



The University of Rochester is one of America's leading private research universities and consistently ranks among the top in federally financed science, engineering, biomedical, and other research. University of Rochester Medicine (UR Medicine) is the largest, most specialized academic health care system in Upstate New York. Through our six hospitals, three nursing homes, assisted living and independent senior living facilities, our cancer center, and children's hospital, we provide the highest quality care and services to more than 15 counties with a population of more than 2.6 million.

## Top FY 2023-24 Priorities

### Repeal the Shift to 340B

- We are very disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget moves forward with the shift. We urge the Legislature to repeal the shift from MMC to FFS as it relates to the 340B pharmacy benefit.

### Increase the Medicaid Reimbursement Rate

- We thank the Governor for proposing a 5% reimbursement rate for providers including hospitals and long term care facilities. However, this is not enough to stem the losses we have faced and the projected losses we will have. We urge the Legislature to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate by 20% in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to provide Medicaid reimbursement for certain community health workers and SBHCs and for proposing to authorize licensed mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed social workers to be reimbursed in certain outpatient settings. We urge the Legislature to support these measures in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Support Long Term Care Facilities

- We thank the Governor for including a 5% Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for long term care facilities but that is not enough to provide adequate support. We urge the Legislature to increase reimbursement rates by 20% in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for including language that would authorize certain assisted living facilities that obtain national accreditation to be exempt from routine inspection. We urge the Legislature to support this in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for including language to expand the scope of practice for other licensed professionals, such as certified medication aides and technicians. We urge the Legislature to support this in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities

- We thank the Governor for proposing that NYS enter the Medical and Nursing Compact and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for including language that would require traveling nurse agencies to register and report data to NYS. We urge the Legislature to support any measure that will hold these agencies accountable and prevent them from profiting from a pandemic.
- We thank the Governor for proposing another round of the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program and for funding the the pool at \$1 billion. We urge the State to support \$50 million for Strong Memorial Hospital's \$640 million ED & Patient Tower through the Round 4 Healthcare Facility Transformation Program.

- We thank the Governor for, and urge the Legislature to support, flexibilities related to scope of practice including authorizing issuance of temporary permits to practice for individuals licensed in another state who seek licensure in NYS, allowing certain experienced physician assistants to practice without supervision of a physician, and extending authorization for advanced home health aides for another six years.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to shift oversight of licensed health care professions from the State Education Department to Department of Health.
- We thank the Governor, and urge the Legislature to support, \$134 million for the expansion of mental health, \$18 million to open 150 state-run inpatient psych beds, and \$60 million to fund 12 new comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs. As well as for proposing to expand insurance coverage for mental health services to include mobile crisis intervention services, medically monitored residential treatment, and certain critical time intervention services.
- We urge the Legislature to restore \$24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.
- We thank the Governor for, and urge the Legislature to support, funding for the Doctors Across NY Program (\$15.8 million) and the Nurses Across NY Program (\$3 million).

### Invest in the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE)

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the LLE at \$1 million and we urge the Legislature to support this.

### Support Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Centers at \$1.178 million and we urge the Legislature to restore funding to previous levels of \$1.5 million in the FY 24-24 budget.

### Support the "Children's Prevention and Awareness Initiatives" and "Source of Strength" Program

- We are disappointed that the Governor did not include funding for this Program. We urge Legislature to support the Sources of Strength Program by providing \$5 million over 5 years in the FY 23-24 budget.

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

- We are disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the COEs and CATs. We urge the Legislature to not only restore funding but to increase support to \$1.25 million for each of the COEs and CATs.

### Support the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)

- We are disappointed that the Governor is proposing to decrease HEOP from \$48.32 million to \$46.89 million and decrease STEP from \$21.51 million to \$20.87 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore the Programs but provide an additional 10% increase to both Programs.

## **Ensure Access to High Quality Patient Care**

### **Oppose New York Health Act**

- We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act (A.6058/S.5474).(\* 2022 bill number)

### **Help with the Discharge of Complex Cases**

- We thank the Governor for proposing to allow direct support staff in certain OPWDD community based programs to perform certain nursing tasks. We urge the Legislature to support this proposal in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge OPWDD to provide more options for patients to be transferred to state-owned locations during emergency situations when patients cannot be placed.
- We urge the State to reimburse enhanced staffing support for a longer period of time while also providing more outpatient locations for our most in-need patients so that they can have a safe and appropriate location to receive care.

### **Support Telemedicine Payment Parity**

- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to support S.2776 which would make permanent telehealth payment parity in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support for New York's Academic Dental Centers**

- We urge the Legislature to restore the elimination proposed by the Governor to the Dental Grant Program and level fund the Program at \$725,000.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.2677). (\*2022 bill number)
- We urge NYS to improve access to care to those with Intellectual and Development Disabilities by supporting the designation of these individuals as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in order to make available additional resources to provide direct care and improve workforce training.
- We urge the Legislature to support legislation that would expand the Doctors Across New York program to include dentists (A.7345/S.4520). (\*2022 bill number)

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

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund CEAD at \$50 million and urge the Legislature to support this request in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Prohibit "White Bagging" and "Brown Bagging" of Prescription Drugs**

- We urge the Legislature to pass S.7252 which would prevent these type of actions. (\*2022 bill number)

## **Support Public Health and Human Services Programs**

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

- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to level fund the COPS program at \$12.125 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support NYS's Only National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect**

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support NYS's only National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect by providing a new line-item of \$2 million in the FY 23-24 NYS Budget for Mt. Hope Family Center.

### **Support for Cancer Services Program (CSP)**

- The Governor has proposed funding CSP at \$19 million. We urge the Legislature to restore funding to 2017 levels at \$25.6 million and establish a \$1 million operating budget line to support the operations of the CSP in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)**

- The Governor has proposed decreasing support for NFP to \$3 million. We urge the Legislature to reject her proposal and level fund NFP at \$4.2 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support for School Based Health Centers (SBHCs)**

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal to decrease funding for the SBHC's and urge them to level fund the Centers at \$19.012 million, which includes \$38,000 for the SBHC at East High School.
- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to permanently carve-out the SBHC's from the Medicaid managed care (MMC) benefit to fee-for-service (FFS). (S.2339)

### **Support Children's Environmental Health Centers (CEHC)**

- We thank the Governor for level funding the CEHC at \$4 million and urge the Legislature to support this proposal in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support for Occupational Health Clinic Network**

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Network at \$9.56 million. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$20 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support Legislation that would add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to the Definition of Developmental Disability**

- We urge the Legislature and the Governor to include A.2297/S.1866 in the FY 23-24 budget which would add FASD to the definition of developmental disability.

### **Support the Primary Mental Health Project**

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Primary Mental Health Project at \$895,000. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$2 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

### **Support Parity in Reimbursement for Lactation Services**

- We urge the Legislature to pass A.722 which would create licensure for lactation consultants.

### **Support the Licensure of Genetic Counselors**

- We urge the Legislature to pass A.49 to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.

## Support Higher Education for All

### Support the Tuition Assistant Program (TAP)

- We thank the Legislature and Governor for overturning a 28-year ban on TAP eligibility for incarcerated students last year and thank them for including support for Part-Time TAP last year.
- The Governor's proposed FY 23-24 budget did not include any changes to TAP. We urge the Legislature to increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling to \$110,000 (from \$80,000) as referenced in legislation A.1889.

### Support "Bundy" Aid

- The Governor is proposing to level fund Bundy Aid at \$35.1 million. We urge the Legislature to increase support by 10% to \$38.63 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

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

- The Governor did not include another round of funding for HECap in her proposal. We urge the Legislature to fund HECap at \$30 million in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge the Legislature to provide \$30 million in the FY 23-24 budget for a new Green HECap program to help move higher education to carbon neutrality.

### Support Nursing Education

- The Governor is proposing to decrease support for the Pat McGee Scholarship. We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal of \$3.93 million and level fund the program at \$5.93 million in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to level fund the High Needs Nursing Program at \$941,000 in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to provide \$3 million for the Nurse Across NY Loan Forgiveness Program in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Create the Charles L. Reason Fellowship

- Pass A.2703/S.1046 and provide \$3 million in the FY 23-24 budget for the Fellowship.

### Support for Diversity in Medicine

- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to provide \$3.644 million in the FY 23-24 budget for the Program.
- We urge the Legislature to also provide \$775,000 for the Diversity Scholarship.

### Support Legislation to Modernize Higher Education Programs

- Pass S.447A which would allow for a certain amount of required clinical training and competency to be completed through simulation experience.
- Pass S.3412 which relates to the registration of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university.

## Support expansion to the Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

- We urge the Governor, Legislature, and NY SED to change in regulation the requirement for NYS DNP to differentiate between Post-Baccalaureate DNP programs for APRNs as licensure qualifying degrees and Post-Baccalaureate and Post-Masters DNP programs for advanced nursing practice programs and MS prepared Registered Nurses as nonlicensure qualifying degrees.

## Support Economic Development and Innovation

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

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund NY MEP at \$1.47 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Innovation Hot Spots at \$5 million and urge the Legislature to not only support this but also increase funding for the 10 Hot Spot Regional Programs from \$250,000 to \$300,000 in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Support Luminate NY

- We thank the Governor and Legislature for the \$75 million Innovation Venture Competition Program in the FY 2022-23 budget to ensure that Luminate receives \$5 million annually in order to continue through 2026.
- We ask the Legislature to support the Governor's proposed Technology Innovation Matching Program, which will provide matching grants for New York companies applying for the SBIR and STTR federal programs

## Support Life Sciences and Biomedical Research

### Support New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NY FIRST)

- We urge the State to invest an additional \$20 million in the NYFIRST program.

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

- We thank the Governor for level funding ECRIP at \$3.445 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

### Support Spinal Cord Injury Research (SCIRP)

- The Governor's proposed budget level funds SCIRP at \$8.5 million. We urge the Legislature to remove the ceiling cap of \$8.5 million for SCIRP and instead support a \$18.5 million minimum funding allocation for FY 23-24 with future increases tied to yearly medical inflation rates.

## Support the Arts

### Support the State of New York Council of the Arts

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support the New York State Council on the Arts.
- We urge NYS to provide COVID relief funding to arts organizations like that MAG facing significant losses but do not qualify for existing programs.



## Protecting the 340B Drug Discount Program NYS 2023-2024



### About the 340B Program

The 340B Program was created by Congress to help safety-net providers serving low-income Medicare, Medicaid, and uninsured patients. It is not funded with taxpayer dollars, and instead requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid or Medicare Part B to sell outpatient drugs at a discount to eligible safety-net providers, including UR Medicine's Strong Memorial and Highland Hospitals in Rochester, Noyes Memorial Hospital in Dansville, and Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville. In turn, hospitals use the savings from the discounts to stretch scarce resources to establish and support programs that improve access to quality care for low-income and uninsured patients.

### 340B at UR Medicine

UR Medicine provides care to all patients who seek it, regardless of ability to pay. Savings from 340B supports investment in programs across the region that serve a high proportion of Medicaid and other underserved patients, despite significant negative margins. The 340B program helped the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) to provide more than \$432 million in community benefit in FY21.

### 340B allows us to:

- Fund a robust charity care program that provides millions annually in no cost and discounted medications to patients in need.
- Provide oncology care at 13 locations serving 27 counties, allowing patients in rural communities to receive care closer to home.
- Discharge patients with their prescriptions, helping to improve medication compliance and reduce readmissions.
- Deliver comprehensive mental health and wellness care for adults, adolescents and pediatrics.
- Provide transitional supportive housing for discharged high risk patients who are homeless or have unstable housing.
- Expand substance abuse treatment programs and Naloxone training.
- Mitigate losses from rapidly rising drug prices and chronic underpayment by public payers like Medicare and Medicaid.

### IMPACT: New York State Policy

NY's plan to shift the Medicaid 340B benefit from Managed Care (MMC) to Fee-for-Service (FFS) will effectively eliminate the drug discount for eligible safety-net providers.

**For Strong Memorial Hospital alone, this shift away from MMC will result in a cut of more than \$62 million annually. The overall impact to our system will be over \$65 million. This comes on top of more than \$35 million in federal cuts and additional significant cuts imposed illegally by the drug manufacturers we are also absorbing.**

**We were disappointed that the Governor's proposed FY 23-24 budget did not include a repeal. We strongly urge the Legislature to repeal the shift of the 340B benefit from Medicaid MMC to FFS before it takes effect on April 1, 2023.**

# 2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT

The University of Rochester Medical Center provided \$432.5 million in community benefit last year, thanks, in part, to the 340B Program.

UR Medicine is the safety-net provider and most specialized academic health care system in upstate New York. Our six hospital system provides care across more than 15 counties with a population of more than 2.6 million. Strong Memorial Hospital is home to the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center, children's hospital, and many other specialized services.

40% of patients served by Strong Memorial have Medicaid, are uninsured, or underinsured. 33% of Rochester residents live in poverty - the 3rd highest in the nation. The need in our communities continues to grow. As a result, we provided \$210.3 million in charity and uncompensated care last year.

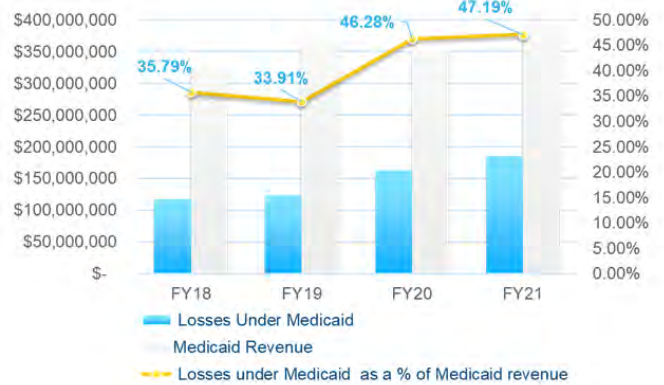
The UR School of Medicine and Dentistry is the leading source of new physicians for the region, training 750 residents and fellows per year - roughly 240 over our Medicare funded cap. Our hospitals also provide clinical training to nursing and other health professions students from colleges and universities across upstate New York to combat severe staffing shortages.

Thanks in part to 340B, we have been able to increase the community benefit we provide year after year, in 2021 totaling more than \$432.5 million at URM alone - more than 10% of URM's overall operating expenses.

The 340B program is essential to helping our hospitals stretch valuable resources to serve our patients and vulnerable communities.



## URMC Losses Under Medicaid



Data includes Strong Memorial Hospital, Eastman Institute for Oral Health, Health Sciences Division, School of Nursing, and UR Medical Faculty Group.

340B savings help our hospitals to offset the cost of providing many critical services and programs that benefit our patients and community but operate at a loss, such as:



**\$35M**

in approximate unreimbursed care for cancer patients



**\$65M**

in unreimbursed care for psychiatry and behavioral health, including substance abuse treatment



**\$2.9M**

provided in free medications to patients who could not otherwise afford them



**\$56.9M**

in community programs, including EIOH Smile Mobile, SBHCs, and CPEP Mobile Crisis Unit



**\$2.6M**

in losses for Highlands at Brighton, where 80% of patients have Medicaid



**2023-24 Budget Request: \$1,000,000**  
**2023-24 Executive Budget: \$1,000,000**  
**2022-23 Enacted Budget: \$1,000,000**  
**Agency: New York State Energy Research  
 Development Authority (NYSERDA)**

Thanks to strong and consistent investment from New York State since 1983, the 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, foundational component to strategic work on an independent energy future, and one of the key economic drivers for upstate New York.

The LLE is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) largest university-based research program in the nation and one of the only New York-based programs annually line-itemed 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 physics research.

#### **A Global Leader**

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 largest and most capable lasers (OMEGA and OMEGA EP) at any academic institution in the world and is the only fusion research program jointly supported by the Federal Government, the State of New York, industry, utilities, and a research university.

The LLE is one of the nation's three primary DOE science-based Stockpile Stewardship Program facilities, along with the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Z Pulsed Power Facility at Sandia National Laboratories. LLE is the leading laboratory for direct-drive inertial confinement fusion and a strong partner with the national labs and others on the work to demonstrate ignition and achieve routine laboratory access to burning plasmas. Together these facilities made steady progress on the grand scientific and engineering challenge of fusion culminating in NIF successfully achieving ignition in December 2022, an achievement that will open new areas of scientific exploration, help to maintain U.S. technical leadership, avoid "technical surprise" from other nuclear weapons states such as Russia or China, and help advance fusion as an energy source.

#### **State and Federal Funding**

The support the University receives annually through NYSERDA provides a more than 90:1 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 2022-23 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided \$86.1 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding for the LLE, a \$3 million increase.

Support from NYSERDA has also been critical to leveraging support from other federal agencies, including DOE's Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense. Funding from NYSERDA will affirm New York's commitment to growing LLE and assist in our request for roughly \$99 million in FY24 federal funding and our pursuit of a new \$520 million, five year Cooperative Agreement with DOE.

## Economic Impact

LLE employs more than ~460 full-time employees and its economic activity supports an additional 500 indirect and spillover jobs for a total impact of about 960 jobs, \$56 million in income and \$3.7 million in revenue to state and local governments. Over the last decade, LLE has made more than \$54 million in purchases from over 50 companies across NYS. LLE provides a strong stimulus to the local economy by helping attract and develop new companies and investors. For example, Sydor Technologies is one of several companies created through transfer of technology developed at LLE and is now one of the fastest growing companies in the area. The University also broke ground on a new \$42 million, 60,000 sq. ft. office and lab building expansion. The new three-floor building will house space for approximately 110 scientists and LLE personnel and include a class 1000 target fabrication and thin film coating lab, a laser computing facility, and several other wet lab and general lab spaces.

## Scientific Leadership and Innovation

As a preeminent research facility, the 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. While many 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. LLE has a history of transformational leadership in high-powered laser science and technology. Chirped-Pulse Amplification (CPA), first discovered at LLE and recognized with the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics, has become the basis of all modern high-power lasers. CPA is now used in numerous applications, from advanced materials processing, including manufacturing glass for smart-phone screens, to cancer treatments and LASIK eye surgery.

LLE has a leading role in helping the U.S. regain its previous competitive dominance in intense, ultrafast lasers – a field our nation largely invented and developed. LLE is actively developing new laser technologies to enhance fusion performance and overcome laser performance limitations on studying the interaction of light and matter under extreme conditions that would revolutionize fundamental physics research by enabling new applications. LLE has completed several lasers for National Labs and is currently contracted to build a new high-energy laser for the MEC-Upgrade at SLAC. LLE's proposed next-generation laser concept, EP-OPAL, would build on LLE's existing infrastructure to develop the most powerful lasers in the world, restoring U.S. leadership.

## Education and Growing the STEM Pipeline

Education is an important component of the LLE's mission. As the NNSA's largest university program, the LLE is the only facility that trains graduate students, not just from Rochester but other leading institutions, in the Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) field 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 200 students are conducting their research and education at the LLE, one-third of whom go on to work in the national laboratories in support of national security and a third are employed in the Rochester region after graduation at companies like L3Harris.

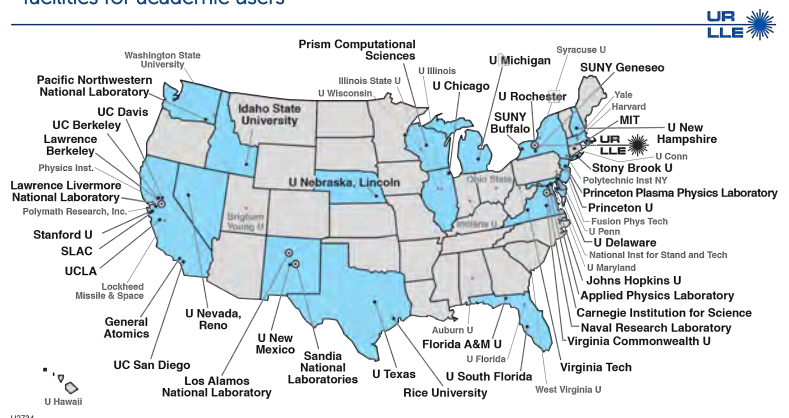
The DOE has also designated the LLE as the National Laser User's Facility which allows the LLE to host more than 450 scientists from 55 universities, over 35 centers and national laboratories in 21 different countries on 4 continents to carry out fundamental research, training and education. The LLE 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 million for research and equipment as well as support for 26 undergraduate students and 6 faculty.

LLE sponsors an annual High School Summer Student Program, which has hosted almost 400 students, producing 39 semi-finalists, and 4 finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's most prestigious science competition. LLE has also developed a "Broad Exposure to Science and Technology (BEST) Research Program" with the Rochester City School District focused on increasing underrepresented minorities in STEM.

## The Need for State Support

NYSERDA funding supports Nobel Prize winning science, jobs and the region's optics, photonics, and imaging industry, diversifies the state's energy portfolio, increases prospects for additional federal funding, and strengthens the LLE's and New York's global leadership in fusion and high-energy-density physics research.

The National Laser Users' Facility (NLUF) program provides access to LLE's facilities for academic users





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#### Repeal the Shift of the 340B Drug Discount Program

The enacted 20-21 NYS budget included language that will transition the pharmacy benefit for the 340B program from Medicaid managed care (MMC) to fee-for-service (FFS) on April 1, 2021. This shift will result in a cut of roughly **\$65 million** to UR Medicine resulting in a UR Medicine no longer being able to provide:

- \$35 million in approximate unreimbursed care for cancer patients;
- \$65 million in unreimbursed care for psychiatry and behavioral health including substance abuse treatment;
- \$2.9 million in free medications to patients who could not otherwise afford them; and
- \$56.9 million in community programs, including EIOH Smile Mobile, SBHCs, and CPEP Mobile Crisis Unit.

Savings from 340B supports investment in programs across the region that serve a high proportion of Medicaid and other underserved patients, despite significant negative margins. We are thankful that the enacted FY 21-22 NYS budget included a delay to the shift for two years, however we need a full repeal as this delay is set to expire.

- We are very disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget moves forward with the shift. We urge the Legislature to repeal the shift from MMC to FFS as it relates to the 340B pharmacy benefit.

#### Increase the Medicaid Reimbursement Rate

Over the years, NYS has cut critical programs that have led to some of the issues we see today. The fiscal year 2019-20 budget brought a \$5 million cut to UR Medicine with the elimination of Graduate Medical Education funding and a \$500 million across-the-board cut to all hospitals. The 20-21 budget saw an extension and increase to the across-the-board cuts to all hospitals. In FY 21-22, NYS was the **ONLY** state to cut Medicaid during a health crisis and pandemic. As we continue to fight a global pandemic, struggle with workforce shortages, and grapple with rising costs, we need NYS to act.

- We thank the Governor for proposing a 5% reimbursement rate for providers including hospitals and long term care facilities. However, this is not enough to stem the losses we have faced and will continue to face. We urge the Legislature to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate by 20% in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to provide Medicaid reimbursement for certain community health workers and for proposing to authorize licensed mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed social workers to be reimbursed in certain outpatient settings. We urge the Legislature to support these measures in the FY 23-24 budget.

#### Support Long Term Care Facilities

Over the last several years, long term care (LTC) facilities in NYS have continued to be decimated. The pandemic and the new rules of operation added over the last two years have exacerbated the financial stress that was already burdening LTC institutions. The workforce shortages, the lack of reimbursement from NYS, the additional LTC staffing mandates implemented by NYS, has all lead to an overall lack of available beds in our community. This has resulted in the Finger Lakes region having 1,000 fewer LTC beds available in the community compared to 2019. This, in turn, has created a crisis for the hospitals in the Finger Lakes region.



- We thank the Governor for including a 5% Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for long term care facilities but that is not enough to provide adequate support. We urge the Legislature to increase reimbursement rates by 20% in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for including language that would authorize certain assisted living facilities that obtain national accreditation to be exempt from routine inspection. We urge the Legislature to support this in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for including language to expand the scope of practice for other licensed professionals, such as certified medication aides and technicians. We urge the Legislature to support this in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities

The COVID-19 pandemic has put unprecedented strain on healthcare facilities across the state. It has exacerbated chronic preexisting workforce shortages, health care disparities, and gaps in our mental and behavioral health safety net. In Rochester, it also laid bare a community suffering from an acute bed shortage unlike any other part of the state. Rochester had bed capacity issues prior to COVID with occupancy rates at Strong Memorial Hospital routinely exceeding 100%. As our hospitals continue to contend with the COVID-19 pandemic, we also face skyrocketing economy-wide inflation on labor, supply, and drug costs. At UR Medicine, the costs we incur for temporary labor and retention programs are driving up labor costs tenfold. For instance, we have gone from spending \$17 million per year for temporary costs to now \$15 million per month. Even with this level of spending, we have 30-50 beds that are closed at any given time due to a lack of adequate staffing and have to turn away 100 or more patients per month from other regional facilities.

- We thank the Governor for proposing that NYS enter the Medical and Nursing Compact and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal in the FY 23-24 budget.
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- We thank the Governor for proposing \$134 million for the expansion of mental health, \$18 million to open 150 state-run inpatient psych beds, and \$60 million to fund 12 new comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs. Additionally, we thank her for proposing to expand insurance coverage for mental health services to include mobile crisis intervention services, medically monitored residential treatment, and certain critical time intervention services. We urge the Legislature to support all of these provisions.
- We urge the Legislature to restore the \$24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.
- We thank the Governor for proposing funding for the Doctors Across NY Program (\$15.8 million) and the Nurses Across NY Program (\$3 million). We urge the Legislature to support these programs in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Oppose New York Health Act

New York's health care providers continue to reshape our health care delivery system in order to improve quality, access, and outcomes. While we fully support ensuring all of New York's citizens have health coverage, we are particularly concerned with the proposed New York Health Act due to the potential for academic medical centers to be underfunded for services currently covered in partnership with commercial payers. Because of their missions in training and research, academic medical centers have unique costs that need to be accommodated into rate setting. It's not clear under the current proposal how these costs, or costs associated with new technology and innovation, will be supported, especially given NYS recent Medicaid, Graduate Medical Education (GME), and 340B cuts.

- We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act (A.6058/S.5474). (\*2021-22 session bill number)

### Help with the Discharge of Complex Cases

Hospitals across New York State are facing a growing problem of long delays in discharging patients who have complex behavioral needs and are not easily placed into non-hospital settings. As a result of challenges in discharging these patients, hospitals often end up serving as the safety-net destination for these patients, often at significant cost. HANYS published a white paper discussing the discharge of complex patients that estimated that the average cost of care for the most complex patients at one of NY's hospital systems to be \$5,000 per day and the complex care delays often exceed 100 days.



- We thank the Governor for proposing to allow direct support staff in certain OPWDD community-based programs to perform certain nursing tasks. We urge the Legislature to support this proposal in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge OPWDD to provide more options for patients to be transferred to state-owned locations during emergency situations when patients cannot be placed.
- We urge the State to reimburse enhanced staffing support for a longer period of time while also providing more outpatient locations for our most in-need patients so that they can have a safe and appropriate location to receive care.

#### **Support Telehealth Payment Parity**

We are grateful that New York State has recognized the importance of telehealth through recently expanded commercial and Medicaid coverage for these services. We are also thankful that the need for payment parity was recognized and that the FY 22-23 enacted budget established reimbursement parity by requiring health plans, including those in Medicaid, to reimburse providers for telehealth services on the same basis, and at the same rate, as services delivered in person. However, this provision for parity has an expiration date of April 1, 2024.

- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to support S.2776 which would make permanent telehealth payment parity in the FY 2023-2024 budget.

#### **Support for New York's Academic Dental Centers**

The six 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 in need residents.

- We urge the Legislature to restore the elimination proposed by the Governor to the Dental Grant Program and level fund the Program at \$725,000.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.2677). (\*2021-22 session bill number)

- We urge NYS to improve access to care to those with Intellectual and Development Disabilities by supporting the designation of these individuals as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in order to make available additional resources to provide direct care and improve workforce training.
- We urge the Legislature to support legislation that would expand the Doctors Across New York program to include dentists (A.7345/S.4520). (\*2021-22 session bill number)

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

The University is home to one of ten medical centers and teaching hospitals, recognized nationally and by New York State as experts in the diagnosis and care of individuals living with Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias (AD/D). The Finger Lakes Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease (FL CEAD) is at the forefront of research and clinical trials seeking effective treatments and a cure. Every year NYS allocates dollars to support the statewide Centers, with \$470,000 going to University's Center yearly.

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund CEAD at \$50 million and urge the Legislature to support this request in the FY 23-24 budget.

#### **Prohibit "White Bagging" and "Brown Bagging" of Prescription Drugs**

Increasingly, health insurance plans have begun implementing policies that prohibit a healthcare provider from procuring and managing the handling of a drug used in patient care. Instead the insurer requires the use of an insurer-designated, third-party specialty pharmacy to dispense a specialty drug for administration by a clinician. These policies are commonly referred to as "white bagging" and "brown bagging." These type of policies result in delays in treatment and adverse risks to the patient.

- We urge the Legislature to pass S.7252 which would prevent these type of actions. (\*2021-22 session bill number)



## Support Public Health and Human Services Programs NYS 2023-2024

State support for public health and social service programs is critical to ensuring the development and expansion of University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) community partnerships that improve the health of our citizens and provide care to the underserved.

### Support NYS's Only National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect

For nearly 40 years, the University of Rochester's Mt. Hope Family Center has been a nationally recognized leader in creating, implementing, and testing interventions to improve our state's most vulnerable citizens' lives. Since 2009, they have been a member of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Child Traumatic Stress Network, which was created by Congress in 2000 as part of the Children's Health Act to create a national network of front-line providers that would raise the standard of care and increase access to services for children and families who experience or witness traumatic events. Thanks to support from the National Institutes of Health, UR is home to New York's only National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect that is dedicated to prevent child maltreatment and address its consequences. With additional funds from a new line-item, Mt. Hope Family Center would be able to provide training in evidence-based treatments for trauma and maternal depression to other child-serving providers to increase capacity to serve the 0-5 age range and they would be able to expand their provision of Interpersonal Psychotherapy for Adolescents (IPT-A) as well as provide training in this evidence-based treatment model.

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support NYS's only National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect by providing a new line-item of \$2 million in the FY 23-24 NYS Budget 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 has long benefited from COPS support to address the causes 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. The enacted FY 22-23 NYS budget provided level funding for COPS at \$12.125 million.

- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to level fund the COPS program at \$12.125 million in FY 23-24.

### Support Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders

The URMC is host to the Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders, 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. We thank the Legislature for restoring funding for the Centers in the FY 2022-23 budget to \$1.178 million.

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Centers at \$1.178 million and we urge the Legislature to restore funding to previous levels of \$1.5 million in the FY 24-24 budget.

## Support the Children's Prevention and Awareness Initiatives-Source of Strength and Above the Influence Programs

In 2015, the NYS Senate Mental Health Committee was able to secure multiple funding streams in the NYS Budget for the "Source of Strength" and "Above the Influence" Programs totaling \$2.25 M. The contracts for this funding have been administered by the URMC through the Office of Mental Health (OMH). With these funds, the Department of Psychiatry at URMC has been able to train diverse students as Peer Prevention Leaders through the Source of Strength program to help prevent suicide. URMC has worked with 63 schools in NYS who have implemented these programs since 2016. Furthermore, with these funds URMC has been able to create a comprehensive depression and suicide prevention program for Black churches in order to combat the rise in Black youth suicides.

- We are disappointed that the Governor did not include funding for this Program. We urge Legislature to support the Sources of Strength Program by providing \$5 million over 5 years in the FY 23-24 budget.

## Support for 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 through the Program of the Finger Lakes Region. The FY 22-23 NYS budget provided \$19 million in funding for the Programs, of that allotment we receive \$360,000 annually.

- The Governor has proposed funding CSP at \$19 million. We urge the Legislature to restore funding to 2017 levels at \$25.6 million and establish a \$1 million operating budget line to support the operations of the CSP in the FY 23-24 budget.

**Support 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. The FY 22-23 budget increased funding for NFP from \$4 million to \$4.2 million.

- The Governor has proposed decreasing support for NFP to \$3 million. We urge the Legislature to reject her proposal and level fund NFP at \$4.2 million in the FY 23-24 budget.



**Support for School Based Health Centers (SBHCs)** The URMC sponsors the SBHCs at East High School and the Frederick Douglass Campus, which are two of the more than 262 SBHCs statewide. Services to students include physical exams, health screenings, care for acute and chronic illnesses, mental health counseling, lab services, sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy testing and prevention, health education, and immunizations. Students receive services free of charge without regard to insurance status. We are thankful the FY 22-23 budget included an increase to the SBHC's to \$19.012 million.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal to decrease funding for the SBHC's and urge them to level fund the Centers at \$19.012 million, which includes \$38,000 for the SBHC at East High School.
- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to permanently carve-out the SBHC's from the Medicaid managed care (MMC) benefit to fee-for-service (FFS). (S.2339)

## Support Children's Environmental Health Centers (CEHC)

The statewide, regional network of CEHC 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 in children's environmental health for professionals at all levels. The CEHC are addressing the major diseases confronting children today, including asthma, autism, allergies, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, leukemia, obesity, diabetes, and others. Thanks to state funding, the Finger Lakes Regional CEHC has created an infrastructure for education and outreach concerning environmental exposures in children and mothers. We are thankful that the enacted FY 22-23 budget included an increase to the CEHC from \$2 million to \$4 million.

- We thank the Governor for level funding the CEHC at \$4 million and urge the Legislature to support this proposal in the FY 23-24 budget.

## Support for Occupational Health Clinic Network

The Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services (FLOHS) serves a nine county region in the Finger Lakes and Western New York by focusing on diagnosis, treatment and prevention of work-related illnesses and injuries. FLOHS' multi-disciplinary team of professionals have been working with businesses and workers to prevent injuries and illnesses by providing preventive programs, medical screenings, and educational services regarding worker health and on the job safety, with many services targeted to underserved populations. We are thankful that the Network was level funded in the FY 22-23 budget at \$9.56 million. Of that allotment, FLOHS receives \$845,000 per year.

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Network at \$9.56 million. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$20 million in the FY 23-24 budget.



### Support Legislation that would add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to the Definition of Developmental Disability

FASD is a pressing public health problem with the National Institutes of Health estimating that 1 to 5 percent of Americans may have FASD, making the condition more prevalent than previously recognized. And yet, it is often missed. In New York State, there are only two FASD Clinics: one in New York City, consisting of a single provider; and the other, the URM's FASD Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic. Currently, FASD is not considered a developmental disability under OPWDD. This lack of definitional inclusion has prevented patients with FASD from receiving services from 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).

- We urge the Legislature and the Governor to include A.2297/S.1866 in the FY 23-24 budget which would add FASD to the definition of developmental disability.

### Support the Primary Mental Health Project

Created in 1957 at the University of Rochester, the Primary Mental Health Project is an evidence-based program administered by the Children's Institute, an affiliate of the University, in several hundred school districts nationwide. It helps children in pre-K through third grade adjust to school, gain confidence, social skills and focus on learning. It identifies young children who show emerging school adjustment difficulties and provides them with one-on-one time with a specially trained and supervised para-professional to increase their chances for success. With additional funds, the Children's Institute could expand preventative and social emotional learning approaches through the Primary Mental Health Project in education settings so services systematically reach all young students in need. Additionally, with more funds the Children's Institute's "Get Ready to GROW" program could be expanded to provide comprehensive health and developmental screening and support for referral and services for children ages 12 to 60 months throughout NYS. The FY 22-23 budget provided level funding of \$895,000 for Primary Mental Health Project.

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Primary Mental Health Project at \$895,000. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$2 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

### Reimbursement Parity for Lactation Services

International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) are a critical professional group that provide care to all communities. However, serving these communities are limited by limited reimbursement for lactation services, which are currently paid for by the patients themselves out-of-pocket since lactation consultants cannot qualify for traditional insurance reimbursement. Employing only RN-Lactation Consultants is how most healthcare professional provide reimbursable services but employing only RN's can be costly, and many hospitals in the area do not provide these services every day of the year.

- We urge the Legislature to pass A.722 which would create licensure for lactation consultants.

### Support the Licensure of Genetic Counselors

New York has been at the forefront of genetic counseling education since its inception. NYS is home to the nation's oldest and largest genetic counseling program based at Sarah Lawrence College. This program has graduated more than 1,000 genetic counselors since 1969. There are 26 states that currently license genetic counselors, NYS is not one of them. Unfortunately, lack of licensure is a disincentive for individuals trained in NY to remain in the state.

- We urge the Legislature to pass A.49 to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.





# Support for Higher Education

NYS 2023-2024

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 benefited the entire state. In order for our state to remain a global leader in technological and scientific innovation, we must ensure our students – from all socio-economic backgrounds – have the opportunity to pursue high-quality, higher education through access to student aid.

## Support the Tuition Assistant 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 22-23 year, 666 University of Rochester under-graduates are receiving assistance through the TAP program.

- We thank the Legislature and Governor for overturning a 28-year ban on TAP eligibility for incarcerated students last year and thank them for including support for Part-Time TAP last year.
- The Governor's proposed FY 23-24 budget did not include any changes to TAP. We urge the Legislature to increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling to \$110,000 (from \$80,000) as referenced in legislation A.1889.

## 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. HEOP students graduate at rates above the national average. For the 22-23 year, 90 students at the University are participating in HEOP.

- We are disappointed that the Governor is proposing to decrease HEOP from \$48.32 million to \$46.89 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore HEOP but increase support to \$53.152 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

## Support 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 provide scholarship assistance for New York families who have exhausted other forms of financial aid. The approximately \$1 million we receive in Bundy Aid annually is vitally important to the \$300 million in overall institutional tuition assistance we are able to provide our students. For the 22-23 year, 916 students at the University receive Bundy Aid. Bundy Aid has been dramatically underfunded for decades and is currently funded at \$35.13 million— just 18% of the statutory level.

- The Governor is proposing to level fund Bundy Aid at \$35.1 million. We urge the Legislature to increase support by 10% to \$38.63 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

## 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. The 22-23 enacted budget included an additional round of funding for HECap at \$45 million.

- The Governor did not include another round of funding for HECap in her proposal. We urge the Legislature to fund HECap at \$30 million in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge the Legislature to provide \$30 million in the FY 23-24 budget for a new Green HECap program to help move higher education to carbon neutrality.

## 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. The roughly \$14,000 we receive from the High Needs Nursing Program offers partial funding for our Center for Academic and Professional Success (CAPS) where students can access tutoring for math and writing skills as well as stress management and test taking strategies.

Additionally the FY 22-23 NYS budget included funding for a new Nurses Across NY Loan Forgiveness Program. This program is meant to support nurses working in underserved areas of the state. In order to be eligible, nurses must work in underserved areas for three consecutive years.

- The Governor is proposing to decrease support for the Pat McGee Scholarship. We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal of \$3.93 million and level fund the program at \$5.93 million in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to level fund the High Needs Nursing Program at \$941,000 in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to provide \$3 million for the Nurse Across NY Loan Forgiveness Program in the FY 23-24 budget.

## 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 2022-23 year, the University has over 50 students participating in our education pipeline, which includes one 6-week summer program, two 4-week programs, and a 12-week academic program.

- We are disappointed that the Governor is proposing to decrease support for the STEP program from \$21.51 million to \$20.87 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore the program but provide an additional 10% increase to \$23.661 million in the FY 23-24 budget.

## Create the Charles L. Reason Fellowship

Faculty diversity is a priority for every Independent Sector campus and the issue must be addressed from the ground up. By passing and funding A.2703/S.1046, the Charles L Reason Fellowship would be created to identify students from underrepresented minority groups who want to pursue careers in academia and provide financial and academic support throughout their undergraduate career.

- Pass A.2703/S.1046 and provide \$3 million in the FY 2023-2024 budget for the Fellowship.

## Support for Diversity in Medicine

With state support, the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) have offered an array of programs across the state with the intent of expanding 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. AMSNY's Diversity in Medicine Scholarship program supports under-represented medical students who agree to practice full time in a health care shortage area in NY after graduation.

- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to provide \$3.644 million in the FY 23-24 budget for the Program.
- We urge the Legislature to also provide \$775,000 for the Diversity Scholarship.

## Support Legislation to Modernize Higher Education Programs

The University of Rochester supports legislation that seeks to allow students and institutions to be flexible and adapt to an ever changing environment. With A.7767/S.6717, students will be able to learn and meet professional education requirements, such as clinical hours for a nurse, in a more flexible way, such as through simulation learning. A.8389/S.6592 will allow institutions to meet the demands of students by having SED expedited the program approval process.

- Pass S.447A which would allow for a certain amount of required clinical training and competency to be completed through simulation experience.
- Pass S.3412 which relates to the registration of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university.

## Support expansion to the Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

NYS recognizes the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) as a license qualifying terminal degree only for the four advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) roles. In most other states, the DNP degree implementation includes all MS prepared direct and indirect care roles. NYS master's prepared nurses, who are not APRNs and want a DNP, are forced to enroll in DNP programs in other states resulting in critical losses from the master's prepared workforce from NYS DNP programs.

- We urge the Governor, Legislature, and NY SED to change, in regulation, the requirement for NYS DNP to differentiate between Post-Baccalaureate DNP programs for APRNs as [licensure qualifying degrees](#) and Post-Baccalaureate and Post-Masters DNP programs for advanced nursing practice programs and MS prepared Registered Nurses as [non-licensure qualifying degrees](#).



## Economic Development and Innovation NYS 2023-2024

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.

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, over 50 startup companies were formed to license and commercialize technology developed at the University of Rochester. These startups are developing products for the management of chronic disease, designing instruments that enable noninvasive optical biopsy in real time, and much more. Our innovation ecosystem, which includes state programs such as the Centers of Excellence and Centers for Advanced Technology, STARTUP-NY, and a Regional Technology Development Center, has been cited as a national model and is home to the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. With the state's continued support and partnership, we can do more to harness innovation and discoveries into commercially viable technologies and companies.

### Support the Centers of Excellence (COEs)

New York State's 14 COEs are partnering with industry to transform research and technology capabilities into commercial applications. In 2019-2020, the Rochester COE in Data Science generated more than \$18 million in economic impact,



served 14 companies and created or retained at least 25 jobs. And thanks to previous support from the state, the University of Rochester is already among the most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in North America. After two years with reduced funding, we are grateful that the Legislature was able to do fully restore funding for the COEs in the FY 22-23 budget, which included \$1 million for the Rochester COE in Data Science.

- 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 \$1.25 million for each of the COEs in the FY 23-24 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. In 2019-2020, CEIS generated \$41.8 million in direct economic impact and created or retained at least 33 jobs at 21 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 \$1.25 million each in the FY 23-24 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 69 companies. NextCorps’s 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 support it as well in the FY 23-24 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Innovation Hot Spots at \$5 million and urge the Legislature to not only support this but also increase funding for the 10 Hot Spot Regional Programs from \$250,000 to \$300,000 in the FY 23-24 budget.



### 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 \$15 million in 54 startups. The companies in the portfolio now share a net worth of more than \$400 million. In addition to providing an estimated 1.5 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 150 jobs (100 full-time and 20 contract positions), with an additional 120 projected in the near future from two companies.

- 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 in order to continue through 2026.
- We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposed Technology Innovation Matching Program, which will provide matching grants for New York companies applying for the SBIR and STTR federal programs, and fund the program at \$6 million in the FY 23-24 budget.



## Support Life Sciences and Biomedical Research NYS 2023-2024

Scientific advances in life sciences 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 significant strides in health discoveries, but grow and reshape the entire field of life sciences and inevitably drive our regional economies.

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, including a surfactant to boost lung development in premature infants; the Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine preventing meningitis in children; and the world's first cancer vaccine – the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protecting against cervical cancer.

### Support Life Sciences as an Economic Driver

The FY 2017-18 enacted budget included a \$620 million life sciences initiative. By strengthening incentives, investing in research facilities, and improving access to talent and expertise, New York will significantly increase its share of industry-funded research and development, support the commercialization of existing academic research, and usher in the next generation of advanced technologies.

- We thank New York State for the commitment to funding the life sciences initiative to fuel discovery and innovation that will expand New York's ability to commercialize research and grow the economy. As part of this initiative, the University of Rochester, the University at Buffalo, and Roswell Park Cancer Center collaborated to form the Empire Discovery Institute, a \$47 million drug discovery partnership to translate \$1 billion of life science research at these institutions into a robust pipeline of commercially viable therapeutics.

### 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. In the first 3 rounds, NYFIRST has resulted in \$33.4 million in matching funds from institutions and 183 new jobs have been created. Unfortunately, in the enacted FY 22-23 budget as well as the Governor's proposed FY 23-24 budget, the NYFIRST program did not receive new funding. The initial appropriation is likely to be exhausted this year, necessitating new funding.

- We urge the State to invest an additional \$20 million in the NYFIRST program 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 FY 22-23 enacted budget, ECRIP was level funded at \$3.445 million.

- We thank the Governor for level funding ECRIP at \$3.445 million and urge the Legislature to support the program in the FY 23-24 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 Governor's proposed FY 21-22 budget eliminated SCIRP but the Legislature restored the program in the enacted FY 21-22 budget. The enacted FY 22-23 budget level funded the program at \$8.5 million.

- The Governor's proposed budget level funds SCIRP at \$8.5 million. We urge the Legislature to remove the ceiling cap of \$8.5 million for SCIRP and instead support a \$18.5 million minimum funding allocation for FY 23-24 with future increases tied to yearly medical inflation rates.

## FAST FACTS

- 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) award **more funding to the University of Rochester** than any other institution in New York State outside of the New York City area (\$189 million in FY21).
- 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 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.

The University's Eastman School of Music 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 the enrichment of community life through music.



- 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 to attract increased tourism for an exhibition by internationally recognized artist Yayoi Kusama in late 2023 through spring of 2024.



## Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic distress among arts institutions, including the MAG. In response to COVID-19, the MAG shut its doors for more than three months, leading to financial, as well as creative challenges. Because it is affiliated with the University and operates under its tax exemption status—despite receiving 90% of its funding from outside sources and operating its own separate fiduciary board—MAG has not qualified for any of the economic relief programs that other art museums were eligible for, including the Payroll Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program, or state or local relief programs. As a result, these financial difficulties remain.

In spite of efforts to reduce expenses by instituting unprecedented layoffs, furloughs, salary cuts, and cuts to programming, exhibitions, and community engagement, MAG still faces a more than \$4 million loss through June 2022. While this will take years to recover from, the MAG continues to fill critical gaps in our community.

- We urge New York State to provide COVID relief funding to arts organizations like MAG that face significant losses but do not qualify for existing programs.



## 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.



## Arts in the Loop

In 2017, the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester launched Arts in the Loop. This initiative brings together community leaders to energize Rochester's Center City and Main Street corridor by leveraging the arts, entertainment and media sectors. The vision is to create vibrant and walkable street level arts experiences, support an artist-friendly ecosystem, and host a creative cluster of arts/technology/media/entertainment economic activity. Arts in the Loop, through the University's Ain Center for Entrepreneurship, accessed \$17,000 of grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Agency (EDA) to produce ROC the Business of Art workshops, working closely with the City of Rochester, Monroe County and State of New York. While COVID-19 temporarily halted many of the in-person activities, this series of workshops was still able to be held virtually and continues to be available as a resource for the 125 community artists who registered.



## FAST FACTS

- MAG is grappling with a revenue loss of **more than \$4 million** brought on by the pandemic.
- **64% increase** in student attendance for Pre-K through Grade 12 tours, both online and in-person, from 2021 to 2022.
- In 2021, MAG broke ground on the final phase of the **Centennial Sculpture Park**, with expected completion in 2023.
- **500 low-income residents** receive free transportation, free museum admission and free family memberships through MAGconnect each year.
- All Rochester City School District students receive **free admission** to MAG.