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 7th 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY-WIDE</th>
<th>12,074</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FULL-TIME</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>6,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>3,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>439</td>
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<tr>
<td>PART-TIME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>1,577</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EMPLOYMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY AND AFFILIATES</th>
<th>32,818</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)</td>
<td>28,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct and Indirect Jobs</td>
<td>68,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- **7th largest private employer in New York State**
- **Largest upstate-based employer in New York**
- **$203.8M economic impact generated by international students in 2020**
- **82 patents and 122 invention disclosures in 2019**
- **$388M in annual capital investment in 2019**
- **$413M in sponsored research funding spent locally in 2019**
- **$290.8M federally sponsored**
- **$14.5M state and local government sponsored**
- **2,541 jobs supporting 50 start-up companies created since 2005**
- **$1.6 billion in total capital investment over the last five years (2015-2019)**

**STUDENT AID AND OUTCOMES**

- **$288M in institutional scholarships provided the 2020-21 academic year**
- **$34,245 average grant aid provided per student for the 2020-21 academic year**
- **86% 6-year graduation rate (Class of 2016)**
- **$22,593 average loan debt at graduation (48% of the Class of 2020 graduated with no loan debt)**
- **<1% loan default rate (Compared to 7.3% national average)**
FINANCIAL AID

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

FINANCIAL FACTS

Undergraduates receiving any financial aid: 75%
First-year students receiving any financial aid: 70%
Average total aid provided per student: $48,150

Students receiving non-need based scholarships exceeding their calculated financial need:
- First years: 21%
- Transfers: 17%

For the 2020 graduating class:
- Borrowed federal student loans: 48%
- Graduated with no loan debt: 48%
- Average federal loan debt at graduation: $22,062

Cost of attendance for 2021-22:
- Tuition and fees: $59,344
- Room and board: $17,456

STATE AND FEDERAL AID

- Students receiving NYS TAP: 659
- Students receiving NYS Bundy Aid: 929
- Students receiving Federal Pell Grants: 1,067
- Students receiving Federal SEOG: 1,031
- Students participating in NYS HEOP: 113
- Students awarded Federal Work-Study: 2,073

PROGRAMS

- 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.

PURCHASING

The University and its affiliates purchased almost $1.3 billion of goods and services in 2019. Of this total, $317 million or 24% was spent in New York State, a 6% increase since 2017. UR purchased goods and services from all but six of the counties in NYS. It is estimated that the UR’s purchases sustained approximately 3,200 jobs in the state.

UR and Affiliates Purchasing
Footprint in 2019

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

During the past five fiscal years (FY2015 – FY2019), UR and its affiliates made over $1.6 billion dollars in capital project expenditures, adjusted for inflation. This averages to about $324 million in capital investments per year.

CONTACT

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 706 | Rochester, NY
14642 (585) 273-5955 | ogcr.rochester.edu
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.

**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 770 residents and fellows per year.
- The University of Rochester is the largest employer in upstate New York and the 7th 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
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. 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 2022-23 Priorities

#### Invest in Health Infrastructure
- We thank the Governor for including $200 million in her proposed budget for emergency department modernization. We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal and specifically support $50 million for Strong Memorial Hospital.

#### Invest in the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE)
- We thank the Governor for increasing support for the LLE from $825,000 to $1 million and we urge the Legislature to support the increase as well.

#### Support Luminate NY
- We thank the Governor for the $75 million proposed in the Innovation Venture Competition Program and seek to ensure that Luminate shall receive $5 million annually in order to continue through 2026.

#### 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 2022-23 NYS Budget for Mt. Hope Family Center.

#### Invest in Healthcare and the Healthcare Workforce
- We thank the Governor for proposing $1.6 billion for a new Healthcare Facility Transformation Program and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal.
- We thank the Governor for proposing an increase of 1% to Medicaid reimbursement rates and for proposing to restore the across-the-board Medicaid cuts from last year. We urge the Legislature to support the restorations but to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate even further.
- We thank the Governor for including funds that will support healthcare worker bonuses, wages, and COLA’s. We urge the Legislature to support the proposals.
- We urge NYS to delay/modify the implementation of the staffing-related statutory provisions enacted in the 2021 Legislative session. We also urge the Legislature to support proposals that increase funding and support to nursing homes throughout the state.
- We thank the Governor for proposing that NYS enter into a licensure compact and we urge the Legislature to support a compact not only for physicians, registered nurses (RNs), and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) but also for dentists, dental hygienists, medical technicians and respiratory therapists.
- We urge NYS to invest into the State Education Department’s Office of Professions so that the licensure approval process can be modernized.
- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to support and pass A.285/S.4229 which would establish a clinical preceptor tax credit.
- We thank the Governor for proposing a new Workforce Innovation Center funded at $10 million and we urge the Legislature to support this with a focus on strengthening the workforce pipeline tied to the health professions of greatest need.
- We urge the State to make permanent certain provisions included in the Governor’s Executive Orders (EOs), including allowing qualified healthcare professionals licensed in other states or Canada, as well as those licensed in New York but not currently registered, to practice in the state, permitting recent graduates to practice for a limited time immediately following successful completion of a healthcare licensure-qualifying education program.
- We thank the Governor for including certain scope of practice provisions in her proposed budget including adding pharmacists to the list of qualified healthcare professions, redefining the nurse practitioner collaborative agreements, expanding the scope for Medicaid Aides, and authorize COVID specimen collection and regimens for certain medical professionals. We urge the Legislature to support these proposals.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal to shift certain professional oversight from the State Education Department to the Department of Health.
- We urge the Legislature to restore the $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.

#### Support Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders
- The Governor included $118,000 for the Centers. We urge the Legislature to fully fund the Centers at $1.178 million.

#### Support the ‘Children’s Prevention and Awareness Initiatives’ and ‘Source of Strength’ Program
- We urge NYS to provide another 5 year funding contract of $2.25 million so that URMC can continue its work with the Children’s Prevention and Awareness Initiatives and the Source of Strength Program.

#### Repeal the Shift to the 340B Drug Discount Program
- We are thankful that the enacted FY 2021-22 NYS Budget included a delay to the shift to 340B for two years, however we need a full repeal. We urge the Legislature to repeal the shift from MMC to FFS as it relates to the 340B pharmacy benefit.
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).

Ensure support from OPWDD for the Discharge of Complex Cases
- OPWDD needs to provide more options for patients to be transferred to state-owned locations during emergency situations when patients cannot be placed.
- OPWDD needs to require that patients are admitted into community based organizations.
- NYS needs 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 the Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease
- We thank the Governor for level funding CEAD a $50 million and we urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

Support for New York’s Academic Dental Centers
- 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 NYS to consider adding dentist and dental hygienist to any state licensure compact.
- We urge the Legislature to support a new line-item of $750,000 for a NYSADC Fellowship to address oral health disparities.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.2677).

Support Telemedicine Payment Parity
- We thank the Governor for proposing telemedicine payment parity and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal as well.

Support a Strong Clinical Laboratory Workforce
- 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.

Support Mental Health Services
- 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.

Prohibit “White Bagging” and “Brown Bagging” of Prescription Drugs
- We urge the Legislature to pass S.7252 which would prevent these type of actions.

Support Public Health and Human Services Programs

Support the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program
- We thank the Governor for level funding the COPS program at $12.125 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

Support Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)
- The Governor has included $3 million for NFP. We urge the Legislature to level fund the program at $4 million.

Support for Cancer Services Program
- We thank the Governor for level funding the program at $25 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

Support for Occupational Health Clinic Network
- We thank the Governor for level funding the Centers at $9.56 million but we urge the Legislature to increase funding to $20 million.

Support for School Based Health Centers (SBHCs)
- We urge the Legislature restore funding to the SBHCs to $20.982 million in the FY 2022-23 Budget (increase of $3.8 million over Governor’s proposed budget), which includes $38,000 for the SBHC at East High School.

Support Children’s Environmental Health Centers (CEHC)
- We thank the Governor for level funding the Centers at $2 million but we urge the Legislature to increase funding to $4 million.

Support Legislation that would add Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) to the Definition of Developmental Disability
- We urge the Legislature to pass A.9096/S.7672 which would add FASD to the definition of developmental disability.

Support the Primary Mental Health Project
- We thank the Governor for level funding the program at $895,000 but we urge the Legislature to increase funding to $2 million.

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

Support the Licensure of Genetic Counselors
- We urge the Legislature to pass A.2151/S.5355-A to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.

Support the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act
- We thank the Governor for proposing to make the Act permanent and we urge the Legislature to support the proposal as well.
Support Economic Development and Innovation

Support the Centers of Excellence (COEs)
- We ask that funding for the Rochester COE in Data Science be restored to the prior level of $1 million in the 2022-23 Budget.

Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs)
- We ask that funding for the Center for Emerging & Innovative Sciences be restored to the prior level of $1 million in the 2022-23 Budget.

Support Business Incubation and NY’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)
- We thank the Governor and Legislature for level funding the Innovation Hotspots and Incubators ($5 million) and NY MEP ($1.47 million) last year and urge them to again provide this support in the 2022-2023 Budget.

Support Life Sciences and Biomedical Research

Support New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NY FIRST)
- We urge New York State to invest in biomedical research, in scientists, and in the future of state’s economy by providing new dollars for NYFIRST but also ensuring that ESD continues to issue RFAs and maintains its investment in the program by reappropriating any unspent funds.

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 Stem Cell Research (NYSTEM)
- We urge NYS to rescind the Article VII language from the FY 2021-22 budget eliminating the NYSTEM Program and provide level funding of $44.8 million.
- We urge NYS to grant the no-cost extensions which were requested by labs for previously appropriated research funds.

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research (SCIRP)
- We thank the Governor for level funding SCIRP at $8.5 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

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, which provides important grants to the museum in support of exhibitions, programming and facility improvements.
- We urge New York State to provide COVID relief funding to arts organizations like that MAG facing significant losses but do not qualify for existing programs.

Support Higher Education for All

Support the Tuition Assistant Program (TAP)
- We thank the Legislature for increasing TAP last year and 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 $5,565), and increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling to $110,000 (from $80,000).
- We thank the Governor for supporting Part-Time TAP with $150 million and urge the Legislature to support this proposal.
- We thank the Governor for supporting TAP for incarcerated individuals and urge the Legislature to support this proposal.

Support the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)
- We thank the Governor for proposing an increase to HEOP from $42.63 million to $46.89 million. We urge the Legislature to increase HEOP further to $51.16 million.

Support “Bundy” Aid
- We thank the Governor for level funding Bundy at $35.129 million but we urge the Legislature to increase support for Bundy Aid to $60 million.

Support the Higher Education Capital Matching (HECap) Grant Program
- We thank the Governor for providing $30 million for another round of HECap and we urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

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

Support the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)
- We thank the Governor for increasing support for STEP from $19 million to $20.87 million but we urge the Legislature to further increase support to $22.8 million.

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

Support the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program
- 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 Diversity in Medicine
- We thank the Governor for increasing support for the Program to $2.44 million. We urge the Legislature to support this but also provide $550,000 in funding for the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship.

Support Legislation to Modernize Higher Education Programs
- Pass A.7767/S.6717 which would allow for a certain amount of required clinical training and competency to be completed through simulation experience.
- Pass A.8389/S.6592 which relates to the registration of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university. We thank the Governor for including Program Approval language in her budget proposal but are asking for the reform be more encompassing.

Support the State Education Department’s New Electronic Licensing Management System
- We urge the Governor and Legislature to authorize SED to utilize $7.79 million of existing revenue in 2022-2023 to continue building the new electronic licensing and document management system along with enhancing customer service tools.
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.

CHANGES IN THE FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 NYS ENACTED BUDGETS
The enacted 2020-21 NYS budget included language that would transition the pharmacy benefit for the 340B program from Medicaid managed care (MMC) to fee-for-service (FFS) on April 1, 2021.

Thanks to the Legislature, the enacted 2021-22 NYS Budget delayed the shift of 340B from MMC to FFS for two years.

REPEAL THE CHANGE AND CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON SAFETY-NET PROVIDERS
We thank the Legislature for delaying the shift for two years in the 2021-22 enacted budget but ask that the shift be repealed entirely. It is estimated that this policy will result in a cut of at least $30 million annually to Strong Memorial Hospital alone.

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

33%
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
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. We are the safety-net for our most vulnerable citizens in both urban and rural areas providing roughly $70 million annually in uncompensated and charity care to our community.

**Invest in Healthcare Infrastructure**

The UR Medicine System is anchored by Strong Memorial Hospital (SMH), the area’s largest hospital with 886-beds that provides the most advanced care to the most complex patients and serves as the region’s Level 1 Trauma Center, one of only ten NYS Burn Centers, and one of only 17 Comprehensive Stroke Centers in the state. As a teaching hospital, it also serves as the largest clinical rotation and residency site for new physicians, nurses and other allied health professions from not only the University of Rochester, but from other area colleges. SMH’s Emergency Department (ED) has long outgrown its original design and has seen a 66% increase in patients since 2001. Even with a temporary engineered structure adjacent to its emergency department in the parking lot meant to increase its capacity, all rooms are double or tripled up and beds are staged in corridors to accommodate increasing demand. Wait times for admitted patients to be placed in a hospital room average/range around 8-24 hours. Strong needs to increase the size of its Emergency Department and overall inpatient bed capacity to remain functional and meet community demand. The new Strong Memorial Hospital Emergency Department and Patient Tower is estimated to cost $640 M, which will be the largest project in the University’s history and the region’s history. Once completed, the new project will facilitate the creation of 1,800 FTE jobs earning $158 million annually.

**Invest in Healthcare and the Healthcare Workforce**

Over the years, NYS has cut critical programs that have lead to some of the issues we see today. 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 2020-21 NYS budget saw an extension and increase to the across-the-board cuts to all hospitals. In FY 2021-22, NYS was the ONLY state to cut Medicaid during a health crisis and pandemic. As we continue to fight a global pandemic and struggle with a workforce shortage, we need NYS to act.

- We thank the Governor for including $200 million in her proposed budget for emergency department modernization. We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal and specifically support $50 million for Strong Memorial Hospital.

**Invest in Healthcare Infrastructure**

The UR Medicine System is anchored by Strong Memorial Hospital (SMH), the area’s largest hospital with 886-beds that provides the most advanced care to the most complex patients and serves as the region’s Level 1 Trauma Center, one of only ten NYS Burn Centers, and one of only 17 Comprehensive Stroke Centers in the state. As a teaching hospital, it also serves as the largest clinical rotation and residency site for new physicians, nurses and other allied health professions from not only the University of Rochester, but from other area colleges. SMH’s Emergency Department (ED) has long outgrown its original design and has seen a 66% increase in patients since 2001. Even with a temporary engineered structure adjacent to its emergency department in the parking lot meant to increase its capacity, all rooms are double or tripled up and beds are staged in corridors to accommodate increasing demand. Wait times for admitted patients to be placed in a hospital room average/range around 8-24 hours. Strong needs to increase the size of its Emergency Department and overall inpatient bed capacity to remain functional and meet community demand. The new Strong Memorial Hospital Emergency Department and Patient Tower is estimated to cost $640 M, which will be the largest project in the University’s history and the region’s history. Once completed, the new project will facilitate the creation of 1,800 FTE jobs earning $158 million annually.

- We thank the Governor for proposing $1.6 billion for a new Healthcare Facility Transformation Program and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal.

- We thank the Governor for proposing an increase to Medicaid reimbursement rates by 1% and for proposing to restore the across-the-board cuts from last year. We urge the Legislature to support the restoration but to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate further.

- We thank the Governor for including funds that will support healthcare worker bonuses, wages, and COLA’s. We urge the Legislature to support the proposals.

- We urge NYS to delay/modify the implementation of the staffing-related statutory provisions enacted in the 2021 Legislative session. We also urge the Legislature to support proposals that increase funding and support to nursing homes throughout the state.

- We thank the Governor for proposing that NYS enter into a licensure compact and we urge the Legislature to support a compact not only for physicians, registered nurses (RNs), and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) but also for dentists, dental hygienists, medical technicians and respiratory therapists.
• We urge NYS to invest into the State Education Department’s Office of Professions so that the licensure approval process can be modernized.

• We urge the Governor and the Legislature to support and pass A.285/S.4229 which would establish a clinical preceptor tax credit.

• We thank the Governor for proposing a new Workforce Innovation Center funded at $10 million and we urge the Legislature to support this with a focus on strengthening the workforce pipeline tied to the health professions of greatest need.

• We urge the State to make permanent certain provisions included in the Governor’s Executive Orders (EOs), including allowing qualified healthcare professionals licensed in other states or Canada, as well as those licensed in New York but not currently registered, to practice in the state, permitting recent graduates to practice for a limited time immediately following successful completion of a healthcare licensure-qualifying education program.

• We thank the Governor for including certain scope of practice provisions in her proposed budget including adding pharmacists to the list of qualified healthcare professions, redefining the nurse practitioner collaborative agreements, expanding the scope for Medicaid Aides, and authorize COVID specimen collection and regimens for certain medical professionals. We urge the Legislature to support these proposals.

• We urge the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal to shift certain professional oversight from the State Education Department to the Department of Health.

• We urge the Legislature to restore the $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.

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. 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 2021-22 NYS Budget included a delay to the shift for two years, however we need a full repeal.

• We urge the Legislature to repeal the shift from MMC to FFS as it relates to the 340B pharmacy benefit.

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).

Ensure support from OPWDD for 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. They referenced that one NYS hospital system estimated that the average cost of care for the most complex patients to be $5,000 per day and the complex care delays often exceed 100 days.

• OPWDD needs to provide more options for patients to be transferred to state-owned locations during emergency situations when patients cannot be placed.

• OPWDD needs to require that patients are admitted into community based organizations.

• NYS needs 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 the 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 level funding CEAD at $50 million and we urge the Legislature to support the program as well.
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 populations. We urge NYS to improve access to care to those with Intellectual and Developmental 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 NYS to consider adding dentist and dental hygienist to any state licensure compact.

We urge the Legislature to support a new line-item of $750,000 for a NYSADC Fellowship to address oral health disparities.

We urge the Legislature to support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.2677).

Support Telemedicine Payment Parity
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 thank the Governor and Legislature for including certain telehealth flexibilities in the enacted FY 2021-22 NYS Budget.

We thank the Governor for proposing telemedicine payment parity and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal as well.

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.

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.

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.
Laboratory for Laser Energetics
2022-2023

2022-23 Budget Request: $1,000,000
2022-23 Executive Budget: $1,000,000
2021-22 Enacted Budget: $825,000
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 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 Program (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 2021-22 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided $82 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding for the LLE in support of the 5-year Cooperative Agreement (FY 2019-23) between DOE/NNSA and the LLE.

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 roughly $86 million in FY23 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 and its economic activity supports an additional 550 indirect and spillover jobs for a total impact of about 900 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 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 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 “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.
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, 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 COEs are partnering with industry to transform research and technology capabilities into commercial applications. In 2019-2020, the Rochester COE in Data Science has generated $39.4 million in direct economic impact, and created or retained at least 31 jobs at 13 companies. 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. The last two years, the Legislature rejected the Executive’s Budget proposal to cut and consolidate all 14 COEs. We were grateful that the Legislature was able to do a partial restoration of funding for the COEs in the FY 2021-22 budget, which included $895,455 for the Rochester COE in Data Science.

- We ask that funding for the Rochester COE in Data Science be restored to the prior level of $1 million in the 2022-23 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 2019-2020, CEIS generated $41.8 million in direct economic impact and created or retained at least 34 jobs at 21 companies.

- We ask that funding for the Center for Emerging & Innovative Sciences be restored to the prior level of $1 million in the 2022-23 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 and Legislature for level funding the Innovation Hotspots and Incubators ($5 million) and NY MEP ($1.47 million) last year and urge them to again provide this support in the 2022-2023 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. Round 5—the final year of funding—will start in April 2022. Since its inception, Luminate has invested $12.4 million in 41 startups.

The companies in the portfolio now share a net worth of more than $350 million. In addition to providing an estimated 5:1 return on investment ($70 million outside investors, $12 million state funding), many of the companies are establishing U.S. operations or some aspect of research and manufacturing in the Rochester region, which has resulted in 120 jobs (100 full-time and 20 contract positions), with an additional 120 projected in the near future from two companies.

- We thank the Governor for the $75 million proposed in the Innovation Venture Competition Program and seek to ensure that Luminate shall receive $5 million annually in order to continue through 2026.

- We also seek to ensure that the Innovation Venture Competition Program shall not make any changes that would affect how Luminate and other competitions make and retain their investments in the participating companies.
Support Public Health and Human Services Programs
2022-2023

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, they are 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 2022-23 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 Governor’s 2021-22 Executive Budget proposal eliminated the COPS program but it was restored by the Legislature in the Enacted FY 2021-22 budget.

- We thank the Governor for level funding the COPS program at $12.125 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

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 2021-22 Enacted budget.

- The Governor included $118,000 for the Centers. We urge the Legislature to fully fund the Centers at $1.178 million.
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 FY 2021-22 NYS Budget increased funding for NFP from $3 million to $4 million.

- The Governor has included $3 million for NFP. We urge the Legislature to level fund the program at $4 million.

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 Program of the Finger Lakes Region. We thank the Governor and Legislature for maintaining $25 million in funding in the FY 2021-22 Enacted budget.

- We thank the Governor for level funding the program at $25 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

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 thank the Governor for level funding the Centers at $9.56 million but we urge the Legislature to increase funding to $20 million.

Support for School Based Health Centers (SBHCs)
The URMC sponsors the (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 Legislature for increasing funding to SBHCs by $3.8 million in the FY 2021-22 Enacted budget to total $20.982 million and for delaying the transition of school-based health center services into the Medicaid managed care benefit package until 2023.

- We urge the Legislature restore funding to the SBHCs to $20.982 million in the FY 2022-23 Budget (increase of $3.8 million over Governor’s proposed budget), which includes $38,000 for the SBHC at East High School.

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 thank the Governor for level funding the Centers at $2 million but we urge the Legislature to increase funding to $4 million.

Support the “Children’s Prevention and Awareness Initiatives” and “Source of Strength” Program
In 2015, the NYS Senate Mental Health Committee was able to secure multiple funding streams in the NYS Budget the “Children’s Prevention and Awareness Initiatives” and “Source of Strength” Program totaling $2.25 million. 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. URMC has worked with 63 schools 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 urge NYS to provide another 5 year funding contract of $2.25 million so that URMC can continue its work with the Children’s Prevention and Awareness Initiatives and the Source of Strength Program.
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 URMC’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 to pass A.9096/S.7672 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 provided comprehensive health and developmental screening and support for referral and services for children ages 12 to 60 months throughout NYS.

- We thank the Governor for level funding the program at $895,000 but we urge the Legislature to increase funding to $2 million.

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 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.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/S.5355-A to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.

Support the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act

As part of the 2014 budget, the State adopted the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act as a way to increase access to health care services and eliminate artificial boundaries to consumer care. The NPMA, among other things eliminated the requirement that nurse practitioners (NPs) with at least 3,600 hours of practice maintain a written practice agreement, provided that the experienced NP maintains a collaborative relationship with one or more licensed physicians qualified to collaborate in specialty involved, or a hospital. Since 2014, legislative bodies have extended the act periodically. We need to make this act permanent to ensure that all residents receive the care they need.

- We thank the Governor for proposing to make the Act permanent and we urge the Legislature to support the proposal as well.
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 2020-21 year, 659 University of Rochester undergraduates received assistance through the TAP program.

- We thank the Legislature for increasing TAP last year and 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 $5,565), and increase the TAP income eligibility ceiling to $110,000 (from $80,000).
- We thank the Governor for supporting Part-Time TAP with $150 million and urge the Legislature to support this proposal.
- We thank the Governor for supporting TAP for incarcerated individuals and urge the Legislature to support this proposal.

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 2020-21 year, 113 students at the University participated in HEOP.

- We thank the Governor for proposing an increase to HEOP from $42.63 million to $46.89 million. We urge the Legislature to increase HEOP further to $51.16 million.

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 $288 million in overall institutional tuition assistance we are able to provide our students. For the 2020-2021 year, 929 students at the University received Bundy Aid. Bundy Aid has been dramatically underfunded for decades and is currently funded at $35 million — just 18% of the statutory level.

- We thank the Governor for level funding Bundy at $35.129 million but we urge the Legislature to increase support for Bundy Aid to $60 million.

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 2021-22 Enacted Budget did not include funding for another round of HECap.

- We thank the Governor for providing $30 million for another round of HECap and we urge the Legislature to support the program.

HEOP students graduate at rates above the national average. For the 2020-21 year, 113 students at the University participated in HEOP.
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 increasing support for the STEM Incentive Program from $15 million to $20.87 million but we urge the Legislature to restore to $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.

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 2021-22 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 thank the Governor for increasing support for STEP from $12 million to $20.87 million but we urge the Legislature to further increase support to $22.8 million.

Graduate Medical Education
The FY 2019-20 enacted budget, included the elimination of $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding to five academic medical centers, which resulted in a cut to Strong Memorial Hospital of $4.1 million. These programs are vital to the training of the next generation of physicians in our state and ensuring continued access to services for the most vulnerable citizens.

• We urge the Legislature to restore the $24.5 million in graduate medical education funding.

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 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 under-served 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 thank the Governor for increasing support for the Program to $2.44 million. We urge the Legislature to support this but also provide $550,000 in funding for the Diversity in Medicine 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 and online programs. A.8389/S.6592 will allow institutions to meet the demands of students by having SED expedite program approval process.

• Pass A.7767/S.6717 which would allow for a certain amount of required clinical training and competency to be completed through simulation experience.
• Pass A.8389/S.6592 which relates to the registration of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university. We thank the Governor for including Program Approval language in her budget proposal but are asking that the reform be more encompassing.

Support the State Education Department’s New Electronic Licensing Management System
In 2009, the Legislature and Executive enacted a law (Chapter 396 of the Laws of 2009) that authorized the licensed system. The critical work to development is underway so that the Department can replace the old and outdated mainframe while also enhancing the customer experience for future and current professional licensees and entities. This update in technology will be critical for those seeking a more expedited and timely authorization of their license through SED.

• We urge the Governor and Legislature to authorize SED to utilize $7.79 million of existing revenue in 2022-2023 to continue building the new electronic licensing and document management system along with enhancing customer service tools.
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 these institutions into a robust pipeline of commercially viable therapeutics. In 2020, EDI awarded $4.5 million to the first cohort and Deerfield agreed to invest up to $65 million over the next 5 years.

Support Life Sciences as an Economic Driver
The 2017-18 New York State 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.

Support 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 NYS enhance its research faculty recruitment and retention efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness in biomedicine. The first two cycles of applications for NYFIRST have played a key role in recruiting six top scientists to New York, creating 160 new jobs and provide the State with a return of $4.13 per dollar invested in the program. Unfortunately, in the Enacted 2021-22 NYS Budget as well as the Governor’s proposed FY 2022-23 Budget, the NYFIRST program did not receive new funding.
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 Enacted FY 2021-22 NYS Budget eliminated the program. Unfortunately, in her proposed FY 2022-23 Budget, the Governor did not restore the program.

We urge New York State to invest in biomedical research, in scientists, and in the future of state’s economy by providing new dollars for NYFIRST but also ensuring that ESD continues to issue RFAs and maintains its investment in the program by reappropriating any unspent funds.

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research (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 2021-22 Budget eliminated SCIRP but the Legislature restored the program in the Enacted FY 2021-22 Budget.

We urge NYS to rescind the Article VII language from the NYS FY 2021-22 Budget eliminating the NYSTEM Program and provide level funding of $44.8 million.

We urge NYS to grant the no-cost extensions which were requested by labs for previously appropriated research funds.

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 2021-22 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 as well.

We thank the Governor for level funding SCIRP at $8.5 million and urge the Legislature to support the program as well.

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 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.

Held in trust by the University of Rochester, MAG it is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a community art museum. The University’s Eastman School of Music, celebrating its centennial this year, is a leader in American music education dedicated to the highest levels of artistry and scholarship, and an anchor of the Rochester arts community.

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to support the New York State Council on the Arts, which provides important grants to the museum in support of exhibitions, programming and facility improvements.
- We are thankful for the recent $600,000 award to 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.
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 - the 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, the MAG still faces a $2.85 million loss through June 2021. While this will take years to recover from, the MAG continues to be relied on to fill critical gaps in our community.

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

Education

The 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 #19, #23, #29, #33 and #45. Through this program, approximately 600 students in grades 2–4 visit the Gallery weekly for 4 consecutive weeks, where they spend time in the galleries with a museum director 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, the last full year before the pandemic, 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.

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.

- The MAG is grappling with a revenue loss of $2.85 million brought on by the pandemic.
- COVID-19 has drastically reduced memberships, which are down 23% compared to FY 2019.
- In 2021, the MAG broke ground on the next phase of the Centennial Sculpture Park, with expected completion in fall 2022.
- 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 the MAG.