of childhood trauma, especially child maltreatment. Mt. Hope is very unique in that it ties academic research with direct services. We employ a diverse team of 80 clinicians, researchers, lawyers, and administrators who promote resilience for children and families affected by stressful or traumatic experiences. Mt. Hope Family Center's Translational Research that Adapts New Science for Maltreatment Prevention (TRANSFORM) Center is one of only three NIH-funded "Centers of Excellence" across the nation that is dedicated to reducing the risk for, and devastating consequences of, child abuse and neglect. We request a specific new line item for Mt. Hope Family Center that would allow us to hire additional trained clinicians, allowing us to serve 90 additional families annually and to implement our afterschool and summer youth programs for 450 additional at-risk children per year.

- **Provide \$250,000 in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center.**

#### Support the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program:

The COPS program provides funding to prevent the need for foster care placement and to support preventive services for vulnerable families and children. Building Healthy Children, a collaborative effort between Mt. Hope Family Center, Monroe County, the Society for the Protection and Care of Children, the United Way, and the University of Rochester have long benefited from COPS support to address the causes





## SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



of child abuse and neglect through evidence-based practices and home visitation to provide parenting education, positive parent-child relationship development, treatment for maternal depression, and vital support services to low-income teen families.

- **Support the Governor’s proposal to level fund the COPS program at \$12.125 million.**

### **Ensure access to services for those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):**

In NYS, there are only two FASD Clinics: one in New York City at Weill Cornell Medicine, consisting of a single provider, and the other, the University of Rochester’s FASD Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic. Currently, FASD is not considered a developmental disability under NYS mental hygiene law. This lack of definitional inclusion has prevented those with FASD from receiving services from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), such as family services (i.e., in-home behavioral supports), recreation and socialization services (specialized recreational camps), and employment assistance from OPWDD (i.e., job training and coaches). OPWDD has indicated that they believe including those with FASD within their scope would have a fiscal cost to the agency but have yet to outline what that cost is.

- **Fund a pilot within Monroe County so that those who are diagnosed at the University of Rochester’s FASD Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic are classified as having a developmental disability under NYS mental hygiene law and can receive services under OPWDD. Additionally, pass A.999 (Clark)/S.382 (Brouk), which would ensure access for all who are diagnosed with FASD.**

### **Support the Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders:**

The URMC is host to the Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs), one of only three Comprehensive Care Centers statewide. These Centers provide an

unparalleled, comprehensive range of specialized clinical services for patients with eating disorders and ensure individuals receive timely, appropriate care. In addition to medical and psychological services, the Centers conduct community outreach and prevention. NYS established the CCCEDs in 2005 and originally provided \$1.5 million in funding for all three Centers. However, since 2008, the Centers have never been fully funded. The Governor has proposed funding CCCED at \$1.178 million.

- **Fully fund the Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs) at \$1.5 million from \$1.178 million.**

### **Support Suicide Prevention Programs:**

Since 2016, the University of Rochester, through the Sources of Strength Program has worked with school districts across the state to help combat youth suicide rates. Sources of Strength is a comprehensive wellness program that is evidenced-based and trains students as peer leaders and connects them with mentoring adult advisors at school and in the community where they are then in turn able to help their fellow students with school-wide healthy coping and connections that reduce vulnerability to suicidal behavior. Since 2016, over 60 schools have implemented this program (in over 24 NYS counties), over 4,000 youth peer leaders have been trained, over 920 adult mentors have been trained, and cumulatively, over 120,000 students impacted by evidence-based prevention activities. The FY 24-25 budget included a new line item of \$200,000 directly for the University of Rochester’s Sources of Strength Program.

- **Reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate the \$200,000 in support for the Sources of Strength Program.**

### **Protect School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs):**

New York’s approximately 250 SBHCs provide a highly unique and child-centered model of care. SBHCs across the state care for approximately 350,000 at-risk youth in the most underserved rural and urban areas of the State. In many cases, SBHCs are the only source of access for these children to receive physical, mental, dental, and reproductive healthcare. The University of Rochester, supports the SBHC’s at East High School and Monroe High School within the City of Rochester. SBHCs have always been “carved out” of Medicaid-Managed Care (MMC) in NYS and have remained in Fee-for-Service (FFS). While SBHCs were initially scheduled to be transitioned into MMC in 2014, the carve-in date has been extended multiple times - most recently postponing







## SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



it to April 1, 2025. NYSDOH has just announced that it will make this major system change to MMS in less than 6 months, and recently, the Governor vetoed legislation that would have protected SBHCs from this shift.

- **Reject the Governor’s cut to the SBHCs to \$20 million and level fund the Centers at \$23.8 million.**
- **Support and sign into law A.957 (Paulin)/S.1224 (Rivera) of 2024 and keep SBHCs in FFS.**

### **Increase support for the NYS Children’s Environmental Health Centers (“NYSCHECK”):**

NYSCHECK centers are located at seven medical centers across NYS, including one at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). The Centers provide a range of pediatric services, including patient care services to prevent, diagnose, and treat environmental health conditions, and education and training of providers. Thanks to the funding from NYS, all seven Centers have now started screening, counseling, and referrals in a range of clinical settings, as well as linking families with community-based prevention resources. The Governor has proposed level funding NYSCHECK at \$4 million.

- **Increase support for “NYSCHECK” from \$4 million to \$5 million.**

### **Increase support for the NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN):**

NYS OHCN is the nation's only state-based occupational health clinic network and is located throughout the State at nine network sites, including one at the URMC. The network offers specialized medical diagnoses, high-quality care, and support services. The OHCN assists New Yorkers by helping them to return to work quickly and safety and by preventing disease and injuries. Clinic services are available to all workers, retirees, and residents in NYS. Thanks to the support from the Legislature, support for the Clinics increased from \$9.5 million to \$14.56 million in the FY 24-25 enacted budget.

- **Reject the Governor’s cut for the OHCN to \$9.5 million and increase support from last year’s 14.5 million to \$20 million.**

### **Support the Cancer Services Program (CSP):**

The statewide CSP is a preventive service that pays for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings for uninsured or underinsured adults. URMC provides these potentially lifesaving cancer screening services to six counties across the Finger Lakes region. URMC receives \$360,000 annually in support from this fund.

- **Support the Governor’s proposal to level fund CSP at \$19.825 million.**

### **Support the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease (CEAD):**

The CEAD is a network of 10 medical centers and teaching hospitals, including the URMC, recognized nationally and by NYS as experts in the diagnosis and care of individuals living with Alzheimer’s Disease or other dementias (AD/D). They offer, for example, interdisciplinary and comprehensive medical services for the diagnosis of AD/D, coordinate treatment and care management for individuals living with AD/D, provide linkages to community-based services for patients and caregivers, and provide expert training to physicians, health care professionals and students on the detection, diagnosis and management of AD/D.

- **Support the Governor’s proposal to level fund CEAD \$26.36 million.**

### **Support the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):**

Developed at the University of Rochester more than 40 years ago, the NFP is a nationally recognized, evidence-based home visitation program operated by the Monroe County Department of Public Health and staffed by UR Medicine Home Care that improves the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children. NFP succeeds by having specially educated nurses regularly visit first-time moms, starting early in the pregnancy and continuing until the child’s second birthday.

- **Support the Governor’s proposal to level fund NFP at \$3 million.**

### **Provide Licensure for Genetic Counselors:**

At the URMC, Genetic Counselors play a critical role in helping individuals who are concerned about their personal or family history make medical decisions about how to manage their genetic health risks. There are 26 states that currently license genetic counselors, NYS is not one of them. The current lack of licensure in NYS provides a barrier to increasing our Genetic Counselor workforce at URMC and ensuring all individuals get the care they deserve.

- **Pass A.183 (Rosenthal) and provide licensure.**







## SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



### **Provide Licensure for Creative Arts Therapists (LCAT):**

The University of Rochester's Division of Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness' Creative Arts Therapies program allows patients to utilize their creativity and interest in the arts to support their therapy goals and healing through foundational skill development. Through the URM and the Eastman School of Music, music therapists work with patients diagnosed with various acute and chronic illnesses. From birth to adulthood, they help individuals cope with and process their hospitalization through passive and active music listening or music creation. Currently, the services provided by LCAT are not reimbursed under Medicaid.

- **Pass A.9018 (Bronson)/S.8715 (Brouk) of 2024 and provide funding support for reimbursement.**

### **Pass the Pediatric Cancer Neuropsychological Needs Assessment Act:**

The Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, part of Golisano Children's Hospital and Wilmot Cancer Institute, provides care for children, adolescents, and young adults with cancer, blood disorders, bone marrow failure, and congenital immune deficiencies. Legislation such as A.10063/S.8750 of 2024 adds to the resources and services patients at URM can receive. This legislation would provide crucial insurance coverage for individuals under the age of twenty-six who need neuropsychological examinations in accordance with their diagnosis of pediatric cancer or brain tumors. These assessments can cost thousands of dollars to families already struggling to keep up with the financial costs of a cancer diagnosis.

- **Pass A.10063 (Mayer)/S.8750 (Burdick) of 2024.**

### **Support Child Care Providers and Families:**

While enrollment in NYS's Child Care Assistance program has grown over the past several years, too many families are still excluded from this crucial support. Over the past year, 44 percent of New York childcare providers have raised tuition, and a third have lost staff, according to a new report from The Century Foundation. Families are having to make tough choices especially those who need child care support and elder care support.

- **Support and build upon the Governor's proposal to increase the NYS child tax credit up to \$1,000 per child under age 4 and up to \$500 per child from four through 16.**
- **Create and provide \$1.2 billion for a permanent state child care fund to increase child care worker compensation. Also develop a plan for subsequent years to establish a minimum pay scale and career ladder based upon agreed upon criteria.**
- **Support the Governor's proposal to create a \$110 million Child Care Construction Fund.**

### **Support Early-Intervention (EI) Services:**

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) serves children, ages 0-3, with a developmental delay or with a diagnosed condition with a high probability of resulting in delay. New York's EIP is one of the largest in the nation, delivering services approximately 70,000 children and families. But the program has been underfunded for decades, leaving children and families in crisis. The Governor is proposing level funding for EI.

- **Provide a 5% EI rate increase through the Covered Lives Assessment.**





## SUPPORT MT. HOPE FAMILY CENTER (MHFC)

- **Mt. Hope Family Center (MHFC):**
  - Provide **\$250,000** in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center.

### About Mt. Hope Family Center (MHFC):

For over 45 years, MHFC has delivered life-changing, evidence-based interventions to at-risk children and families with the goal of reducing the devastating impact of childhood trauma, especially child maltreatment. Mt. Hope Family Center is a diverse team of 80 clinicians, researchers, lawyers, and administrators working with and promoting resilience for children and families affected by stressful or traumatic experiences. These can include a need for support around parenting, familial violence, interpersonal violence, community violence, abuse, neglect, disruptions in caregiving, stressful life transitions, and systemic racism. We support children and families as they work toward short- and long-term psychological, physical, and economic well-being. These services strengthen the foundational connections between community wellness, mental health, and equity for Rochester's children and families. Our unique approach combines clinical services, innovative research, and hands-on mentoring and training in one facility.

### MHFC exists because:

- **One in seven** children experiences abuse or neglect each year nationally.
- Rochester children experience **abuse at 2.5 times higher** than the national average.
- **41 percent** of Rochester children live in poverty – among the worst in the nation.
- The teen birth rate in Rochester is **about twice the national rate and three times the rate in NYS**. The teen birth rate in Rochester is seven times the rate in Monroe County towns and suburbs.

Mt. Hope's Translational Research that Adapts New Science for Maltreatment Prevention (TRANSFORM) Center is **one of only three National Institutes of Health (NIH)-designated National Centers for Child Abuse and Neglect and the only one in New York State**. The Center identifies best practices for prevention and screening, as well as treatment of children affected by abuse. It advances research, policy, and training initiatives to prevent and address the adverse and lifelong



consequences of child maltreatment impacting vulnerable children and families across New York and beyond. **The Center reaches all 50 US states and 11 countries** while engaging with scientific and lay professional communities alike to share 40 years of child abuse and neglect research to help raise awareness for a broad transdisciplinary audience. In addition, MHFC participates in the **National Child Traumatic Stress Network** - a unique network of frontline providers and researchers committed to raising the standard of care and increasing access to services for children and families who experience or witness traumatic events.

### Need for NYS Support:

Despite Mt. Hope's undeniable success and outcomes, there remains an urgent need to expand prevention and intervention efforts to reach even more vulnerable families in our community. Rochester's kids and families need us now more than ever. The demand for MHFC's services is particularly acute in Rochester, where high rates of poverty, violence, teen pregnancy, and economic hardship persist.

\$250,000 in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center will allow MHFC to hire additional trained clinicians, allowing us to serve 90 additional families annually and to implement our after school and summer youth programs for 450 additional at-risk children per year. It will enhance our programs and services to meet demand and improve the well-being of Rochester's and New York's most vulnerable children and families. Your support will make it possible for MHFC to provide parents with the tools they need to break cycles of maltreatment, teen pregnancy, understand child development, and resolve conflicts peacefully.





# SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL

## NYS FY 2025-26 HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES:

- **Bundy Aid:**
  - Restore the FY 24-25 cut to Bundy Aid by increasing aid from **\$16.3 million to \$35.1 million** and **reinstating eligibility** for all private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.
- **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP):**
  - Provide an additional **\$68 million** to support the TAP and ensure all students, including returning adult learners and graduate students, have access to higher education.
- **Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP):**
  - Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the HEOP to **\$46.8 million** and **increase support by 20% from last year's \$49 million to \$58.8 million.**
- **Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP):**
  - Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the STEP to **\$20.9 million** and **increase support by 20% from last year's \$21.8 million to \$26.1 million.**
  - Pass S.3417 (Stavisky).
- **Support Medical, Nursing, and Dental Education:**
  - Maintain funding for the **Doctors Across NY Program at \$15.8 million.**
  - Increase support for the **Diversity in Medicine Program from \$3.644 million to \$4 million** and maintain support for the **Diversity in Medicine Scholarship at \$1.25 million.**
  - Increase support for the **Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program from \$3 million to \$6 million.**
  - Reject the Governor's decrease to **\$3.9 million** for the **Patricia McGee Scholarship Program** and level fund the program at **\$4.9 million.**
  - Maintain support for the **Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program at \$941,000.**
  - Support the Governor's proposal to **authorize NYS to enter the Interstate Nursing Licensure Compact.** Also, NYS should be authorized to enter the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.**
  - Create a **new Dentists Across NY Loan Repayment Program** funded at **\$6 million similar to A.2339 (Woerner)** or support adding Dentistry to the **Doctors Across NY Program** as outlined in **A.1454 (Aubry)/S.4334 (Sepulveda)** of 2024.
  - Support **A.8363A (Woerner)/ S.9216 (Stavisky)** of 2024, which would expand the "experience" standard to authorize experienced dentists licensed in other jurisdictions to be licensed in NYS through certain mechanisms and thresholds.
- **Higher Education Facilities Capital Matching Grants Program (HECap):**
  - Provide an additional round of **\$50 million** for the HECap.

### Restore Bundy Aid:

Direct Institutional "Bundy" Aid is distributed to independent colleges and universities in NYS based on degrees conferred. At the University of Rochester, these funds were used to provide scholarships for NY families who have exhausted other forms of financial aid. We received \$911,858 in Bundy Aid which helped provide scholarships to 938 students. However, the FY 24-25 enacted budget cut Bundy Aid and eliminated eligibility for certain institutions, like ours, based on their endowment size. This directly impacted our students and the scholarship opportunities they received through the program.

- **Restore the FY 24-25 cut to Bundy Aid by increasing aid from \$16.3 million to \$35.1 million and reinstate eligibility for all private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.**

### Support the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP):

TAP is a critical resource that has helped five million New Yorkers since 1974 access higher education at public and private colleges and universities of their choice. For the 2024-25 academic year, 725 University of Rochester undergraduates received assistance through the TAP program.

- **Provide an additional \$68 million to support the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and ensure all students, including returning adult learners and graduate students, have access to higher education.**

### Support the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP):

HEOP, sponsored jointly by the University and the NYS Department of Education (SED), provides economically and educationally disadvantaged students access to support services and financial aid to help them succeed. For the 2024-25 academic year, 110 students at the University participated in HEOP.

- **Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease the HEOP to \$46.8 million and increase support by 20% from last year's \$49 million to \$58.8 million.**

### Support the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP):

Since 1985, STEP at the University of Rochester has introduced 7th through 12th graders from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to problem-based learning, conceptual thinking, and the skills needed to enter and succeed in careers in scientific, technical, and health-related fields, or the licensed professions. For the 2024-25 academic year,







## SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL



the University had over 50 students participate in our education pipeline, which includes one 6-week summer program, two 4-week programs, and a 12-week academic program.

- **Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease STEP to \$20.9 million and increase support by 20% from last year's \$21.8 million to \$26.1 million.**
- **Pass S.3417 (Stavisky).**

### **Support Medical, Nursing, and Dental Education:**

The University of Rochester School of Medicine admits 96 MD and 8 MD/PhD students annually who learn in the Double Helix Curriculum, the first in the country to integrate clinical and basic science all four years, and continues to offer early meaningful clinical experience. With opportunities in research, community service, and international health, students can pursue personal interests within the curriculum. There is a total of 865 trainees in ACGME-accredited programs. Nearly 500 graduate students and 200 postdoctoral appointees are in training to become the basic, translational, and clinical investigators of the future. There are 1,973 total full-time faculty at the school.

The University of Rochester's School of Nursing is an innovator and leader in the field of nursing. UR Nursing developed the acute care nurse practitioner (NP). Today, the NP role is the most in-demand and fastest-growing job in the U.S. UR Nursing ranks among the top (#31) nursing schools in research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). 91% of the School's faculty are actively practicing in their field. Today, our School has an enrollment of more than 650 students across our academic programs.

For more than 100 years, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) at the University of Rochester has been a safety net provider for the community and a recognized national leader in outreach dentistry. EIOH is unique among academic health centers in the US, there are six centers in NYS. Despite the absence of an undergraduate dental school, we have internationally recognized dental residency programs, vibrant oral biology research that is in the top tier of NIH rankings, and robust clinical services.

With roughly 160 residents at EIOH, dentists from all over the world come to Eastman for advanced training.

- **Maintain funding for the Doctor's Across NY Program at \$15.8 million.**
- **Increase support for the Diversity in Medicine Program from \$3.644 million to \$4 million and maintain support for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship at \$1.25 million.**
- **Increase support for the Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program from \$3 million to \$6 million.**
- **Reject the Governor's decrease to \$3.9 million for the Patricia McGee Scholarship Program and level fund the program at \$4.9 million.**
- **Maintain support for the Nursing Faculty Loan at \$941,000.**
- **Support the Governor's proposal to authorize NYS to enter the Interstate Nursing Licensure Compact. Also, NYS should be authorized to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.**
- **Create a new Dentists Across NY Loan Repayment Program funded at \$6 million similar to A.2339 (Woerner) or add Dentistry to the Doctors Across NY Program as outlined in A.1454 (Aubry)/S.4334 (Sepulveda) of 2024.**
- **Support A.8363A (Woerner)/ S.9216 (Stavisky) of 2024 which would expands the "experience" standard to authorize experienced dentists licensed in other jurisdictions to be licensed in NYS through certain mechanisms and thresholds.**

### **Support the Higher Education Capital Matching (HECap) Grant Program:**

HECap allocations spur economic development, foster urban renewal, create thousands of jobs statewide, and leverage the state's higher education institutions to sustain economic growth and expansion. In 2019, the University received \$1 million in HECap funding to support the \$15 million expansion of the School of Nursing's Loretta C. Ford Education Wing to create new learning space.

- **Provide an additional round of \$50 million for the Higher Education Facilities Capital Matching Grants Program (HECap).**





## SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIFE SCIENCES, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

### NYS FY 2025-26 PRIORITIES:

- **Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs):**
  - Increase funding to \$1.5 million for each of the 15 Centers.
- **Centers of Excellence (COEs):**
  - Increase funding to \$1.5 million for each of the 15 Centers.
- **Empire AI:**
  - Add an additional \$90 million in funding to Empire AI
- **Business Incubation:**
  - Support \$5 million in level funding for the Innovation Hot Spots.
- **Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP):**
  - Increase funding to \$4.345 million for the MEP program.
- **High Tech Matching Grants and Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START):**
  - Support \$12 million in level funding for the High Tech Matching Grants and START initiative.
- **New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NYFIRST):**
  - Add an additional \$10 million to help New York's medical schools recruit and retain leaders in research.
- **Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP):**
  - Restore \$3.445 million in funding for ECRIP that was cut in the executive budget proposal.
- **Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP):**
  - Increase funding to \$18 million for SCIRP.



### About the University of Rochester:

Thanks to state support, the University of Rochester is the 7th largest private sector employer in the state and the largest private employer in upstate New York. The University is responsible for generating an estimated 68,000 jobs and \$4.7 billion in total wages (direct and spillover) across New York State.

### FAST FACTS:

- The University of Rochester is the 7th largest private sector employer in New York and the largest private employer in Upstate.
- Since 2005, more than 50 startup companies were formed using technology developed at the University of Rochester.
- The University of Rochester has been identified by the journal Nature Biotechnology as one of the top 10 universities in the nation for the impact of its life sciences research.
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards more funding to the University of Rochester than any other institution in New York State outside of the NYC area.
- The Finger Lakes region ranks 3rd in Biomedical Sciences Degrees and 9th in Life Sciences Degrees.
- In addition, Rochester has more STEM graduates per capita than any other U.S. metro area (larger than 1 million)—including Boston, Raleigh, NYC, etc.
- The University of Rochester is a lead partner in the \$41 million EDA Tech Hub for Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse to create a globally leading semiconductor cluster.
- The University is leading an application to be one of the NSF's next Regional Innovation Engines focused on developing a world-leading laser and optics ecosystem in Rochester and Upstate NY.

The University of Rochester is a national leader in translating discoveries into new technologies and applications that treat and cure disease, improve national security, and help our nation move toward a sustainable clean energy future. Since 2005, more than 50 startup companies were formed to license and commercialize technology developed at the University of Rochester.

The University of Rochester is upstate New York's premier life science research institution and receives more funding from the National Institutes for Health (NIH) than any other institution outside New York City, making the Finger Lakes region home to Upstate's largest and most active concentration of biomedical research and life sciences business activity. The University is home to the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), which coordinates a network of more than 50 institutions across the country, and research at the University of Rochester Medical Center has led to numerous transformational discoveries that have saved and improved thousands of lives.







## SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



### Support the Centers of Excellence (COEs):

New York State's 15 COEs are partnering with industry to transform research and technology capabilities into commercial applications. In 2022-2023, the Rochester COE in Data Science & AI created or retained at least 25 jobs, generated \$5.7 million in economic impact, and helped attract \$20.4 million in sponsored research that utilizes the high-performance computing capabilities at UR. And thanks to continued support from the state, the University of Rochester is among the most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in the world.

We are grateful that the 2024-2025 state budget established the Center of Excellence in RNA Research & Therapeutics (CERRT), a new joint COE between the University at Albany and University of Rochester. Initially funded at \$250,000, this joint venture will leverage the combined RNA expertise at both universities and work closely with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in New York to develop RNA-based therapies and train the next generation of New York's biotech workforce.

- **We are disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the COEs. We urge the Legislature to not only restore funding but to increase support to \$500,000 for CERRT and \$1.5 million for each of the other 14 COEs in the FY 25-26 budget.**



### Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs):

The University's Center for Emerging & Innovative Sciences (CEIS) has been a catalyst for growth in optics, photonics, and imaging through industry-university collaboration and technology transfer for more than 20 years. As one of only 15 CATs statewide, CEIS applies world-class research at the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Cornell University toward the commercialization of technologies and products to help meet industry needs.

CEIS has led or supported efforts to secure all four of the federal government's advanced manufacturing programs focused on optics, photonics, and imaging for the Finger Lakes, including AIM Photonics. CEIS is also aligned with the EDA Tech Hub grant and will play a vital role with its implementation. In 2022-2023, CEIS generated \$27.6 million in direct economic impact and created or retained at least 41 jobs at 13 companies.

- **We are disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the CATs. We urge the Legislature to not only restore funding but to increase support for the CATs at \$1.5 million each in the FY 25-26 budget.**

### Empire AI:

Last year, Governor Hochul created Empire AI, a public-private initiative to unlock AI R&D opportunities. This year, the University of Rochester is excited to be joining the consortium. The University of Rochester is one the nation's leading research institutions with significant strengths in AI, Machine Learning, high-performance computing, and home to the New York State Center of Excellence in Data Science & AI. We believe that our expertise and resources make the University of Rochester well-positioned to be a valuable partner in this ambitious endeavor and ensure that the Rochester-Finger Lakes region is represented in this endeavor.

- **We urge the Legislature to support Governor Hochul's proposal in add an additional \$90 million in funding to include the University of Rochester and RIT in Empire AI.**







## SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



### Support Luminate NY:

Luminate NY—the world's largest business accelerator for startup firms that have optics, photonics and imaging (OPI) technologies—is also based at NextCorps. Each year, 10 promising companies are selected to participate in its 6-month program. During this time, companies are provided with comprehensive training and resources to advance their technologies and businesses.

Since its inception, Luminate NY has invested \$18.6 million in more than 70 startups. The companies in the portfolio now share a net worth of more than \$675 million. In addition to providing an estimated 1.2 to 2 times return on investment, many of the companies are establishing U.S. operations or some aspect of research and manufacturing in the Rochester region, which has resulted in 164 jobs.

- We thank the Governor and Legislature for the \$75 million Innovation Venture Competition Program in the FY 22-23 budget to ensure that Luminate receives \$5 million annually to continue through 2026.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the High Tech Matching Grants and Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START) initiative at \$12 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 25-26 budget.

### Support Business Incubation and NY's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP):

NextCorps is an affiliate of the University of Rochester and the region's only state- and federally designated business incubator. It is currently home to more than 70 companies. NextCorps programs and services support innovation and growth across all stages of the company life cycle.

NextCorps is part of NY's MEP program, a designated Innovation Hot Spot, a STARTUP-NY location, and also manages and coordinates NYSERDA's statewide effort to place experienced business executives known as "entrepreneurs-in-residence." In 2020, NextCorps was selected by NYSERDA as one of two new statewide cleantech accelerators offering a variety of support services and seed funding for clean energy companies to build or grow a clean energy business, a key part of the state's goal for an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund NY MEP at \$1.47 million and urge the Legislature to increase funding by \$2.875 million to \$4.345 million in the FY 25-26 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Innovation Hot Spots at \$5 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 25-26 budget.





## SUPPORT LIFE SCIENCES & BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS



### Support New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NYFIRST):

States across the nation are increasing their spending on biomedical research in order to be more competitive for federal funding opportunities. Massachusetts, Texas, California, Connecticut, and other states have instituted multi-million-dollar programs to fund biomedical translational research. Researchers in New York are being actively recruited by these states as funding from the federal government becomes increasingly difficult to secure. It is critical that New York State enhance its research faculty recruitment and retention efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness in biomedicine.

NYFIRST was launched in 2017 with \$15 million to support the development of bioscience research laboratories throughout the state. Since 2018, with \$11.7 million invested by the State, NYFIRST generated \$107.4 million in matching funds through institutional investments. This represents a near 10:1 return on every state dollar invested in NYFIRST. In the first four years of this program, the State has enabled New York research institutions to retain or recruit nine leading scientists, creating 156 new jobs with an average salary of \$77,802.

- **We urge the Legislature to re-appropriate the \$10 million from 2024-2025 and to add an additional \$10 million for NYFIRST in the 2025-2026 budget to help New York's medical schools recruit and retain leaders in biomedical research, create jobs and improve public health.**

### Support the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP):

The ECRIP program supports training for clinical investigators in order to support strategically important areas of research for New York's teaching hospitals and to assist in the recruitment and retention of these researchers. At the University of Rochester Medical Center, ECRIP grants have helped to accelerate clinical research trials related to improving outcomes with chemotherapy, improving ADHD care, and treating tumor-related epilepsy, among others. In the 2024-2025 budget, ECRIP was level funded at \$3.445 million but it was eliminated in the 2025-2026 executive budget proposal.

- **We urge the Legislature to reject the governor's proposed cuts and fully restore ECRIP funding to \$3.445 million in the 2025-2026 budget.**

### Support Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP):

The New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) has provided more than \$79 million in research funding toward treatments for spinal cord injury since its inception in 1998. Funded by a surcharge on traffic ticket moving violations, this program has produced tangible clinical and scientific advances from robotics-based therapies to highly effective cellular replacement therapies that have been transformative for patients with these injuries while reducing their health care costs and ensuring their ability to maintain active working lives.

Research projects funded through this program have attracted significant federal and private research support, industry partnerships, and the development of multiple patents. Given the advances in spinal cord injury research, we also thank New York State for the investment in a Neurorestoration Clinical Trial Network focused on novel treatments to maintain health, wellness and cure neurological disability. The 2024-2025 budget level funded the program at \$8.5 million.

- **We urge the Legislature to increase funding for SCIRP up to \$18 million in the 2025-2026 budget.**







# LABORATORY FOR LASER ENERGETICS



## About the Laboratory for Laser Energetics

Thanks to strong and consistent investment from New York State (NYS) since 1983, The University of Rochester's (UR) Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) is one of the leading research facilities in the world, a vital component of our national scientific capital and technological competitiveness, a significant source of innovation and talent, a centerpiece of the Finger Lakes' photonics cluster, a foundational component to strategic work on an independent energy future, and one of the key economic drivers for upstate New York.

## A Global Leader

The LLE is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) largest university-based research program nationwide and one of the only New York-based programs annually line-itemized in the federal budget. It is also home to the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. State funding helps LLE to leverage significant additional federal support and ensure the LLE's status as the nation's leading university-based research center in fusion, laser science and technology, and high-energy-density (HED) science research. The LLE is a unique national resource not found at any other university in the nation and is one of the crown jewels of New York State technology and innovation.

The LLE is home to the Omega Laser Facility, which houses the two largest and most-capable lasers (OMEGA and OMEGA EP) at any academic institution globally. LLE is one of the nation's three primary Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) and HED science facilities, along with the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore and the Z Pulsed Power Facility at Sandia. LLE is the lead lab for the laser-direct-drive approach to fusion, and partner on laser technology, target and diagnostic development. Together, the ICF Program diligently worked to learn and overcome challenges to control fusion, culminating in the NIF demonstrating ignition in 2022. This achievement opens new areas of scientific exploration, maintains U.S. scientific leadership, avoids "technical surprise" from other nuclear weapons states such as Russia or China, and helps advance fusion as an energy source.

## OUR REQUESTS:

2025-26 Budget Request:	\$1,000,000
2025-26 Executive Budget:	\$1,000,000
2024-25 Enacted Budget:	\$1,000,000

Agency: Empire State Development

## State and Federal Funding

The support the University receives annually through NYSERDA for LLE provides a more than 120:1 leverage and has proven extremely valuable in demonstrating the state's commitment to the DOE and the U.S. Congress. Thanks to the \$1,000,000 appropriation included in the 2024-25 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided \$99.4 million in direct fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding for the LLE. Currently, more than \$100 million in direct FY 2025 federal funding is pending with Congress.

Support from NYS has also been critical to leveraging support from other federal agencies, including DOE's Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (FES), Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense. State support was a defining factor in our new cooperative agreement with the DOE, which totals a record \$503.6 million over five years, a 23 percent increase over our previous agreement - one of the largest federal contracts of its kind in New York's history.

## Economic Impact

LLE employs more than ~450 full-time employees and its economic activity supports an additional 550 spillover jobs for a total impact of about 1,000 jobs, \$66 million in income and \$3.7 million in revenue to state and local governments. Since FY 2015, LLE has made \$57.6M million in purchases from over 1,000 NYS vendors. LLE provides a strong stimulus to the local economy by helping attract and develop new companies and investors, for example companies like Sydor Technologies. As a result of its growth and demand, the University completed a \$46 million, 66,000 sq. ft. office and lab building expansion.





Thanks to LLE, NSF recently selected the University as a \$1 million awardee for its Regional Innovation Engines Program to further grow the region as America's preeminent laser research and development hub. This planning grant project has brought together a variety of institutional, industrial, and business partners to lay the groundwork for an application to seek \$160 million in support for the Rochester-FL region.

### Scientific Leadership and Innovation

LLE serves a critical national security function and is also at the forefront of efforts to demonstrate the viability of nuclear fusion as an inexhaustible, clean, and affordable source of energy. Once realized, nuclear fusion will not only diversify the state's energy portfolio but will advance the state's energy and economic well-being. LLE was recently awarded a four-year, \$10 million award from DOE FES to lead one of three national research hubs dedicated to advancing inertial fusion energy (IFE). IFE-COLOR will focus on a broad-bandwidth, direct-drive laser IFE system that could pave the way to realizing fusion as a power source. FES also awarded LLE \$2.25 million to lead the Inertial Fusion Energy Science and Technology Accelerated Research (IFE-STAR) ecosystem that brings together academia, national laboratories, and the private sector to develop a clean, safe, and virtually limitless energy source, built on US leadership in inertial fusion.

LLE is helping the U.S. regain its leadership in intense, ultrafast lasers. LLE was awarded \$18 million from the NSF to design and prototype key technologies critical for a new laser system called NSF-OPAL. A successful NSF-OPAL design would enable the construction of the highest-power laser system in the world, which would open exciting new areas of scientific discovery and potential future technological applications. LLE is also applying its laser expertise to directed energy systems, an area of growing emphasis in the Department of Defense's efforts to counter a full range of missile threats, and is currently leading a project, with industry, to demonstrate military utility of short-pulse lasers.

Acquired thanks to state, and federal, support, LLE's super-computer, Conesus, ranked as one of the world's most powerful. Conesus quadruples LLE's computing power and better enables the use of AI to help predict, design, and improve laser-fusion implosions to accelerate innovation.

### Education and Growing the STEM Pipeline

Education is a core component of the LLE's mission. As the DOE's largest university program, the LLE is the only facility that trains graduate students, not just from Rochester but other leading institutions, in inertial confinement fusion -- providing an invaluable national security workforce pipeline. The LLE has provided an academic home to more than 500 PhD candidates, including more than 200 from outside the University, and has offered research opportunities to generations of undergraduates and many high school students. Currently, more than 230 students are conducting their research and education at the LLE, one-third of whom go on to work in the national laboratories and a third are employed in the

Rochester region after graduation at companies like L3Harris. More than 800 users from more than 65 institutions, including other universities, industry, and national laboratories utilize LLE for research, training, and education in ICF and HED science. LLE is designated as the DOE National Laser User's Facility, making it possible for users to conduct experiments without a direct facility charge. Additional access for qualified users is made possible through the DOE FES supported LaserNetUS and NSF supported Center for Matter at Atomic Pressures (CMAP).

The LLE also provides research opportunities for undergraduates, including students at SUNY Geneseo. The LLE has partnered with SUNY Geneseo for more than 25 years and provided more than \$7.5 million for research and equipment that annually supports for more than 16 undergraduate students and 5 faculty.

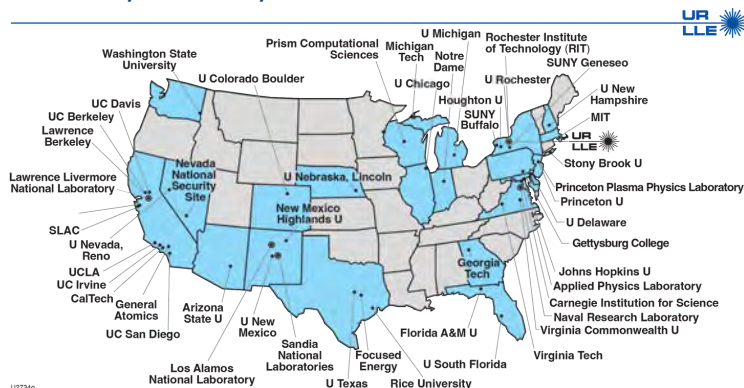


LLE sponsors an annual High School Summer Student Program, which has hosted 448 students, producing 39 semi-finalists, and 4 finalists in the Regeneration Science Talent Search, the nation's most prestigious science competition. LLE has also developed a "Broad Exposure to Science and Technology (BEST) Research Program" to better engage students and teachers within the Rochester City School District.

### The Need for State Support

State funding supports Nobel Prize winning science, jobs and the region's optics, photonics, and imaging industry, diversifies the state's energy portfolio, develops new technologies and companies, attracts additional federal funding, and strengthens the LLE's and New York's global leadership in lasers, fusion and HED science research.

### Academic, Industrial, and Government Users of LLE





## SUPPORT ARTS PROGRAMS

### NYS FY 2025-26 ARTS PRIORITIES:

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support the **New York State Council on the Arts**. While the amount MAG receives in annual operating support has decreased, we are grateful for NYSCA funding, which provides critical support for exhibitions, programming, and facility improvements.
- We are thankful for the recent **\$45,000 Market NY award to MAG** from the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council to develop a marketing plan that attracted increased tourism for an exhibition by internationally recognized artist Yayoi Kusama from late 2023 through spring of 2024.

The arts and humanities provide valuable, accessible cultural enrichment to our communities and help to cultivate and support a broadly educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global economy.

The Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a community art museum. MAG's permanent collection of more than 13,000 works has been called the best balanced in the state outside of metropolitan New York City. In addition to its collection, MAG offers a year-round schedule of temporary exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, family activities, and educational programs. MAG's Centennial Sculpture Park is also the centerpiece of the \$19 million ARTWalk extension, a redevelopment of the Neighborhood of the Arts in the City of Rochester.

#### Education:

The education and engagement of students is an important part of MAG's mission. As a cultural partner with the Rochester City School District (RCSD), MAG offers in-gallery and hands-on learning experiences to students at Schools #19, #23, #29, #33 and #45. Through the MAG-RCSD Expanded Learning Collaboration (ELC), approximately 500 students in grades 2-4 visit the museum over consecutive weeks to spend time in the galleries with a museum educator and then create artwork of their own in MAG's Creative Workshop, connecting art with the school curriculum. In the 2021-22 academic year, ELC extended its reach from 3 schools to 5 serving 518 students in the City of Rochester. MAG provided onsite and virtual tours and lessons to a total of 5,134 students from urban, suburban, and rural districts.



### FAST FACTS:

- **206,113 people visited the museum in 2024, a 15% increase from the prior year.**
- **10,469 school children toured MAG** for what was often their first-ever visit to an art museum.
- **550 classroom teachers attended free professional workshops** and learned how to incorporate art into their curriculum.
- **MAG teaching-artists helped 2,190 participants develop their artistic talents over 36,132 instructional hours** in our Creative Workshop classes.
- **MAG exposed audiences to diverse forms of art in 10 special exhibitions**, from an immersive installation by contemporary artist **Yayoi Kusama** to a scientific examination of our **Rembrandt** portrait.
- **MAG added 64 artworks to our collection** for generations to enjoy, including a stunning medieval prayer book that we acquired jointly with the University of Rochester River Campus Libraries.

#### MAGConnect:

MAGconnect brings in community members who may not otherwise come to the museum due to financial and transportation limitations. This program provides free transportation and admission, but it gives something even more: accessibility, the feeling of belonging, and the opportunity to connect with art. After a guided tour, MAGconnect visitors are offered a complimentary one-year family membership.

#### Centennial Sculpture Park:

Completed in 2023, MAG's Centennial Sculpture Park is an artistic urban oasis for the city of Rochester that is always open and always free. The project also received a \$600,000 grant from Empire State Development through the 2019 New York State Regional Economic Development Council initiative. In the spirit of inspiring fun, which is fundamental to MAG's mission, these works of art are playful, flexible, smart, and provocative. In the Sculpture Park, you'll find a new kind of 'town square' – a spectacular gathering spot located in the heart of the Neighborhood of the Arts and a destination for Rochesterians and visitors alike.







## SUPPORT ARTS PROGRAMS



The University's Eastman School of Music, located downtown in the City of Rochester, is a leader in American music education dedicated to the highest levels of artistry and scholarship and an anchor of the Rochester arts community. For more than 100 years, Eastman has been committed to enriching community life through music.

The Eastman School of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), which is an association of post-secondary music schools in the U.S. We offer a Bachelor of Music curriculum, which is a four-year program designed to develop not only students' performance abilities but also their practical and academic skills. Additionally, we offer Master's level degrees in Music, Arts, and a Doctor of Musical Arts.

### Education:

Outside of classes and degrees for undergraduate and graduate students, Eastman offers:

- **Eastman Community Music School:** Music lessons, ensembles, classes, and workshops to community members of all ages and backgrounds. From pre-school and early childhood programs to college prep and diploma programs to adult ensembles and classes, ECMS nurtures and inspires music students at all levels.
- **Eastman Pathways:** Provides scholarships for dedicated and talented Rochester City School District (RCSD) students to pursue music at the Eastman Community Music School. 93% of Pathways graduates have gone on to attend college, including Eastman, University of Rochester, Harvard, MIT, Columbia, the University of Miami, SUNY Fredonia, the Manhattan School of Music, and Juilliard.
- **ROCmusic:** Partnership of the Eastman School of Music and Eastman Community Music School, the Hochstein School of Music and Dance, the City of Rochester, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Rochester City School District.
- **New Horizons:** Provides entry points to music making for adults, especially seniors. Inclusive for all, including those with no musical experience at all, experienced musicians, and those who have been inactive for years.



**EASTMAN**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

### Community Engagement:

Eastman's mission includes a deep dedication to community engagement, including connections with local partnerships and initiatives in Rochester. These include programs like:

- **Eastman Evenings at the Strong Museum of Play:** Two major Rochester, NY institutions, Eastman Community Music School (ECMS) and The Strong National Museum of Play (The Strong), have formalized their partnership in 2023 in order to offer two main programs: Evenings with Eastman, is a series of short concerts in the museum's atrium featuring solo instrumentalists or ensembles; and Story Time Club, are interactive events where ECMS Faculty provide instrumental accompaniment to narrators as they read children's books aloud.
- **If Music Be the Food:** Eastman faculty members and students join special guests for chamber music concerts at area churches to benefit Foodlink.
- **Jazz For Justice:** – A collaboration between the Eastman School of Music and the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar, the charitable arm of the Monroe County Bar Association.
- **UR in Tune:** Eastman Faculty bring their scholarship and artistry to the Highlands at Pittsford senior living community.

