UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

NY State Funding & Legislative Priorities

2016
Since our founding in 1851, we have grown to now be the largest private employer in Upstate New York with 27,590 total employees, an increase of 917 employees from last year and more than 4,000 employees over the last five years. Since 2005, we have led or facilitated more than $1 billion in capital projects to expand our capacity and support new, innovative programs and services for our students and patients as well as to attract and retain talented faculty.

Thanks in part to the support we receive from New York State, we are one of the world’s most distinguished research institutions, with $380 million in total sponsored research awards in 2015. Over the years, our research has fostered pioneering work in optics, cardiac arrhythmias, medical imaging, LASIK surgery, and vaccine development. We are among the top 15 institutions in licensing revenue over the last 10 years, and, since 1996, 58 companies have been created using University-licensed technologies.

No part of the University has changed more in recent years than our Medical Center. With recently announced affiliations with Noyes Health and Jones Memorial Hospital, other recent additions of Thompson Health, Strong West, the expansion of Wilmot Cancer Institute to 11 locations across the region, and the opening of the Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong Memorial Hospital last summer, URMC is creating an integrated regional health care network that is among the best in the northeast. We support a community-wide approach to funding medical education and health care infrastructure to ensure access to medical personnel and sustain the region’s national reputation for high quality care.

The decision to invest in a quality education is a significant one, and we believe high quality postsecondary education must be accessible, provide students with a world-class academic experience, and create a pathway to a successful career. We were proud to have recently been ranked by Kiplinger as one of the top 100 “Best College Values” for 2016. The number of applications we receive grew to 17,912 this year for 1,400 enrollment slots, and we have grown our student body from 8,300 students in 2004 to more than 11,000 in the current academic year. We remain committed to meeting the demonstrated need of our students, last year providing $96 million in institutional aid and this year committing to increasing that number by 5.9%.

As co-chair of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council, I am delighted that our region was chosen as one of the three awardees of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative competition, and am deeply grateful to the Governor and New York State Legislature for their unprecedented commitment to reviving the upstate economy. This award gives us the chance to jumpstart the Finger Lakes’ revitalization at a speed and on a scale previously unimaginable. As we embrace this opportunity to transform our region, the University of Rochester will put forward projects that were highlighted in our plan. These include a new facility at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics in partnership with Sandia National Laboratory focused on the development and acceleration of pulsed power technology, to build on our strengths in optics, photonics, and imaging. We will continue to move forward on the Goergen Institute for Data Science, where construction has begun on Wegmans Hall, a state-of-the-art, 60,000-square-foot building to house the Institute and the New York State Center of Excellence in Data Science. We will also establish the Neurorestoration Institute, utilizing the University’s strengths in neuroscience research to establish a center for high-level neurological rehabilitation.

Our vision is clear, and I am proud of what this institution has become and what the future offers. There is great opportunity in the 21st century to accelerate progress by building on our strengths in education, research, and health care. With the Upstate Revitalization Initiative and continued stable and sustained public-private investment and collaboration, I am confident that the dynamic talents of our faculty, students, and staff will continue to help ensure a vibrant and healthy future for this institution, this community, and our great state.

Joel Seligman
President & CEO,
University of Rochester
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University Facts (2015)

Faculty & Staff
Faculty
Tenure Track 1,329
School of Medicine 1,400
and Dentistry
Total Full-time Employees 26,673
Total Direct & Indirect Jobs 50,300

Students
Full-time
Undergraduate 5,942
Graduate 3,062
Professional 432
Part-time
Undergraduate 324
Graduate 1,300

Research
External Research $380.8 million
Funding FY15
Federally Sponsored $280.1 million
Research Funding
NYS Sponsord Funding $15.4 million

Top 15 in NIH funding in biochemistry, microbiology and immunology, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, oral biology, and musculoskeletal research.

Tuition
Tuition and Fees $47,450
Room and Board $14,364
Books and Supplies $1,310
Other $2,220
Total published price $65,334
Avg. aid package $40,150
Avg. loan debt at graduation $20,909
Loan default rate < 1%

Financial Aid
University of Rochester meets the full demonstrated need of all students who earn admission to the College.
Institutional Aid $96 million
Students receiving any financial aid 85%
Freshmen receiving merit scholarships 70%

Hospitals
Strong Memorial Hospital
Highland Hospital
Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong
F.F. Thompson Hospital
Noyes Health
Jones Memorial Hospital
Economic Development and Innovation

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. Our innovation ecosystem, which includes state programs such as the Centers of Excellence and Centers for Advanced Technology, STARTUP-NY, and Regional Technology Development Centers, has been cited as a national model. With the state’s support, we can do more to harness innovation and discoveries into commercially viable technologies and companies.

Support for the Regional Economic Development Councils and Upstate Economic Development

The University is proud to participate in the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) and the Finger Lakes region was delighted to be selected an URI Best Plan Awardee in 2015. Through unprecedented collaboration and the participation of more than 450 Council and Work Group members and thousands of members of the public in last year’s process, we have developed a shared vision for the region’s economic future.

Thanks to support for projects such as the Institute for Data Science, College Town, and High Tech Rochester’s Finger Lakes Business Accelerator, the region’s transformation is well under way. More than $1.1 billion in investment, galvanized by more than $400 million in previous state support, has helped the region to diversify its economy, seize new opportunities, grow confidence, create jobs, and begin to overcome barriers to growth. URI support is critical to take recent progress to the next level and create a stronger and more prosperous community for all of the region’s citizens.

We are grateful for the Governor’s continued commitment to growing the state’s economy in 2016 through the creation of the $100 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and look forward to the opportunity to partner once again with New York State to continue the Finger Lakes region’s transformation.

We thank Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature for selecting the Finger Lakes Region as a URI Best Plan Awardee in 2015 and support a sixth round of the REDC awards in the 2016–17 budget.

Support Venture Capital Funding

An identified lack of seed and venture capital funding challenges New York’s innovation ecosystem. While New York universities rank second nationally in total research spending, New York attracts only 4% of the nation’s venture capital investment while California attracts 47%. Excell Partners, Inc., an affiliate of the University of Rochester, manages a state-supported fund which provides pre-seed and seed stage financing to high-tech start-up companies in upstate New York.

Due to the high risks inherent in very early stage investing, few venture funds make seed investments, particularly in this region, yet a tremendous research base exists to generate commercially viable technologies, especially in the life sciences. Due to its strong track record and large geographic impact, Excell was one of the first to receive funding through the State’s Innovate NY program. Excell is positioned to identify promising technologies and accelerate the creation of new businesses.

The University and Excell Partners strongly support Governor Cuomo’s proposed doubling of the Innovation Venture Capital Fund to $100 million and seek continued opportunities to partner with the State to provide early-stage, high-potential growth companies with the critical resources needed to propel New York’s innovation economy.

Notable research and technology development at the University of Rochester led to the cancer vaccines Prevnar, Gardasil, and Ceravix, and advancements in LASIK surgery.
Support the Centers of Excellence (COEs)
New York State’s 10 Centers of Excellence are working to transform the research and technology capabilities of colleges and universities into commercial applications. Through investments in regional core competencies and strengths, like the Rochester Center of Excellence in Data Science, the Centers are driving high technology growth across the state.

- We urge the state to include $1.6 million for the Rochester Center of Excellence in Data Science and $16 million in total for Centers of Excellence in the 2016–17 Budget.

Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs)
Despite acute challenges in the local economy with the downsizing of Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch+Lomb, the University’s Center for Emerging and Innovative Sciences (CEIS) has had success generating 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.

In the past 10 years, CEIS has provided more than $4 million in funding to magnify the impact of more than 200 corporate-sponsored research projects at the University of Rochester, RIT, Cornell, Columbia, and other partner universities. This funding has generated $740 million in direct economic impact, and created or retained at least 440 jobs.

- We thank the Governor for renewing UR’s CEIS last year and urge him and the Legislature to include $13.82 million for CATs in the 2016–17 Budget.

Support Business Incubation
High Tech Rochester (HTR) is an affiliate of the University of Rochester and the region’s only state and federally-designated business incubator. HTR's programs and services support innovation and growth across all stages of the company life cycle. HTR also manages and coordinates NYSERDA’s statewide effort to place experienced business executives known as “entrepreneurs-in-residence” with new and emerging technology-related companies to help them grow, gain viability, and create revenue.

In 2013, an HTR- and RIT-led consortium of regional incubators was designated an Innovation Hot Spot. Thanks to support from New York State, HTR has had an estimated economic impact of nearly $500 million and helped create or retain more than 2,500 jobs over the last five years. HTR’s Business Accelerator is expected to create more than 1,000 new jobs in the form of new start-ups and business expansion. In September 2015, HTR and public officials broke ground on the Business Accelerator project at the historic Sibley Building. The HTR Business Accelerator was a regional council priority project and represents the cornerstone component of the City of Rochester’s newly designated Downtown Innovation Zone.

- We thank the state for awarding $10 million to the Business Accelerator project as part of the REDC process.

Minimum Wage
The University of Rochester supports in principle an increase in the minimum wage along the lines of what Governor Cuomo has proposed. We recognize the significant benefits our employees provide this institution and place a strong value on the health, safety, quality, diversity, and well-being of our workforce.

However, there are still issues that must be considered, such as the phase-in period, impact on federal work-study opportunities for our students, and mitigation for the not-for-profit sector, similar to what is being considered for small businesses and the State University of New York system to keep tuition affordable. As the largest health care provider in the region and the safety-net hospital for our community, we seek to avoid increases in costs to our patients, particularly for those workers whose compensation is largely financed by the state or the Medicaid program. This includes reimbursement increases as well as recognition of the added costs for insurance rate setting purposes.

The University of Rochester continually strives to create a work environment our employees can be proud of and where they can grow and develop while making a valuable contribution to our community, region and nation.
Goergen Institute for Data Science
a NYS Center of Excellence

According to IBM, every day we create 2.5 quintillion bytes of data—so much that 90% of the data in the world today has been created in the last two years alone. This explosion of data creation, capture, and use has engendered a need to better understand the interrelation of data and its productive uses. Yet it is estimated that the U.S. will experience a shortage of approximately 200,000 skilled data scientists, managers, and analysts.

To meet this challenge and to build on our institutional strengths, the University has adopted data science as its top priority and has announced a $100 million plan to create an internationally distinguished institute. The academic home for the new Goergen Institute for Data Science will be a 60,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility that will also house the NYS-designated Rochester Center of Excellence in Data Science.

The University requests $1.6 million in operating support in the 2016–17 Executive Budget as part of the Center of Excellence Program and seeks $22.5 million in Upstate Revitalization Initiative funding to match the $25 million in private support already raised.
Support from New York State
The University is grateful for the $1 million included in the 2015–16 Enacted Budget for the Rochester Center of Excellence in Data Science and the $2.5 million in capital funding awarded to date for the Goergen Institute for Data Science through the Regional Economic Development Council process. New York State has an opportunity to build on this investment and establish the state as one of the world’s leaders in this new, defining discipline. Thanks to previous support from the state, the University of Rochester is already among the most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in North America and home to the most advanced computer system dedicated to health research in the nation — the Health Sciences Center for Computational Innovation (HSCCI).

Research Capabilities
The data science capabilities at the University have already generated more than $330 million in research funding over the last six years and involve more than 650 faculty, students, and research staff from more than 40 departments across the University. In June 2014, the University opened the Visualization-Innovation-Science-Technology-Application (VISTA) Collaboratory, which creates the immersive visual experience necessary to allow researchers to understand and manipulate large and complex sets of scientific information. Only Stanford University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee have developed similar capabilities.

University researchers are at the forefront of efforts to use big data to help make the world a better, more connected, and healthier place. Recent examples include the development of a new smartphone app which allows patients with Parkinson’s disease to track their symptoms in real time and an app that would track the spread of Ebola. The Center is also working with High Tech Rochester (HTR) to develop targeted workshops for local companies, including a Rochester Healthcare Deep Data Dive to engage entrepreneurs, students, faculty, and healthcare professionals in innovative tools and approaches to use healthcare data to ultimately improve health outcomes.

Economic Impact
This project will bring enormous economic benefits to the region, and has been endorsed as a Transformative Priority Project by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council and the Rochester Community Coalition. An analysis by the Center for Governmental Research projects that the University’s Data Science initiative will create 460 jobs both at the University and in the community, generate $23 million in labor income, almost $2 million in tax revenue, and attract about $530 million in research funding over 10 years.

Public-Private Partnerships
The Center is expanding its industry and government collaborations, building on existing data science-related collaborations with companies such as Xerox, IBM, Wegmans, MC 10, Bryx911, as well as the National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Defense, and leveraging other state-based, University-sponsored economic incentives such as STARTUP-NY. The Center’s External Advisory Committee also includes industry leaders from Microsoft and Google.

The Center also recently established a Master’s degree program in Data Science and new undergraduate degree programs to train technical specialists, managers, clinicians, engineers, and others versed in the field of data science. These formal programs and experiential training opportunities will help prepare students to address significant real-world problems in a variety of careers in industry, government, academia, and other sectors.
The University of Rochester is at the forefront of energy research in our nation, with a vital component of these endeavors stemming from the University’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE). Thanks to the strong and consistent investment from New York State dating back to 1983 through the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), LLE continues to be one of the leading energy research facilities in the world, a significant source of innovation and talent, and one of the key economic drivers for the Finger Lakes region.

About the LLE
LLE is a unique national resource not found at any other university in the country. It is a vital component of our nation’s scientific capital and leadership and key to strategic work on an independent energy future. LLE is home to the OMEGA laser, which is the second most powerful ultraviolet fusion laser in the world, and the OMEGA EP (Extended Performance) laser, a high-intensity, high-energy short-pulse laser. LLE serves as the principal laser research facility for three national laboratories (Los Alamos, Sandia, and Lawrence Livermore).

As one of the preeminent research facilities for inertial confinement fusion and high-energy density physics research, LLE serves a critical national security function and is at the forefront of efforts to demonstrate the viability of nuclear fusion as an inexhaustible, clean, and affordable source of energy. LLE is also a magnet for scientific talent and one of the leading institutions for training the next generation of leaders in the fields of physics, optics, and materials science.

Nuclear fusion is the most basic form of energy in the universe, most commonly found in the thermonuclear reactions of the sun and the stars. Fusion energy can be used for electricity generation and national security-related applications, and does not produce nuclear waste or enhance nuclear proliferation. Fusion research is vital to maintaining the reliability and safety of the U.S. nuclear deterrent without the need for full-scale testing. Since the fuel source for fusion is water, controlled nuclear fusion has the potential to serve as a clean, affordable, and plentiful source of energy for the future. Once fully realized, inertial confinement fusion will not only diversify the state’s energy portfolio, but will advance the state’s energy and economic well-being. While challenges need to be overcome before fusion is an economically viable energy source, demonstrating the feasibility of inertial fusion energy as an inexhaustible, safe, and efficient source of energy would ensure that New York is the leader in reaping the incredible benefits of this technology.

Support from NYS
Thanks to New York’s long-term support and commitment, the University has leveraged substantial federal government and industry support. The annual funding from NYSERDA has proven extremely valuable in demonstrating the state’s commitment to LLE and helping the University secure, on average, $60–$70 million per year in support from the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Thanks in part to the $750,000 included in the 2015–16 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided $68 million in funding for LLE in Fiscal Year 2016.
Economic Impact

The economic impact of LLE on the Finger Lakes region is significant. Since its inception, LLE has attracted almost $2 billion to the state to support cutting-edge research, and approximately 500 individuals are currently involved in the program. Through its National Laser Users Facility, the University attracts as many as 300 additional scientists each year from national laboratories, universities, and companies. Besides payroll and local purchases, LLE also provides a strong stimulus to the local economy through its advanced technology assets, which are the seeds that help attract and develop new companies and investors to New York State’s high-technology sector.

The LLE is also nationally recognized as the only facility that trains graduate students in inertial fusion and thereby serves as a critical pipeline of future talent that is vitally important to our national and economic security.

The LLE is one of the highlighted priorities in the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council’s Upstate Revitalization Initiative plan. The University of Rochester and Sandia National Laboratory are partnering to develop a new, state-of-the-art research facility at the LLE that will create the world’s most advanced pulse power system and highest peak power laser, leveraging $135 million of private investment from the University of Rochester and the federal government. The project is estimated to create 246 construction jobs, 354 permanent jobs, and attract an additional $150 million in federal research to New York over the next five years.

2016 Request The University thanks Governor Cuomo for including $750,000 for the LLE in the 2016–17 Executive Budget and requests the Legislature’s support.

The facts

The OMEGA EP laser has 2,000 times more power than the entire U.S. electrical grid – making it among the most powerful lasers in the world.

Scientists estimate that a nuclear fusion power plant could generate 1,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power one million homes.

QED Technologies, Sydor Technologies, and Lucid, Inc. are just a few of the local companies that were created – and continue to benefit us – as a result of LLE’s technology and research.
Support for Higher Education

Support Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
Since 1974, five million New Yorkers have used TAP to help meet their college expenses. TAP is a critical resource for helping New York State students access higher education in their home state.

- We appreciate the Governor and Legislature’s ongoing commitment to TAP, and support an increase in the undergraduate maximum award to $6,500 and the reinstatement of Graduate TAP.

Support the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)
HEOP, sponsored jointly by the University of Rochester and the New York State Department of Education, provides economically and educationally disadvantaged students access to support services and financial aid to help them succeed.

- HEOP students graduate at rates above the national average.

- Please support $29.6 million for HEOP.

Support Bundy Aid
Direct Institutional “Bundy” Aid is distributed to independent colleges and universities in New York State based on degrees conferred. At the University of Rochester, these funds provide scholarship assistance for New York families that have exhausted other forms of financial aid. The approximately $1 million we receive in Bundy Aid annually is vitally important to the overall tuition assistance we are able to provide our students.

- We support $35.13 million for Bundy Aid in the 2016–17 Budget.

Support Nursing Education
The University of Rochester urges continued support for the Senator Pat McGee Scholarship Program and Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program, as well as the High Needs Nursing Program, in order to continue to address nursing shortages in upstate New York. Many outstanding nursing students have been able to attend the University of Rochester’s School of Nursing thanks to the scholarship support available through these valuable programs.

- We support $3,933,000 for the McGee Scholarship Program and $941,000 for High Needs Nursing.
Higher education provides immeasurable value to New York’s students and is one of the best investments a society can make. Support for strategic investments in research capacity and activities, as well as funding for student financial aid, fosters the type of innovative programs that have long distinguished the University of Rochester and benefitted the entire state.

Support the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)
Since 1985, STEP at the University of Rochester has introduced 7–12th 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, health-related fields, or the licensed professions. In 2015, the University received $500,000 from New York State to continue the program, which includes up to 50 students per year.

To meet the growth in demand for health professionals and to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in these fields, support level funding for STEP.

Support the Higher Education Capital Matching (HECap) Grants Program
HECap allocations spur economic development, foster urban renewal, create thousands of jobs across the state, and leverage the state’s higher education

We are grateful to the Governor and Legislature for supporting this program and encourage a timely awards process in the next funding cycle.

Strengthen Campus Safety
Thanks to the support of Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature three years ago, the University of Rochester’s Department of Public Safety (URDPS) was designated a sworn officer agency. The legislation has been a resounding success. It has allowed the URDPS to better protect the University community and enhance coordination with local law enforcement. While the expanded authority has dramatically improved public safety, it has become apparent that minor changes are needed to the current jurisdiction to increase security on campus and its surrounding neighborhoods that will improve service and response times.

The University and its community partners seek legislative support from the Governor and Legislature to improve the safety and security of our students, staff, faculty, patients, and our surrounding community.

The facts

761 UR students are relying on TAP this year.

842 students received Bundy Aid scholarships at UR in 2015.

100 students participate in HEO at UR with an 85% graduation rate.

Since 2009, each of UR’s McGee Scholarship recipients received an average of $35,579 in tuition assistance.

UR provided more than $100 million in institutional scholarships to students this year.
Ensure access to high-quality patient care

The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is one of the leading academic medical centers in the nation and our hospitals consistently rank among the best in the country. URMC is the largest health care provider in the region and the leading source of new physicians for the area. Funding from New York State has a profound effect on our patient care and community health missions. As the safety-net for our most vulnerable citizens, the University’s health care delivery network — UR Medicine — provides innovative, high-quality patient care throughout the region while serving as a hub for health care innovation and collaboration.

Protect New York’s hospitals, nursing homes, and home care agencies

New York’s health care providers continue to grapple with years of past and anticipated future cuts to both Medicare and Medicaid, along with changing reimbursement formulas and other provisions directed by health care reform. Health systems are becoming capital-starved and are having difficulties investing in information technology, care coordination, and integration of care, among other critical investments.

We urge New York State to:

- Protect the 340B program for outpatient prescription drugs — which supports the mission of safety-net providers that serve a significant number of low-income patients by relieving the burden of skyrocketing drug costs.
- Retain and expand critical healthcare investments — including new capital and other funding that recognizes the needs of rural providers.
- Oppose harmful nurse staffing ratio proposals — which would impose arbitrary staffing levels and take away flexibility to adapt to the specific needs of the patient population at any moment.
Support for New York’s academic dental centers
The five academic dental centers in New York State, including the Eastman Institute for Oral Health, serve as the largest providers of comprehensive, preventive, primary, and specialty oral health care to Medicaid recipients, the uninsured, and the state’s most vulnerable groups.

- We are pleased New York State recognizes the importance of continuing adult Medicaid coverage for dentistry, since prevention and early detection of disease are the cornerstones of decreasing Medicaid costs.
- We urge support for legislation to extend the restricted dental faculty licensure beyond 2017. This license has been critical to attracting the best talent to New York’s dental schools.

Avoid harmful changes to medical malpractice law
With some of the highest malpractice awards in the nation, New York would benefit from tort reform that could save hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary health care costs for patients, providers, and the state. If this already fragile situation is exacerbated, it could have deep repercussions on the ability of hospitals and physicians to provide the best possible care to our patients.

We urge New York State to:

- Oppose measures that would raise the cost of premiums and add unnecessary strain to a medical liability system that is not financially sustainable.
- Support comprehensive, balanced reform measures including expansion of the Medical Indemnity Fund, revival of medical review panels, identification of experts prior to trial, and the requirement that experts be board certified in the same medical specialty as the defendant.

Support telemedicine services
Widespread development and use of telemedicine programs, such as URMC’s Health-E-Access Telemedicine Program, will improve access to high-quality care in both urban and rural communities, and reduce health care costs by reducing emergency room visits. New York State has recognized the importance of telemedicine through recently expanded commercial and Medicaid coverage for these services.

However, we urge New York to:

- Include schools, child care settings, senior living communities, and similar locations as eligible originating sites.
- Include Applied Behavior Analysts as eligible providers.

Improve NYS licensing process
The length of time to complete the New York State process for licensure as a physician or dentist in New York State can take over six months, and is generally longer for internationally trained individuals. This process must be streamlined and improved in order to ensure patients in New York State are able to receive the care they need without having to travel out of the region or state.

- Licensing of internationally trained physicians and dentists is particularly troublesome. These individuals are often recruited through national searches to fill a specialty or subspecialty that is not currently served in our region. Despite the exemplary training and skill sets of internationally trained providers, it typically takes many months, and often more than a year, to license these individuals in New York State, even if they are currently licensed and practicing in other states.
- New York State places the decision of applying for license type on the applicant. If an applicant does not qualify for the type of license selected, there is currently no mechanism to automatically consider any other type of license, stalling the process.
- As multiple offices review licensing applications, they are currently unable to share supporting documentation from the applicant, leading to multiple requests for the same properly certified information, causing further delays. One set of official documents should be sufficient for the process.

The facts
The Eastman Institute for Oral Health provides 64% of all Medicaid dental care visits in Rochester each year.

The Visiting Nurse Service completes more than 600,000 visits to 11,000 patients per year.
State support for public health programs is critical to ensuring the development and expansion of academic-community health partnerships that improve the health of our citizens and provide important care to the underserved in our state.

**Support for School Based Health Centers (SBHCs)**
The University sponsors the SBHCs at East High School and at the Frederick Douglass Campus, which are two of the more than 200 SBHCs statewide. Services include complete physical exams, screenings, care for acute and chronic illnesses, mental health counseling, laboratory services, care for sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy testing and prevention, health education, and immunizations. Students receive services without regard to insurance status and are not charged any fees.

- We urge full funding for School Based Health Centers statewide.

**Support for Cancer Services Program**
The statewide Cancer Services Program is a preventive service that pays for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings for uninsured or underinsured adults. URMC provides these potentially life-saving cancer screening services through the Cancer Services Program of Monroe County.

- We urge full funding for this program to enable thousands to receive life-saving cancer screenings and treatments without financial barriers to their care.

**Support the Children’s Environmental Health Centers (CEHCs)**
The statewide network of seven CEHCs is an efficient and cost-effective approach to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of children’s diseases caused by environmental factors and expands educational programs for health professionals at all levels. These centers are addressing major diseases confronting children today, including asthma, autism, allergies, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, leukemia, obesity, diabetes, and others.

- Thanks to previous state funding, the Finger Lakes Regional Children’s Environmental Health Center has created an infrastructure for education and outreach concerning environmental exposures in children and mothers through clinical and community outreach initiatives, activities that can be continued only if funding is restored.

**Support for Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders**
URMC is host to the Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders, one of 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.

- We urge the state to ensure continued funding for the Centers in the 2016–17 Budget.

**Support for Diversity in Medicine Program**
With state support, the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) have offered an array of programs across the state to expand the pool of students choosing careers in health and medicine, including the AMSNY Post Baccalaureate Program which provides academic enrichment and support to students from educationally or economically underserved backgrounds.

- We urge the state to designate $2 million for the AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Programs.
Support Biomedical Research

Scientific advances in health research hold the potential for new ways to understand, prevent, and treat diseases, as well as the ability to gauge the effectiveness of various medical interventions to improve the quality and delivery of health care. New York State possesses a significant academic infrastructure of skilled researchers who are not only in position to make important strides in health discoveries, but also to grow and reshape the entire field of biomedical research and thereby drive our regional economies.

Support Stem Cell Research
The Empire State Stem Cell Program (NYSTEM) has strengthened the University of Rochester’s groundbreaking research programs and its scientists are recognized as pioneers in the field. There are more than 40 labs working with stem cells at the University of Rochester Medical Center and these labs employ more than 260 scientists and technicians.

Our scientists have made tremendous progress unlocking the potential of stem cells to treat a long list of diseases, and the state’s continued commitment to stem cell science will ensure it remains a world-class leader in biomedical research.

We urge New York State to support its $600 million commitment to NYSTEM and ensure annual budget appropriations are awarded in a timely manner.

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research
The New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) has provided more than $70 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 have led to the development of multiple patents.

We urge full funding of the Spinal Cord Injury Research Program at $8.5 million.

Support Biomedical Research as an Economic Driver
Ongoing reductions in federal investment in research and higher education have diminished opportunities for discovery and innovation, and threaten the future of America’s next generation of scientists and researchers. Responding to these cuts, states across the nation are increasing their spending on biomedical research. Massachusetts, Texas, California, Connecticut, and other states have instituted multi-million dollar programs to fund biomedical translational research. Researchers who cannot secure competitive funding in New York State will undoubtedly look to these states as funding from the federal government is reduced.

It is critical that New York State enhance its research faculty recruitment and retention efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness in biomedicine. By facilitating the recruitment and retention of established investigators with significant existing research grants, the return on investment in research jobs and matching funds brought into the state will be almost immediate.

We encourage the state to support biomedical research to maintain New York’s competitiveness in the field, and support a program like the Faculty Development Program, which has not been funded since 2014.
Support Anatomical Donations

Whole body donations are critical to the education of medical students. Under current law, medical schools are authorized to receive anatomical donations and have a formal license and regulatory structure that governs anatomical gift programs from the time of the initial donation to the time of burial. However, a missing piece in this regulatory structure is the ability to fill out the death certificate stating that the medical school has received this donation.

We urge New York State to enact legislation (A.2626-A/S.4838) which permits anatomical gift programs operated by the medical schools to file certain forms necessary for complete and efficient operation of their programs in New York State.
Support Graduate Medical Education for the Rochester Region

Rochester’s health care system has long distinguished itself as being able to develop innovative, cooperative approaches to health care financing and delivery. This approach has resulted in costs that are 20% below the national average with excellent quality and access. In fact, a report issued by the Institute of Medicine places Rochester’s annual cost-per-Medicare beneficiary as the lowest in the country.

Rochester benefits from a physician teaching program that provides a reliable pipeline of medical personnel for the region. Currently, the Rochester-based provider networks train more than 900 residents and, on average, 42% of graduating residents and fellows who train here remain in the region for their first professional position, helping our region avoid the severe physician shortages experienced elsewhere.

A community solution to maintaining Rochester’s health care excellence
Educating and training physicians is not possible without both public and private support. In recognition of the public benefit of these interdependent missions and the differences in operating costs, the Medicare and Medicaid programs include special payment adjustments for graduate medical education (GME). In addition, health plans help support GME through rates they negotiate with teaching hospitals.

However, as a result of health care reform, this funding model may not be sustainable into the future. To ensure that our delivery system maintains its excellence and is able to meet the demand for physicians, the health systems, health plans, and business leaders in this region support an innovative financing approach for these essential community benefits. By spreading the cost of GME not currently funded by Medicare and Medicaid across the community and investing in community health infrastructure, we can ensure that the Rochester area maintains a necessary supply of skilled physicians.

Covered Lives Assessment
The region proposes using the Covered Lives Assessment (CLA), the current mechanism for collecting public funding created by the New York State Health Care Reform Act (HCRA), which provides a regionally specific per-insured-person assessment, to fund selected health care activities. The CLA would be collected from health plans based on the number of “covered lives” in the Rochester region. Reflecting the community’s history of developing innovative solutions to local problems, the increase in the HCRA CLA would be designated only for the Rochester region.

The CLA adjustment would replace approximately $100 million in GME support currently generated from the rates area hospitals have negotiated with private payers. As a result, each system would reduce its hospital inpatient and outpatient rates, so the change would not trigger an increase in premiums and each hospital would receive the same payment as it does now. An additional $10 million is also proposed to equally support medical training infrastructure and community health initiatives.

Currently, these educational and community health services are funded by voluntary contributions, with certain local health plans, hospitals and employers bearing a disproportionate share of the expense. With these proposed changes, Rochester would continue to have among the lowest private health insurance costs in the country, but secure the reliability of its physician workforce from which this community has benefited for nearly a century.

We urge support for A.4878 & S.3366 to fund critical medical education and health care infrastructure needs that will sustain the region’s high quality of care and access.
Support for the Arts

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. The Gallery’s permanent collection of more than 12,000 objects has been called the best balanced in the state outside of metropolitan New York City. In addition to its collection, the Gallery offers a year-round schedule of temporary exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, family activities, and educational programs. The Gallery’s Centennial Sculpture Park was also the centerpiece of the $19 million ARTWalk extension, a redevelopment of the city’s Neighborhood of the Arts.

Education and engagement of students is an important part of the MAG’s mission. In the 2014–15 academic year, the MAG provided tours to 13,336 K–12 students from urban, suburban, and rural districts. Of these visits, 2,400 were by elementary students from Rochester City School #23 who visit MAG for 10 consecutive weeks to spend time in the galleries with a museum educator and then create artwork of their own in the MAG’s Creative Workshop.

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support the New York State Council on the Arts, which provides important grants to the museum in support of exhibits and programming.
- Further, we urge support for the Museum Education Act (S.5001/A.8199) and urge that the legislation be addressed during the budget process. The Museum Education Act would create a competitive grant program for NYS museums chartered by the Board of Regents to help fund curriculum-based Pre-K–12 and adult education opportunities.

As a cultural partner with the Rochester City School District, the MAG offers in-gallery and hands-on learning experiences to students at Schools 23, 39, and 46. Through this program, students in grades 1–6 visit the Gallery every Friday for 10 consecutive weeks, where classroom teachers and museum educators employ a multi-tiered approach to connecting art with the school curriculum.

The MAG was awarded $45,000 in support through the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) as part of the 2015 REDC process to support the Inspiring Beauty exhibition.