The University of Rochester is one of America’s leading private research universities and consistently ranks among the top in federally financed science, engineering, medical, and other research. In 2019, the University received $413 million in sponsored research funding, and in the last four years, three graduates have been awarded Nobel prizes. We are proud of our increasingly diverse student body, which represents all 50 states and more than 140 countries around the world. Our clinical care enterprise, UR Medicine, now includes six hospitals across the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier.

The University has added more than 10,000 employees over the last decade, making it the 5th largest private sector employer in New York State, and largest upstate-based employer. In that time, capital investments of more than $2.7 billion have been made, including major projects such as the Saunders Research Building, Golisano Children’s Hospital, Wegmans Hall/Goergen Institute for Data Science, UR Medicine’s Imaging & Autism Care Center, and the NextCorps high tech business incubator in the Sibley Building in downtown Rochester.

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE** 11,744

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FULL-TIME</th>
<th>VS.</th>
<th>PART-TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate ......</td>
<td>6,101</td>
<td>Undergraduate…..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate ..........</td>
<td>2,918</td>
<td>Graduate ..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional ......</td>
<td>435</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

5th LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYER IN NEW YORK STATE

$230M ECONOMIC IMPACT GENERATED BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SUPPORTS 2,871 JOBS

78 PATENTS AND 122 INVENTION DISCLOSURES IN 2019

50 START UP COMPANIES CREATED SINCE 2005

$290M IN ANNUAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT

$413M IN SPONSORED RESEARCH FUNDING SPENT LOCALLY IN 2019

$290.8M FEDERALLY SPONSORED

$14.5M STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPONSORED

**STUDENT AID AND OUTCOMES**

$293M IN INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR

$26,927 AVERAGE GRANT AID PROVIDED PER STUDENT FOR THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR

86% 6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE (Class of 2016)

$22,597 AVERAGE LOAN DEBT AT GRADUATION (48% of the Class of 2020 graduated with no loan debt)

<2% LOAN DEFAULT RATE (Compared to 9.7% national average)
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER HOSPITALS AND SELECT AFFILIATES

- Strong Memorial Hospital
- Highland Hospital
- Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong
- The Highlands (Living Center, at Brighton, at Pittsford)
- Thompson Health
- UR Medicine Home Care
- Noyes Health
- Jones Memorial Hospital
- St. James Hospital
- Strong West
- NextCorps
- Excell Partners, Inc.
- East High School
- Memorial Art Gallery
- Mt. Hope Family Center
- Children’s Institute, Inc.

FINANCIAL AID

The University of Rochester is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduate students who earn admission to the College.

FINANCIAL FACTS

Undergraduates receiving any financial aid 79%
First-year students receiving any financial aid 75%
Average total aid provided per student $46,043

Students receiving non-need based scholarships exceeding their calculated financial need:
- First years 17%
- Transfers 4%

For the 2020 graduating class:
- Borrowed federal student loans 48%
- Graduated with no loan debt 48%
- Average federal loan debt at graduation $29,791

Cost of attendance for 2020-21:
- Tuition and fees $58,208
- Room and board $16,612

STATE AND FEDERAL AID

- Students receiving NYS TAP 608
- Students receiving NYS Bundy Aid 914
- Students receiving Federal Pell Grants 1,034
- Students receiving Federal SEOG 947
- Students participating in NYS HEOP 109
- Students awarded Federal Work-Study 1,993

Purchasing

The University and its affiliates purchased almost $1 billion of goods and services in 2017. Of this total, $187 million or 18 percent was spent in New York State, touching all but six counties.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

The University’s annual capital investments support around 3,500 jobs and bring in about $180 million of labor income to the state’s economy.
2019 IMPACT

IN 2019, UR Medicine provided:

$393M IN COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Through its core missions, UR Medicine is dedicated to providing high-quality patient care, developing new treatments and cures, and training the next generation of providers to improve the health of our community.

OUR HOSPITALS

UR Medicine is the largest health care system in upstate New York, with 6 affiliated hospitals and many active relationships and collaborations across the region.

- 225+ outpatient clinics
- 1,391 licensed beds
- 71,110 inpatient admissions
- 250,303 ED visits
- 137,048 urgent care visits
- 51,622 ambulatory surgeries

ABOUT UR MEDICINE:

UR Medicine is the safety-net provider and most specialized academic health care system in upstate New York. Its 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 other highly specialized services such as organ transplant, trauma and burn care, complex cardiology, and neurology.
- The School of Medicine and Dentistry is the leading source of new physicians in the area, training more than 750 residents and fellows per year.
- The University of Rochester is the largest employer in upstate New York and the 5th largest private employer in New York State.
- The University of Rochester Medical Center has received more than $1.19 billion in biomedical research funding over the last 5 years to study common and rare illnesses, from cancer and heart disease to Parkinson’s and pandemic influenza.

For more information, please contact: Office of Government and Community Relations 601 Elmwood Avenue Rochester, NY 14642 585.273.5955 | ogcr.rochester.edu

$65.9M provided in uncompensated and charity care

$22M in approximate unreimbursed cost of care for cancer patients (2018)

$1.4M in unreimbursed cost of care for substance abuse treatment, including opioid treatment and Naloxone training (2018)

$6.9M in losses for Pediatrics, where nearly 60% of patients receive Medicaid (2017)

$2.4M for community health programs, including the EIOH Smile Mobile and UR Street Outreach programs (2019)
340B Drug Discount Program
Improving Access to Care for Patients Across the Community

340B at UR Medicine

HOW THE 340B PROGRAM WORKS
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 hospitals. In turn, hospitals use the savings from the discount to stretch scarce resources to establish and support programs that improve access to quality care for low-income and uninsured patients.

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 helps us to:

- Offset the $65.9 million in charity and uncompensated care we provide annually.
- Provide oncology care at 12 locations across 7 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.
- 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.

CHANGED IN THE FY 2020-21 NYS BUDGET
The enacted 2020-21 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. Furthermore, the Executive’s proposed 2021-22 NYS Budget creates a pool of funding to help “offset” costs incurred by the shift from MMC to FFS, however, hospitals are not eligible to receive aid from this fund.

REPEAL THE CHANGE AND CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON SAFETY-NET PROVIDERS
We urge the Legislature to repeal the shift from MMC to FFS as it relates to the 340B pharmacy benefit and consider the impact it will have on safety-net, academic medical centers like ours. It is estimated that this policy will result in a cut of at least $30 million annually to Strong Memorial Hospital alone. We urge the Legislature to pass A.1671/S.2520, which would delay this shift from MMC to FFS for three years as a secondary approach to a full repeal.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY UR MEDICINE

2.6M
Covered lives served across more than 15 counties in upstate New York

40%
of patients served by Strong Memorial receive Medicaid, are low-income Medicare, or uninsured

31.3%
of Rochester residents live in poverty, the 3rd highest concentration of poverty in the nation

75,000
office visits for cancer treatment and 95,000 infusion treatments at 12 UR Medicine clinics across upstate NY

80%
of patients served at UR Medicine’s Highlands at Brighton have Medicaid, at a loss of $2.2M per year (2017)

For more information, contact: Office of Government and Community Relations
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 706
Rochester, NY 14642
585-273-5955
The University of Rochester is one of America’s leading private research universities and consistently ranks among the top in federally financed science, engineering, medical, and other research. In 2019, the University received $413 million in sponsored research funding across 1,892 awards. We are proud of our increasingly diverse student body, which represents all 50 states and more than 140 countries around the world. Our clinical care enterprise, UR Medicine is the largest health care system in Upstate, NY and now includes six hospitals across the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensure Access to High Quality Patients Care</th>
<th>Support the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease (CEAD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repeal the Shift of the 340B Drug Discount Program</td>
<td>• We thank the Governor for maintaining $50 million for the NYS CEAD and we urge the Legislature to support this program in their one-house budget proposals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act (S.3577-A/A.5248-A from 2020).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protect New York’s Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Home Care Agencies</td>
<td>Support New York State’s Academic Dental Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge NYS to focus on the main drivers of cost and protect safety-net providers especially when we are the front line defense during a pandemic.</td>
<td>• 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge NYS to retain and expand critical health care investments - including new capital and other funding that recognizes the needs of urban and rural providers.</td>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.2677).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to restore the $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding to five academic medical centers that were eliminated.</td>
<td>Support Telemedicine Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose the New York Health Act</td>
<td>• We urge NYS to require payment parity for telemedicine services to the same service provided by traditional means.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act (S.3577-A/A.5248-A from 2020).</td>
<td>• We thank the Governor for including certain telehealth flexibilities in his 2021-21 Budget proposal and we urge the Legislature to permanently continue telehealth application flexibility across all originating and distant sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose Harmful Nurse Staffing Ratios</td>
<td>Improve the Professional Licensing Process and Support a Strong Clinical Laboratory Workforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to oppose a mandated nurse staffing ratio (A.108/5.1168).</td>
<td>• We urge NYS to support additional educational programs, reduce delays in licensure applications for techs, and support an alternative method for nationally certified candidates with substantial training to become licensed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure the Most Appropriate Level of Care</td>
<td>Remove Scope of Practice Restrictions for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge NYS to focus on strategies to address the challenges hospitals face when trying to discharge complex case patients and urge solutions to help patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition into the most appropriate care settings for their needs once acute care services are no longer required.</td>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to remove the scope restriction on Applied Behavior Analysis by supporting A.3523/S.1662 and A.299/S.1578 which would reimburse ABA services under Medicaid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Mental Health Services</td>
<td>Support Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge NYS to improve access to care by removing regulatory barriers, ensure insurance coverage is provided for mental health services, and increase access to mental health professionals by addressing workforce shortages.</td>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to fully fund the Centers at $1.178 million by including $1.060 million in aid on top of the Governor’s proposed $118,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Public Health and Human Services Programs</td>
<td>Support the Clinical Preceptor Tax Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for Cancer Services Program</td>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to pass A.285.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We thank the Governor for maintaining $25 million in funding for the Cancer Services Program and we urge the Legislature to support the program in their one-house budget proposals.</td>
<td>Support Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• We urge NYS to require payment parity for telemedicine services to the same service provided by traditional means.</td>
<td>• We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s cut to NFP and instead provide $3 million in level funding.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We thank the Governor for level funding that SBHCs at $10.4 million and for providing $38,000 to the University sponsored SBHC. We urge the Legislature to support SBHCs in their one-house budgets.

We urge the Legislature to pass A.1587/S.2127.

Support Children’s Environmental Health Centers
We thank the Governor for maintaining $2 million for the Centers and we urge the Legislature to support the Centers in their one-house budget proposals.

Support for Occupational Health Clinic Network
We thank the Governor for providing level funding of $9.56 million for the NYS Occupational Health Clinics and we urge the Legislature to support the Clinics in their one-house budget proposals.

Support for Diversity in Medicine
We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s cut to the Diversity in Medicine Program and instead provide $1.244 million in level funding, including $500,000 for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship.

Support the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program
We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate the COPS program and instead provide $12.125 million in level funding.

Support Life Sciences and Biomedical Research

Support the New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NY FIRST)
We urge New York State to reappropriate unspent funds from SFY2020-2021 and ask that the State release a new request for application.

Support the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP)
We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate ECRIP and instead provide level funding of $3.4 million to the program.

Support for Economic Development and Innovation

Support the Centers of Excellence (COEs)
We urge the Legislature to reject the Executive’s proposal to cut and consolidate the CATs and COEs. We ask that funding for the Rochester COE in Data Science be restored to $1 million in the 2021-22 Budget.

Support the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE)
We thank the Governor for level funding LLE at $825,000 in his proposed 2021-22 Budget and we urge the Legislature to support the LLE in their one-house proposals.

Support the Licensure of Genetic Counselors
We urge the Legislature to pass A.2151 to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.

Support for Early Intervention Services
We urge NYS to increase reimbursement for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Services and increase Preschool Special Education classroom and other evaluation rates by 10%.

Support the Primary Mental Health Project
We urge the Legislature to fully fund the Project at $1.2 million.

Support Project SEARCH
We urge NYS to invest a new funding amount of $250,000 for the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities to carry out the functions of Project SEARCH state coordination.

Support Parity in Reimbursement for Lactation Services
We urge the Legislature to pass A.2297 which would create licensure for lactation consultants.

Support Stem Cell Research (NYSTEM)
We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to sunset the program and instead fully fund NYSTEM at $44.8 million. We urge the Legislature to ensure that the Department of Health issues new requests for applications as soon as possible.

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research (SCIRP)
We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to sunset the program and instead provide level funding of $8.5 million for SCIRP.

Support Business Incubation and NY’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)
We urge the Legislature to include $15 million in funding to NextCorps to continue the Luminate NY Photonics Venture Challenge for an additional 3 years.

We thank the Governor for level funding NY MEP at $1.47 million in his proposed 2021-22 Budget and we urge the Legislature to support NY MEP in their one-house budget proposals.

Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs)
We urge the Legislature to reject the Executive’s proposal to cut and consolidate the CATs and COEs. We ask that funding for the Center for Emerging & Innovative Sciences be restored to $1 million in the 2021-22 Budget.
Support the Tuition Assistant Program (TAP)
- We thank the Executive for providing level funding for TAP in his 2021-22 Budget proposal. We urge the Legislature, over a three-year phase-in period, to increase the minimum TAP award to $1,000 (from $500), increase the maximum TAP award to $6,000 (from $5,165), and increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling to $110,000 (from $80,000).

Support the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)
- We thank the Executive for providing level funding for HEOP in his 2021-22 Budget proposal. We urge the Legislature to increase HEOP from $35.5 million to $42.43 million to allow per student funding to increase.

Support the Arts
- We thank the Governor for providing level funding for the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) in his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal. We urge the Legislature to support funding for the NYSCA in their one-house proposals.

Support the East High School and University of Rochester Educational Partnership Organization (EPO)
- Given the impact of COVID-19 along with the policies SED has put into place, we urge SED and the State to provide supports to the EPO to ensure that the full spectrum of services can be provided.
- We urge NYS to support public K-12 educational institutions including the Rochester City School District.

Support for Incarcerated Students
- We urge NYS to support initiatives that expand access to higher education to all New Yorkers.

Support for Higher Education

Support “Bundy” Aid
- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s elimination of “Bundy” Aid and provide level funding of $35.1 million for the program.

Support the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)
- We thank the Governor for providing level funding of $15.8 million for the STEP program and we urge the Legislature to support this program in their one-house budget proposals.

Graduate Medical Education
- We urge the Legislature to restore the $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.

Support for Nursing Education
- We thank the Governor for maintaining level funding of $3,933,000 for the McGee Scholarship Program and $941,000 for High Needs Nursing. We urge the Legislature to support these programs in their one-house budget proposals.

Support the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program
- We urge the Legislature to provide $1 million for a new cohort of STEM Incentive scholarship recipients, pursuant to Ch. 56 of the laws of 2018 which authorized STEM scholarships to be available to students attending private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.

Support the “GPA legislation”
- We urge the Legislature to pass S.7117/A.9750 (2020).

Support the Higher Education Capital Matching (HECap) Grant Program
- We urge the Legislature to restore funding for the HECap program at $30 million.
2021-22 Budget Request: $825,000  
2021-22 Executive Budget: $825,000  
Agency: New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA)  
2020-21 Enacted Budget: $825,000

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 currently the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) largest university-based 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 inertial 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. It is critical to strategic work on an independent energy future and an invaluable source of scientific leadership. 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 the lead laboratory for the Direct Drive approach to fusion ignition, recognized by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as one of the three viable approaches to this important goal for science-based stewardship, a grand scientific and engineering challenge for the 21st century. As home to some of the most advanced experimental and computational capabilities in the world, LLE is known nationally and internationally for its contributions to the DOE science-based Stockpile Stewardship Programs (SSP) in partnership with three NNSA labs (Los Alamos, Sandia, and Lawrence Livermore).

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 $825,000 appropriation included in the 2020-21 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided $82 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding for the LLE and DOE/NNSA recently finalized a $410 million Cooperative Agreement (CA) for FY 2019-2023.

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), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Funding from NYSERDA will affirm New York’s commitment to growing LLE and assist in our request for $84.75 million in FY22 federal funding.
Economic Impact
The economic impact of LLE on the Rochester area and the Finger Lakes region is profound. This funding supports cutting-edge research, jobs for the region's optics, photonics, and imaging industry and the creation of new companies. LLE employs more than 350 full-time employees, but indirectly supports an additional 500 jobs for a total impact of about 850 jobs, $56 million in income and $3.7 million in revenue to state and local governments. Since 2015, LLE has made more than $60 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.

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. The pursuit of fusion yield in the laboratory is critical for the long-term health of the SSP, and the University of Rochester and the LLE are proud to be part of the United States’ efforts to tackle this grand challenge and avoid technological surprises by another country such as Russia or China. 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.

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 100 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 we annually provide around $400,000 in support 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 targeted 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

Contact: Office of Government and Community Relations
585.273.5955 | ogcr.rochester.edu
Ensure Access to High Quality Patient Care
2021-2022

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. UR Medicine is the largest health care system in Upstate New York, the safety-net provider for the region, and the most specialized academic health care system serving more than 15 counties across the state with a population of more than 2.6 million.

Health care providers are facing the greatest crisis in their histories due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the sudden elimination of non-essential patient services early on in the pandemic, which caused us to lose $253 million in revenues through June, the increased costs due to PPE, cleaning/sterilization, infrastructure changes, technology upgrades for remote learning and working, and the ramping up of our clinical labs to be the largest COVID test processor in the region, providing results to our health system and other providers across the area; our system has been put to the test with an ever growing budget gap.

With the COVID-19 vaccine distribution process underway, URMC has been selected by the State to serve as one of the 10 vaccine distribution hubs and members of our leadership have been selected by Monroe County to lead these efforts locally as well. Additionally, we have partnered with Hurlbut Care Communities to provide safe temporary housing for nursing home residents who are awaiting a negative COVID test before returning to their facility.

Our researchers, clinicians, and medical professionals have worked around the clock to provide complete care to all patients in and around our region. However, with limited resources and ever growing budget constraints, now more than ever we need NYS to invest in our hospitals and health care systems, not cut them further.

Protect New York’s Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Home Care Agencies

As the State continues to grapple with an ever-growing budget deficit, now is the time to invest in the health care of all New Yorkers, not jeopardize it. A global pandemic is not the time to eliminate resources for hospitals and community health providers. The fiscal year 2019-20 NYS 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 most recent fiscal year 2020-21 NYS budget saw an extension and increase to the across-the-board cuts to all hospitals. NYS was also the ONLY state to cut Medicaid during a health crisis and pandemic.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the 1% across-the-board Medicaid cut to providers, which will result in an additional $5 million cut to UR Medicine. This cut is in addition to 1.5% across-the-board cut adopted last year. Medicaid already does not cover the cost of care, reimbursing only 67 cents for each dollar of care provided.
- We urge NYS to focus on the main drivers of cost and protect safety-net providers especially when we are the front line defense during a pandemic.
- We urge NYS to retain and expand critical health care investments - including new capital - that recognizes the needs of urban and rural providers.
- We urge the Legislature to restore the $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding to five academic medical centers that was eliminated.

Repeal the Shift of the 340B Drug Discount Program

The enacted 2020-21 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 $30 million to Strong Memorial Hospital alone. 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 Executive’s proposed 2021-22 NYS Budget creates a pool of funding to help “offset” costs incurred by the shift from MMC to FFS, however, hospitals are not eligible to receive aid from this fund

- We urge the Legislature to repeal the shift from MMC to FFS as it relates to the 340B pharmacy benefit and we urge the Legislature to pass A.1671/S.2520, which would delay this shift from MMC to FFS for three years as a secondary approach to a full repeal.

**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.

- We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act (S.3577-A/A.5248-A from 2020).

**Oppose Harmful Nurse Staffing Ratios**
We are concerned with legislation that would mandate specific, statewide staffing ratios in hospitals and nursing homes. This proposal would impose arbitrary nurse staffing levels that take away flexibility to adapt to the specific needs of the patient population at any moment without any evidence of improved outcomes. URMC anticipates a system wide impact of more than $16 million in annual costs from this proposal. The NYS Department of Health (DOH) issued a staffing enhancement study in August of 2020. In that study, DOH provides extensive data to conclusively demonstrate the critical value and need to ensure a flexible, team-based approach to care.

- We urge the Legislature to oppose a mandated nurse staffing ratio (A.108/S.1168).

**Ensure the Most Appropriate Level of Care**
Hospitals across New York State are facing a growing problem of long delays in discharging patients who have complex 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. For UR’s Psychiatric Emergency Department (Psych. ED) the average length of stay for a patient in crisis with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is 24 days, a patient with intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) is 8 days, and a non-I/DD patients is 3 days.

- We urge NYS to focus on strategies to address the challenges hospitals face when trying to discharge complex case patients and urge solutions to help patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition into the most appropriate care settings for their needs once acute care services are no longer required.

**Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease**
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 (CEAD) is at the forefront of research and clinical trials seeking effective treatments and a cure.

We thank the Governor for maintaining $50 million for the NYS CEAD and we urge the Legislature to support this program in their one-house budget proposals.

**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 vulnerable groups.

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 the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.2677).

**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.

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**School of Medicine and Dentistry**

We thank the Governor for maintaining $50 million for the NYS CEAD and we urge the Legislature to support this program in their one-house budget proposals.
We are grateful that New York State has recognized the importance of telemedicine through recently expanded commercial and Medicaid coverage for these services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Cuomo provided flexibilities to allow telehealth providers to deliver safe and adequate care to patients and prevent avoidable in-person visits.

- We urge NYS to require payment parity for telemedicine services to the same service provided by traditional means.
- We thank the Governor for including certain telehealth flexibilities in his 2021-21 Budget proposal and we urge the Legislature to permanently continue telehealth application flexibility across all originating and distant sites.

**Improve Professional Licensing Process**
The length of time to complete the New York State process for licensure in the health professions 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 and for New York to remain competitive with other states for the recruitment and retention of providers, particularly for specialists.

**Support a Strong Clinical Laboratory Workforce**
Institutions across New York State are facing an overwhelming shortage of clinical laboratory technologists. At Strong Memorial, we face a 10% vacancy rate compounded by growing concern that 50% of our current licensed clinical laboratory technology staff are eligible for retirement in the next 5 years. At the same time, the education pipeline isn’t large enough to backfill the vacancies.

- We urge NYS to support additional educational programs, reduce delays in licensure applications for techs, and support an alternative method for nationally certified candidates with substantial training to become licensed.

**Remove Scope of Practice Restrictions for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
New York is the only state in the country that restricts the practice of Applied Behavior Analysis to a diagnosis (Autism). The restriction of scope is significantly interfering with the availability of behavior-analytic services by not allowing many groups of individuals to receive services that research has repeatedly demonstrated to be effective. Further, the restriction of scope interferes with the recruitment and retention of students in our graduate-level education programs in Applied Behavior Analysis. For UR’s Psychiatric Emergency Department (Psych. ED), of those with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) that were in crisis and utilized our services in 2018-19, roughly 61 percent of the patients had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), that leaves roughly 40 percent of patients with an I/DD unable to receive ABA care when they leave our hospital.

- We urge the Legislature to remove the scope restriction on Applied Behavior Analysis by passing A.3523/S.1662 and A.299/S.1578 which would reimburse ABA services under Medicaid.

**Support Mental Health Services**
At UR Medicine, we offer a variety of adult psychiatric services and programs to address the diverse mental health needs of individuals ages 18 and up and their families. One in five individuals has a serious mental illness but two out of three individuals with a mental health issue never seek treatment. Early information suggests the current pandemic is exacerbating these existing challenges in the mental health field.

- We urge NYS to improve access to care by removing regulatory barriers, ensure insurance coverage is provided for mental health services, and increase access to mental health professionals by addressing workforce shortages.
State support for public health and social service programs is critical to ensuring the development and expansion of academic-community partnerships that improve the health of our citizens and provide care to the underserved.

Support for School Based Health Centers
The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) sponsors the School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) at East High School and the Frederick Douglass Campus, two of 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 thank the Governor for level funding that SBHCs at $10.4 million and for providing $38,000 to the University sponsored SBHC. We urge the Legislature to support SBHCs in their one-house budget proposals.
- We urge the Legislature to pass A.1587/S.2127 which would provide the State’s 262 SBHCs with the option to remain carved-out of the Medicaid Managed Care program.

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 lifesaving cancer screening services to six counties through the Cancer Services Program of the Finger Lakes Region.

- We thank the Governor for maintaining $25 million in funding for the Cancer Services Program and we urge the Legislature to support the program in their one-house budget proposals.

Support Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders
The 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 Legislature to fully fund the Centers at $1.178 million by including $1.060 million in aid on top of the Governor’s proposed $118,000.

Support Children’s Environmental Health Centers
The statewide, regional network of Children’s Environmental Health Centers 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. These centers 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 Children’s Environmental Health Center has created an infrastructure for education and outreach concerning environmental exposures in children and mothers. In the Executive Budget proposal for 2021-22, a new round of funding for the Centers is not provided.

- We thank the Governor for maintaining $2 million for the Centers and we urge the Legislature to support the Centers in their one-house budget proposals.

Support for Occupational Health Clinic Network
The Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services (FLOHS), part of UR Medicine, 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 urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s cut to the Diversity in Medicine Program and instead provide $1.244 million in level funding, including $500,000 for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship.

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. In his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal, the Governor cut the Diversity in Medicine Program by 20% and did not provide funding for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s cut to the Diversity in Medicine Program and instead provide $1.244 million in level funding, including $500,000 for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship.

Support for Occupational Health Clinic Network
The Finger Lakes Occupational Health Services (FLOHS), part of UR Medicine, 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.

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 Governor’s 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal eliminates the COPS program.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate the COPS program and instead provide $12.125 million in level funding.

Support Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)
Developed at the University of Rochester more than 40 years ago, the Nurse-Family Partnership 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 Partnership currently serves more than 240 local families. The Governor’s 2021-22 Budget proposal cuts the Partnership by 20%.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s cut to NFP and instead provide $3 million in level funding.

Support for Clinical Preceptor Tax Credit
Securing required clinical placements for students to receive intense first-hand clinical training in the health professions has become increasingly challenging in recent years. Unless we encourage new clinicians to serve as preceptors, New York State is at risk of not having an adequate health care workforce to meet future demands for care. We believe a financial incentive for clinicians who provide instruction as part of a clinical preceptorship will help address this issue.

- We urge the Legislature to pass A.285 which would establish a clinical preceptor tax credit of $1,000 for each 100 hours of instruction, up to a credit of $3,000 during a taxable year, to help address the shortage of clinical preceptors in a number of health professions.
Support for Early Intervention Services
Every year, 135,000 children statewide receive early childhood developmental services. Timely access to these services helps children achieve their optimal developmental potential resulting in better educational and health outcomes and, as adults, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to our community. However, low reimbursement rates for services have led to uncompetitive salaries and the closure of more than 60 non-profit preschools providing early childhood services across the state.

- We urge NYS to increase reimbursement for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Services and increase Preschool Special Education classroom and other evaluation rates by 10%.

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. In his 2021-22 Budget proposal, the Governor provides $894,000 in aid for the program.

- We urge the Legislature to fully fund the Project at $1.2 million to reflect support from previous years.

Support Project SEARCH®
Project SEARCH® provides employment training and education for young adults with significant disabilities. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, community, and workplace. The University of Rochester’s Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities serves as the statewide coordinator for Project SEARCH® in New York State. Working in collaboration with the Project SEARCH® team at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, we can provide technical assistance to communities interested in starting a Project SEARCH® program and continue to provide coordination support for the 20 Project SEARCH® sites in New York State.

- We urge NYS to invest a new funding amount of $250,000 for the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities to carry out the functions of Project SEARCH® state coordination.

Support Parity in Reimbursement for Lactation Services
International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) are a critical professional group that provide care to all communities. However, serving these communities is 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 professionals 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.2297 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.2151 to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.

Support the Wilmot Cancer Institute
The Wilmot Cancer Institute, a component of Strong Memorial Hospital, offers patients comprehensive services including one of Upstate New York’s largest blood and marrow transplant programs and the Rochester area’s only ACOS-accredited breast cancer center. Wilmot is home to the region’s first survivorship clinic and offers clinical trials of new therapies.

- Wilmot will seek a National Cancer Institute designation and we urge the State to support this effort.
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.

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 the institutions into a robust pipeline of commercially viable therapeutics. EDI has selected five projects into its drug discovery accelerator called the Medicines Discovery Award Program and the 2020-2021 award winners include therapeutics for multiple sclerosis, prostate cancer, and others.

New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NY FIRST)
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 NYS 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. 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. Every dollar invested by NYS in NYFirst results in an additional $6.50 in economic activity through institutional support and additional external grant funding brought to the State.

Support Life Sciences as an Economic Driver
The 2017-18 New York State Budget included Governor Cuomo’s $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.

**Support Life Sciences and Biomedical Research**
**2021-2022**
• We urge New York State to reappropriate unspent funds from SFY2020-2021 and ask that the State release a new request for applications to further transform New York State’s economy into one based on innovation, research and scientific talent. The State’s investment will be matched 2:1 by New York State’s 17 medical schools, resulting in an overall investment of $60 million each year.

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 his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal, the Governor eliminates ECRIP.

• We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate ECRIP and instead provide level funding of $3.4 million to the program.

Support Stem Cell Research (NYSTEM)
The Empire State Stem Cell Program (NYSTEM) has strengthened the University of Rochester’s groundbreaking research programs and our scientists are recognized as pioneers in the field. Research projects that have been funded through NYSTEM have been critical to the expansion of stem cell research infrastructure, advanced the understanding of the potential of stem cells to treat a long list of diseases, and have made New York State researchers more competitive for millions in additional federal funding opportunities. The economic impact of this program in New York State has been significant, including $160 million in NIH and other federal funding, 750 full time jobs supported statewide and seven new biotechnology startup companies launched. New York’s continued commitment to stem cell science will ensure it remains a world-class leader in biomedical research. The Executive Budget for 2021-22 proposes to eliminate the Program effective December 31, 2025.

• We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to sunset the program and instead fully fund NYSTEM at $44.8 million. We urge the Legislature to ensure that the Department of Health issues new requests for applications as soon as possible.

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research (SCIRP)
The New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) has provided more than $71 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. In his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal, the Governor repeals the Program by December 31, 2024. No new awards will be made after April 1, 2021.

• We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s proposal to sunset the program and instead provide level funding of $8.5 million for SCIRP.

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 ($180M in FY20).

• The Finger Lakes region ranks 6th in Biomedical Sciences Degrees and 13th 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.
Thanks to state support, the University of Rochester is the 5th largest private sector employer in the state and the largest private employer in upstate New York. The University is responsible for generating an estimated 59,700 jobs and $3.5 billion in total wages 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, advancing the science of multiplexing, 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 Centers of Excellence (COEs) are partnering with industry to transform research and technology capabilities into commercial applications. In the last three years, the Rochester COE in Data Science has generated $107.3 million in direct economic impact, and created or retained at least 66 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.

Last year, the Legislature rejected the Executive’s Budget proposal to eliminate all 14 COEs. We were grateful that the Legislature was able to do a partial restoration of funding for the COEs in the FY 2021-21 budget, which included $866,612 for the Rochester COE in Data Science. In his FY 2021-22 Executive Budget, the Governor has once again proposed a cut and consolidation of the COEs.

• We urge the Legislature to reject the Executive’s proposal to cut and consolidate the CATs and COEs. We ask that funding for the Rochester COE in Data Science be restored to $1 million in the 2021-22 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 (RIT), 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 the last three years, CEIS has generated $140.1 million in direct economic impact, and created or retained at least 148 jobs.

• We urge the Legislature to reject the Executive's proposal to cut and consolidate the CATs and COEs. We ask that funding for the Center for Emerging & Innovative Sciences be restored to $1 million in the 2021-22 Budget.
Support Business Incubation and NY’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)

NextCorps, formerly High Tech Rochester (HTR), is an affiliate of the University of Rochester and the region’s only state- and federally-designated business incubator. 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 Gov. Cuomo’s Green New Deal and the state’s goal for an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Luminate NY—the world’s largest business accelerator for startup firms that have optics, photonics and imaging (OPI) technologies—is also based at NextCorps. The Round 3 winners we announced in fall 2020 and applications are being accepted for Round 4 in 2021. Round 4 of the five-year program will begin in 2021. Since its inception, Luminate NY has invested $7 million in 30 startups and the companies in the portfolio now share a net worth of $160 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 continues to be the epicenter of the OPI industry in North America.

- We urge the Legislature to include $15 million in funding to NextCorps to continue the Luminate NY Photonics Venture Challenge for an additional 3 years.

- We thank the Governor for level funding NY MEP at $1.47 million in his proposed 2021-22 Budget and we urge the Legislature to support NY MEP in their one-house budget proposals.

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 and Empire State Development’s statewide Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) Investment Fund. Excell’s investments have attracted more than 30X in follow-on funding, representing over $400 million reinvested back into the region. 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.

- We thank Governor Cuomo for his support of the new $25 million Finger Lakes Forward Venture Capital Fund that will provide early stage capital investments for startup companies. This was a priority project identified by the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council’s Finger Lakes Forward Upstate Revitalization Initiative strategic plan.
Support for Higher Education 2021-2022

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. Last year, 608 University of Rochester undergraduates received assistance through the TAP program.

- We thank the Executive for providing level funding for TAP in his 2021-22 Budget proposal. We urge the Legislature, over a three-year phase-in period, to increase the minimum TAP award to $1,000 (from $500), increase the maximum TAP award to $6,000 (from $5,165), and increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling to $110,000 (from $80,000).

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. Last year, 109 students at the University participated in HEOP.

- We thank the Executive for providing level funding for HEOP in his 2021-22 Budget proposal. We urge the Legislature to increase HEOP from $35.5 million to $42.43 million to allow per student funding to increase.

Support the East High School and University of Rochester Educational Partnership Organization (EPO)
Since 2014, the University of Rochester has served as the EPO for East High School. Before the partnership between East High and the University, East High was persistently failing and was on the verge of closure. Since the partnership, there has been a focus on family and community engagement, a focus on the appropriate curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and on providing the necessary academic, health, and social supports that every child needs to succeed. In the spring of 2020, the New York State State Education Department (SED) authorized that the EPO be renewed for another three years (2020-2023). Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted the traditional education landscape and the SED has instituted a policy that no school can be removed from receivership until June 2023.

- Given the impact of COVID-19 along with the policies SED has put into place, we urge SED and the State to provide supports to the EPO to ensure that the full spectrum of services can be provided.
- We urge NYS to support public K-12 educational institutions including the Rochester City School District.

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 $293 million in overall institutional tuition assistance we are able to provide our students. In his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal, the Governor has eliminated “Bundy” Aid.
We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor’s elimination of “Bundy” Aid and provide level funding of $35.1 million for the program.

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. In his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal, the Governor did not include funding for another round of HECap.

We urge the Legislature to restore funding for the HECap program at $30 million.

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 have access to tutoring for math and writing skills as well as stress management and test taking strategies.

We thank the Governor for maintaining level funding of $3,933,000 for the McGee Scholarship Program and $941,000 for High Needs Nursing. We urge the Legislature to support these programs in their one-house budget proposals.

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. Last year, the University had 57 students participating in our education pipeline, which includes one 6-week summer program, two 4-week programs, and a 12-week academic program.

We thank the Governor for providing level funding of $15.8 million for the STEP program and we urge the Legislature to support this program in their one-house budget proposals.

Support the “GPA legislation”
The University of Rochester is committed to making sure our state’s teachers and principals are well prepared and achieve the qualifications and credentials they need to be successful educators. However, a number of well-qualified candidates are put on waiting lists for teacher and administration preparation programs because they do not meet the 3.0 GPA rule.

We urge the Legislature to pass S.7117/A.9750 (2020).

Support the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program
The STEM Incentive Program provides tuition awards to New York high school students in the top 10% of their class who pursue a STEM degree and agree to live and work in New York in a STEM field following graduation. In 2018, the Governor and the Legislature agreed to expand the program to students at all accredited New York higher education institutions.

We urge Legislature to provide $1 million for a new cohort of STEM Incentive scholarship recipients, pursuant to Ch. 56 of the laws of 2018 which authorized STEM scholarships to be available to students attending private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.

Support for Incarcerated Students
The University of Rochester is home to the Rochester Education Justice Initiative (REJI) which supports incarcerated students through rigorous academic programming. Recently, the REJI received an award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to significantly expand its work providing higher education opportunities for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people in the Rochester area to help address the problem of mass incarceration.

We urge the Legislature to support initiatives that expand access to higher education to all New Yorkers.

FAST FACTS

- **995 students** received Bundy Aid scholarships at the University of Rochester in the 2019-20 academic year, totaling nearly **$1 million**.
- **608 undergraduates** at the University of Rochester are relied on TAP during the 2019-20 academic year.
- University of Rochester provided **$293 million** in institutional scholarships to students during the 2019-20 academic year.
- **109 students** participate in HEOP at the University of Rochester during the 2019-20 academic year.
- **57 students** participated in STEP during the 2019-20 academic year at the University of Rochester.
The Memorial Art Gallery (MAG) is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a community art museum. MAG’s permanent collection of more than 13,000 works has been called the best balanced in the state outside of metropolitan New York City. In addition to its collection, MAG offers a year-round schedule of temporary exhibitions, lectures, concerts, tours, family activities, and educational programs. MAG’s Centennial Sculpture Park is also the centerpiece of the $19 million ARTWalk extension, a redevelopment of the Neighborhood of the Arts in the City of Rochester.

Education and engagement of students is an important part of the MAG’s mission. As a cultural partner with the Rochester City School District (RCSD), the MAG offers in-gallery and hands-on learning experiences to students at Schools #23, #29, and #45. Through this program, nearly 500 students in grades 1–6 visit the museum weekly for eight consecutive weeks, where they spend time in the galleries with a museum educator and then create artwork of their own in the MAG’s Creative Workshop, connecting art with the school curriculum. In the 2018-19 academic year, MAG provided tours to 7,049 K–12 students from urban, suburban, and rural districts. Of these visits, 1,273 were by elementary students from RCSD Schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the MAG’s earned income revenue streams (admissions, classes, events rentals, and store and restaurant income) particularly hard, bringing them to a virtual standstill during the four months it was closed to the public (March 14–June 26). These are important sources of income for the MAG, representing nearly one-third of the operating budget. In addition, contributed income and memberships were down 23 percent.

Because the museum operates under the University’s tax-exempt status, it was not eligible to apply for the Payroll Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) under the federal government’s CARES Act; the University exceeded the mandated employee threshold. Despite reduced expenses as a result of the closure, MAG still faced a daunting $500,000 deficit. Through emergency fundraising, the use of cash reserves, and further cuts to expenses, including staff layoffs, furloughs, and salary cuts, the MAG was able to balance its budget for the 2019-20 academic year.
As Rochester rededicates itself to revitalizing our city, the MAG will be an essential component to that urban regeneration.

- We thank the Governor for providing level funding for the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) in his 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal. We urge the Legislature to support funding for the NYSCA in their one-house proposals.

- We are thankful for the recent $600,000 award to the MAG from the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council. This will be used for the final phase of the Centennial Sculpture Park, a $5 million project to transform ten acres into a showcase for public art, public marts, and an urban oasis.

**FAST FACTS**

- The MAG welcomed nearly 280,000 visitors in FY19.

- Through its cultural partnership with the Rochester City School District, the MAG provides an 8-week program to nearly 500 students in grades 1-6 at RCSD Schools #23, #29, and #45 through a multi-tiered approach that connects art to the classroom curricula.

- The MAG's Centennial Sculpture Park, opened in 2013, has recast 10 acres of the Gallery's grounds into a showcase of public art and urban space in the heart of the Neighborhood of the Arts.

- The MAG provided professional development workshops for 379 area teachers in FY19.

- 512 low-income residents received free transportation, free museum admission and free family memberships through MAGconnect.

**Arts in the Loop**

In 2017, the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester launched Arts in the Loop. This public-private 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, to support an artist-friendly ecosystem, and to 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 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 continued virtually and is still a valuable resource for the 125 community artists who registered.