



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

NYS FY 2024-2025 Priorities

The University of Rochester is one of America's leading private research universities and consistently ranks among the top in federally financed science, engineering, biomedical, and other research. University of Rochester Medicine (UR Medicine) is the largest, most specialized academic health care system in Upstate New York. Through our eight hospitals, seven 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 2024-25 Priorities

Distribute the funds allocated in the FY 23-24 budget

- The University of Rochester was awarded \$30 million per year for three years due to the change to the 340B Drug Benefit Program. However, unlike the community health providers, we have not seen the funds. We urge the Division of Budget to distribute the relief owed to us.

Close the Medicaid Gap

- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$800 million (state share) in Medicaid spending to providers.
- Provide 16% increase in the Medicaid rate for long-term care facilities, nursing homes, and non-profit hospitals.
- Increase reimbursement rates for dental care and for the Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability population.

Support Long Term Care Facilities

- Reject the Governor's proposal to freeze the nursing home operating component of the rates for nursing homes.
- Support the Governor's proposal to include A.8299 in the FY 24-25 enacted budget. This would authorize the use of Medication Technicians in nursing homes.
- NYS DOH has begun to issue fine letters based on the staffing ratio mandates enacted in 2021. However, facilities across the state continue to face acute staffing shortages and cannot meet the staffing needs outlined by the ratios. We urge NYS DOH Commissioner McDonald to declare an acute labor supply shortage for all of 2023. This declaration should accompany fine reductions.
- Support Monroe County's and the City of Rochester's \$75 million request for the Transformational Community Care Coordination (TC3) Project to address the barriers to discharging complex care patients to skilled nursing facilities.

Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities

- We thank the Governor for proposing that NYS enter the Medical and Nursing Compact and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal.
- We urge NYS to provide \$1 billion for Round VI include of the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program.
- We thank the Governor for proposing funding for the Doctors Across NY Program (\$15.8 million) and the Nurses Across NY Program (\$3 million). We urge support of this funding, but we also urge NYS to support legislation that would expand the Doctors Across New York program to include dentists (A.1454/S.4334).

- Reject the Governor's cut to the Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship from \$4.93 million to \$3.93 million.
- Support the Governor's proposal to level fund the High Needs Nursing Program at \$941,000.
- We thank the Governor for proposing and urge NYS to support language that would allow dentists to provide vaccines for influenza, COVID, HPV, and others related to declared public health emergencies.
- We thank the Governor and urge NYS to support language that would extend the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act on April 1, 2026.
- We thank the Governor for proposing \$14 million for the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners and other licensed clinicians and urge support.

Support Bundy Aid

- Reject the Governor's proposal to limit eligibility for Bundy Aid to institutions with endowment assets less than \$750 million, effectively eliminating the program.

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

- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the COE's to \$12.02 million and the CATs to \$13.59 million and increase funding to \$1.25 million per Center.

Create a Center of Excellence (COEs) in RNA Research

- Provide \$250,000 to create a new COE in RNA Research and Therapeutics at the University of Rochester and University at Albany.

Support the Children's Environmental Health Centers (CEHC)

- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the CEHCs from \$4 million to \$2 million, we urge NYS to not only restore funding but increase support to \$5 million.

Empire AI:

- We urge the Legislature to add the University of Rochester as a founding member of the Empire AI consortium if it is to be included in their one-house budget proposal.

Support Key Student Aid Programs: Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), and the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)

- We urge NYS to invest significantly into TAP by increasing the income limit to \$110,000 (A.1889/S.3474), increasing the min award from \$500 to \$1,000 (A.8089/S.7931), and increasing the max award from \$5,665 to \$7,070. We urge NYS to restore Grad TAP.

- Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease HEOP from \$48.89 million to \$46.89 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore HEOP but increase support by 20% to \$53.6 million.
- Reject the Governor's proposal to decrease support for the STEP program from \$21.51 million to \$20.87 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore the program but provide an additional 20% increase to \$25.8 million.

Support for Cancer Services Program (CSP)

- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut CSP from \$22.32 million to \$19.82 million.

Support the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP)

- Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate ECRIP and restore the program to level funding at \$3.445 million in the FY 24-25 budget.

Invest in the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE)

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

Support Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders

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

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

- Include A.2297/S.1866 in the FY 24-25 budget, which would add FASD to the definition of developmental disability.

Ensure Access to High-Quality Patient Care

Support Maternal and Child Healthcare

- We thank the Governor for including measures in the proposed budget that would allow the State to eliminate cost sharing for most pre-natal and postpartum pregnancy-related care in both the Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans. Essential Plan will also add coverage for doula services.
- We thank the Governor for proposing language that would add a new provision to the public health law to allow the Commissioner of Health to issue a nonpatient-specific standing order allowing all pregnant, birthing, and postpartum people to access doula services without a recommendation from their healthcare provider. This proposal is intended to remove a potential barrier to access to the new Medicaid benefit.
- We thank the Governor for proposing continuous health coverage for kids ages 0-6 (A.8146/S.7747).
- We thank the Governor for including provisions related to birth equity and urge support.

Support Telehealth Payment Parity

- We thank the Governor for proposing to extend telemedicine payment parity to April 1, 2025 and we urge the Legislature to support it. (A.4940/S.2776).

Oppose the NY Health Act/ Plan

- We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act (A.7897/S.7590).

Help with the Discharge of Complex Cases

- We urge OPWDD to provide more options for patients to be transferred to state-owned locations during emergency situations when patients cannot be placed.
- We thank the Governor for including a proposal in the budget that would allow Direct Support Professionals in non-facility-based programs certified by OPWDD to perform certain nursing tasks.
- 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 NY's Academic Dental Centers

- Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Dental Grant Program (\$725,000).
- Support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.4995).
- Support the designation of individuals with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in order to make available additional resources to provide direct care and improve workforce training.

Support the Health Homes Program

- While the Governor's proposed budget makes no cuts to Health Homes for FY 24-25, the Medicaid scorecard projects a \$125 million cut in FY 25-26. We urge NYS to reject this cut.

Support the Centers of Excellence in Alzheimer's Disease (CEAD)

- We thank the Governor for proposing to increase funding for the CEADs to \$26 million and urge the Legislature to support this request.

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

- Pass A.2163/S.7413 to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging" of prescription drugs.

Support Public Health and Human Services Programs

Support the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program

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

Support the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program

- The Governor has proposed to level fund NFP to previous base amounts (\$3 million). We urge NYS to restore funding to the previous year's amount of \$4.2 million.

Support the Primary Mental Health Project

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Primary Mental Health Project at \$895,000. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$1.25 million.

Support the Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN)

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Network at \$9.56 million and we urge the Legislature to support this request.

Support the School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

- The proposed budget provides \$20 million for School Based Health Centers, including \$2.1 million allocated for specific programs. This is an increase in \$3 million over the “base” funding provided for the program last year, but slightly less than the \$20.8 million total funding the program received with the \$3.8 million provided by the Legislature last year. The proposed budget does include level funding of \$38,000 for East High’s SBHC.
- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to permanently carve-out the SBHC’s from the Medicaid managed care (MMC) benefit to fee-for- service (FFS). (A.6029/S.2339).

Support Parity in Reimbursement for Lactation Services

- Pass A.722, which would create licensure for lactation consultants.

Support the Licensure of Genetic Counselors

- Pass A.49/S.3552 to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.

Support Higher Education for All**Support the Higher Education Capital Matching (HECap) Grant Program**

- The Governor did not include another round of funding for HECap in her proposal. We urge the Legislature to fund HECap at \$30 million in the FY 24-25 budget.

Create the Charles L. Reason Fellowship

- Pass A.2703/S.1046 and provide \$3 million in the FY 2024-2025 budget for the Fellowship.

Support for Diversity in Medicine

- Support the Governor’s proposal to provide level funding of \$3.644 million for the Program.
- We urge the Legislature to also provide \$1 million for the Diversity Scholarship.

Support Legislation to Modernize Higher Education Programs

- Pass A.3282/S.3412 which relates to the registration of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university.

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

- Change in regulation the requirement for NYS DNP to differentiate between Post- Baccalaureate DNP programs for APRNs as licensure qualifying degrees and Post-Baccalaureate and Post- Masters DNP programs for advanced nursing practice programs and MS prepared Registered Nurses as non- licensure qualifying degrees.

Support Economic Development, Innovation, and Life Science & Biomedical Research Programs**Support the Business Incubation and NY’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)**

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund NY MEP at \$1.47 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 24-25 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Innovation Hot Spots at \$5 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 24-25 budget.

Support Luminate NY

- We thank the Governor and Legislature for the \$75 million Innovation Venture Competition Program in the FY 22-23 budget to ensure that Luminate receives \$5 million annually in order to continue through 2026.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the High Tech Matching Grants and Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START) initiative at \$12 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 24-25 budget

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

- Invest an additional \$20 million in the NYFIRST program.

Support the Spinal Cord Injury Research (SCIRP) Program

- Increase funding for SCIRP from \$8.5 million to \$19 million.

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

- Support the New York State Council on the Arts. While the amount MAG receives in annual operating support has decreased, we are grateful for NYSCA funding, which provides critical support for exhibitions, programming, and facility improvements.



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 FY 2022, the University received more than \$477 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 eight hospitals and seven nursing homes across the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier.

The University has added over 9,800 employees over the 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

UNIVERSITY-WIDE **12,160**
2023-2024 Academic Year

FULL-TIME

Undergraduate: **6,350**

Graduate: **3,316**

Professional: **443**

PART-TIME

Undergraduate: **414**

Graduate: **1,637**

EMPLOYMENT

TOTAL ACROSS
THE UNIVERSITY
AND AFFILIATES **37,119**

Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs): **32,164**

Total new jobs added from the previous year: **+3,078**

ECONOMIC IMPACT



7th

LARGEST PRIVATE
EMPLOYER IN NEW
YORK STATE

LARGEST UPSTATE-
BASED EMPLOYER
IN NEW YORK



\$238M

ECONOMIC IMPACT
GENERATED BY
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

SUPPORTING 2,655
JOBS



219

102 PATENTS, 40 LICENSE
AGREEMENTS, 77
INVENTION

DISCLOSURES IN 2022

38 START UP COMPANIES
CREATED SINCE 2008



\$388M

IN ANNUAL
CAPITAL
INVESTMENT IN
2019

\$1.6 BILLION IN
TOTAL CAPITAL
INVESTMENT OVER
THE LAST FIVE
YEARS (2015-2019)



\$477M

IN SPONSORED
RESEARCH FUNDING
SPENT LOCALLY IN
2022

\$353.2M FEDERALLY
SPONSORED

\$13.4M STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED

STUDENT AID AND OUTCOMES



\$300M

IN INSTITUTIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED
THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC
YEAR



\$38,091

AVERAGE GRANT AID
PROVIDED PER STUDENT FOR
THE 2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR
AT THE COLLEGE



84%

6-YEAR
GRADUATION RATE
(Class of 2017)



\$18,536

AVERAGE FEDERAL LOAN
DEBT AT GRADUATION 2023
(57% of the Class of 2023
graduated with no federal loan
debt)

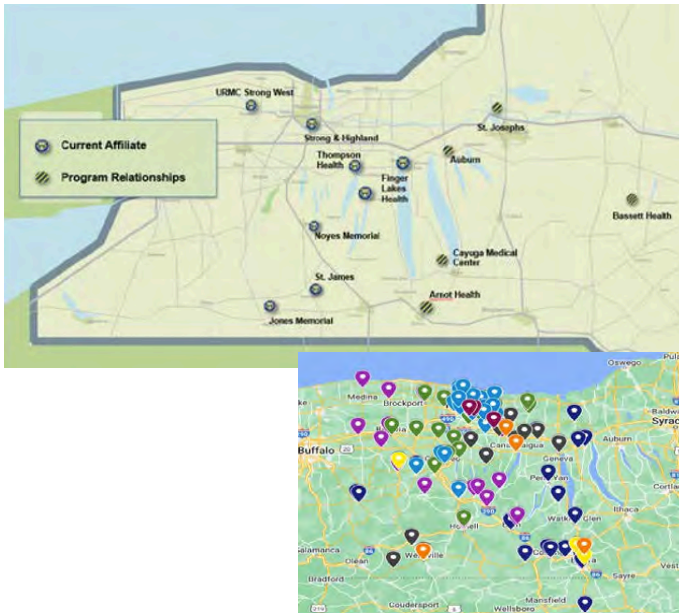


0%

LOAN DEFAULT RATE
DUE TO PAUSE
(Compared to 2.3%
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 and M.M. Ewing Continuing Care Center
- UR Medicine Home Care
- Children's Institute, Inc.
- Jones Memorial Hospital
- Noyes Health
- Strong West
- St. James Hospital
- NextCorps
- Excell Partners, Inc.
- East High School
- Memorial Art Gallery
- Mt. Hope Family Center
- Finger Lakes Health-Hospitals (Geneva General Hospital, Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital)
- Finger Lakes Health- Long Term Care (Living Center at Geneva North & South, Huntington Living Center, The Homestead)



FINANCIAL AID

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

FINANCIAL FACTS *2023-2024 Academic Year*

Undergraduates receiving any financial aid	71%
First-year students receiving any financial aid	71%
Average total aid provided per student	\$52,184

Students receiving non-need-based scholarships exceeding their calculated financial need:

First years	14%
Transfers	18%

For the 2023 graduating class:

Borrowed federal student loans	43%
Graduated with no loan debt	50%
Average federal loan debt at graduation	\$18,536

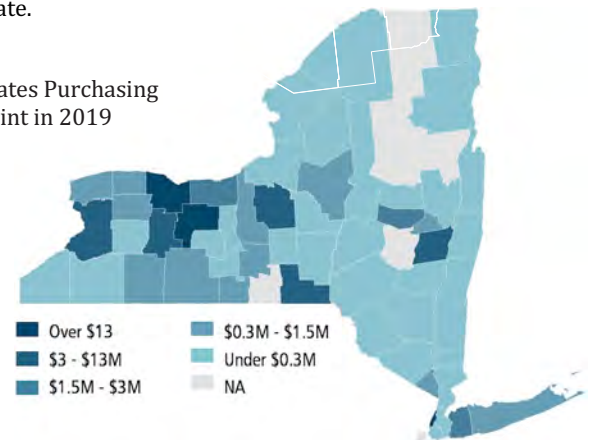
Cost of attendance for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Tuition and fees	\$64,384
Room and Board	\$18,786

PURCHASING

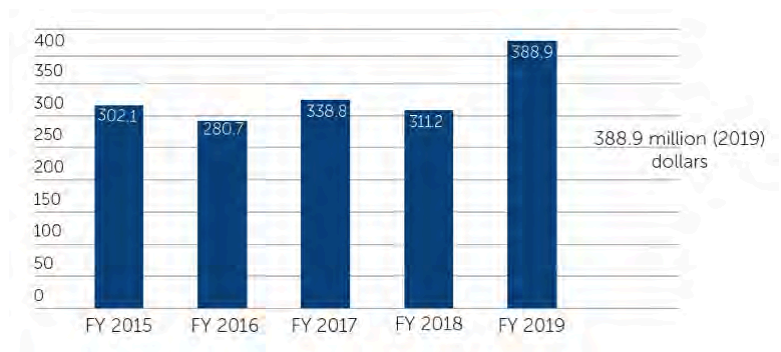
The University and its affiliates purchased almost \$1.3 billion of goods and services in 2019. Of this total, \$317 million or 24% was spent in New York State, a 6% increase since 2017. UR purchased goods and services from all but six of the counties in NYS. It is estimated that the UR's purchases sustained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

UR and Affiliates Purchasing Footprint in 2019



CAPITAL INVESTMENT

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.



STATE AND FEDERAL AID 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

Students receiving NYS TAP: **714**

Students receiving NYS Bundy Aid: **930**

Students receiving Federal Pell Grants: **1,127**

Students receiving Federal SEOG: **1,043**

Students participating in NYS HEOP: **98**

Students awarded Federal Work Study: **2,149**



UR MEDICINE 2022 IMPACT

IN 2022, UR Medicine provided:

\$479 M

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 8 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 eight-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 960 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. This has led us to be the largest recipient of NIH funding in Upstate NY.

\$246M

provided in uncompensated and charity care.

\$144.2M

provided in health professionals education.

\$451,400

provided for community building activities.





Ensure Access to High Quality Patient Care

NYS 2024-2025



University of Rochester Medicine (UR Medicine) is the largest, most specialized academic health care system in Upstate New York. Through our eight hospitals, seven 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 \$246 million annually in uncompensated and charity care to our community.

Distribute the funds allocated in the FY 23-24 budget

The University of Rochester and our healthcare system continue to struggle financially. With a projected negative 1.5% operating margin, a \$32 million deficit, departments being asked to cut operational budgets by another 4% (on top of the 5% budget cuts from last year), and the continuing financial struggles related to long-term care, we need investment not the proposed cuts that the Governor has laid out. NYS still owes us the \$30 million per year for three years included in the Medicaid scorecard to help us deal with our \$65M loss from 340B shift last year.

- We urge the Division of Budget and the Department of Health to distribute the \$30 million per year for three years owed to us.

Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap

Medicaid already underpays for care. Over the years, NYS has further cut critical programs that have led to widespread fiscal stress. The fiscal year 2019-20 budget brought a \$5 million cut to UR Medicine with the elimination of Graduate Medical Education funding and a \$500 million across-the-board cut to all hospitals. The 20-21 budget saw an extension and increase to the across-the-board cuts to all hospitals.

In FY 21-22, NYS was the ONLY state to cut Medicaid during a health crisis and pandemic. Additionally, the FY 23-24 budget resulted in a \$65 million cut per year to UR Medicine by shifting the 340B drug benefit program from Medicaid managed care to fee-for-service. All the while, contract labor (due to the workforce crisis), drug, energy, supply, and overall labor costs have risen significantly faster than inflation.

Unfortunately, the Governor's budget includes no Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for not-for-profit hospitals and long-term care facilities. Instead, the Governor is proposing to cut \$200 million (state share) in Medicaid spending.

- Reject the Governor's proposal to cut \$400 million (state share) in Medicaid spending.
- We urge NYS to include a 16% increase in the Medicaid rate for long-term care facilities, nursing homes, and non-profit hospitals.
- Specifically, we request the implementation of the 16% Medicaid rate increase for nursing homes starting April 1, 2024, to provide the bridge funding necessary to successfully reform and rebase nursing home Medicaid rates by 2025.
- We urge NYS to increase reimbursement rates for dental care under Medicaid.

Support Long Term Care Facilities

More than 6,000 nursing home beds have been taken offline over the past 6 years across NYS (with roughly 1,000 available but unstaffed nursing home beds in the Finger Lakes area). Medicaid members in need of care for nursing home placements remain backed up in the hospital or must be placed in facilities outside of their communities – causing family members to drive hours for

a visit. Despite this, Governor Hochul's budget decimates the nursing home industry. The proposed budget would freeze the nursing home operating component of the rates for nursing homes to that in effect as of January 1, 2024. Such rates would remain frozen such until the DOH implements a case mix methodology that conforms with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services ("CMS's") Patient Driven Payment Model ("PDPM"). In addition, the Governor proposes to reduce the nursing home capital component by an additional 10 percent for periods on and after April 1, 2024. The Governor is also proposing to reduce the Nursing Home Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP) program by \$75 million state share. Additionally, the Governor is proposing to reduce \$400 million to other long-term care services.

Additionally, NYS DOH has now issued one set of fine letters (Q2 of 2022) based on the staffing ratio mandates enacted in 2021 and are about to issue more fines for Q3 of 2022. However, facilities across the state continue to face acute staffing shortages and cannot meet the staffing needs outlined by the ratios.

- Reject the Governor's proposal to reduce the Nursing Home Vital Access Provider Assurance Program (VAPAP) program by \$75 million.
- Reject the Governor's proposal to freeze the nursing home operating component of the rates for nursing homes.
- Reject the Governor's proposal to reduce the nursing home capital component by an additional 10%.
- Support the Governor's proposal to include A.8299 in the FY 24-25 enacted budget. This would authorize the use of Medication Technicians in nursing homes.
- Like 2022, we urge DOH Commissioner McDonald to declare an acute labor supply shortage for all of 2023 and waive any fines for nursing homes for 2022 and 2023.
- We urge NYS to support the joint request from Monroe County and the City of Rochester for \$75 million for the Transformational Community Care Coordination (TC3) Project to address the barriers to discharging complex care patients to skilled nursing facilities.

Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities

Rochester had bed capacity issues prior to COVID with occupancy rates at Strong Memorial Hospital routinely exceeding 100%. As our hospitals continue to contend with the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic, we also face skyrocketing economy-wide inflation on labor, supply, and drug costs. At UR Medicine, the costs we incur for temporary labor and retention programs are driving up labor costs tenfold. For instance, we have gone from spending \$20 million per year for temporary costs to now \$20 million per month. Even with this level of spending, we have 30-50 beds that are closed at any given time due to a lack of adequate staffing and have to turn away 100 or more patients per month from other regional facilities.

On January 18, 2024; Strong Memorial Hospital had more patients than any other day in the hospital's history. We had 1,092 patients in a facility licensed for 886 patient beds, meaning there were 206 patients in the hospital who did not have standard beds available.

- We thank the Governor for proposing that NYS enter the Medical and Nursing Compact and we urge the Legislature to support this proposal.
- We are disappointed to see that the Governor did not include another round of the Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program. We urge NYS to invest in Round 6 with \$1 billion in funding.
- We thank the Governor for proposing funding for the Doctors Across NY Program (\$15.8 million) and the Nurses Across NY Program (\$3 million). We urge support of this funding, but we also urge NYS to support legislation that would expand the Doctors Across New York program to include dentists (A.1454/S.4334).
- We urge NYS to reject the Governor's proposal to cut the Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship from \$4.93 million to \$3.93 million.
- We thank the Governor for proposing and urge NYS to support language that would allow dentists to provide vaccines for influenza, COVID, HPV, and others related to declared public health emergencies. They would also be able to offer HIV, or hepatitis C, and hemoglobin A1C tests.
- We thank the Governor and urge NYS to support language that would extend the Nurse Practitioner Modernization Act on April 1, 2026. The Act authorizes NPs who meet certain requirements to practice independently without a collaborative agreement with a physician.
- We thank the Governor for proposing \$14 million for the recruitment and retention of psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and other licensed clinicians in psychiatric inpatient units of general hospitals, comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs, and crisis, residential, and outpatient programs.



Support Maternal and Child Healthcare

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

- We thank the Governor for including measures in the proposed budget that would allow the State to eliminate cost sharing for most pre-natal and postpartum pregnancy-related care in both the Essential Plan and Qualified Health Plans. Essential Plan will also add coverage for doula services.
- We thank the Governor for proposing language that would add a new provision to the public health law to allow the Commissioner of Health to issue a nonpatient-specific standing order allowing all pregnant, birthing, and post-partum people to access doula services without a recommendation from their healthcare provider. This proposal is intended to remove a potential barrier to access to the new Medicaid benefit.
- We thank the Governor for proposing continuous health coverage for kids ages 0-6 (A.8146/S.7747).
- We thank the Governor for including provisions related to birth equity, including having the DOH establish new reporting requirements for Medicaid-managed care plans to give the State better insight into patients' utilization of critical pre-natal and postpartum services to better target interventions.

Support Telehealth Payment Parity

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

- We thank the Governor for proposing to extend telemedicine payment parity to April 1, 2025 and we urge the Legislature to support it. (A.4940/S.2776).

Oppose the New York Health Act/ Plan

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/Plan due to the potential for academic medical centers to be further 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.

- We urge the Legislature to oppose the New York Health Act/Plan (A.7897/S.7590).

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 and the Governor to include A.2297/S.1866 in the FY 24-25 budget which would add FASD to the definition of developmental disability.

Help with the Discharge of Complex Cases

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

- We urge OPWDD to provide more options for patients to be transferred to state-owned locations during emergency situations when patients cannot be placed.
- We thank the Governor for including a proposal in the budget allowing Direct Support Professionals in non-facility-based programs certified by OPWDD to perform certain nursing tasks and urge the Legislature to support the proposal.
- We urge the State to reimburse enhanced staffing support for a longer period of time while also providing more outpatient locations for our most in-need patients so that they can have a safe and appropriate location to receive care.

Support for New York's Academic Dental Centers

The six academic dental centers in New York State, including the Eastman Institute for Oral Health, serve as the largest providers of comprehensive, preventive, primary, and specialty oral health care to Medicaid recipients, the uninsured, and the state's most in need residents.

- Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Dental Grant Program (\$725,000).
- We urge the Legislature to support the Dental Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program (A.4995).

- We urge NYS to support the designation of individuals with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP) in order to make available additional resources to provide direct care and improve workforce training.

Support the Health Homes Program

A health home is a new care management model designed by Medicaid to help high-risk patients. A health home consists of providers and community agencies that collaborate to provide services to people with Medicaid coverage who have a serious mental illness or chronic conditions. Health homes provide more intensive work with patients than usual, and the end goal is for the patients to graduate from the program, be connected to necessary services, and have their health managed by their primary care physicians.

- While the Governor's proposed budget makes no cuts to Health Homes for FY 24-25, the Medicaid scorecard projects a \$125 million cut in FY 25-26. We urge NYS to reject this cut.

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

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

- We thank the Governor for proposing to increase funding for the CEADs to \$26 million and urge the Legislature to support this request.

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 NYS to pass A.2163/S.7413 to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging".



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 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.

- We urge NYS to support the Governor's proposal to level-fund the COPS program at \$12.125 million.

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 Governor for proposing to level fund the Centers at \$1.178 million and we urge the Legislature to restore funding to previous levels of \$1.5 million.

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 urge NYS to reject the Governor's proposal to cut the CEHCs from \$4 million to \$2 million and urge NYS to not only restore funding but increase support to \$5 million.

Support for Cancer Services Program (CSP)

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

- We urge NYS to reject the Governor's proposal to cut the CSP to \$19.82 million from \$22.32 million.



Support Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)

Developed at the University of Rochester more than 40 years ago, the NFP is a nationally recognized, evidence-based, home visitation program operated by the Monroe County Department of Public Health and staffed by UR Medicine Home Care that improves the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children.

- The Governor has proposed to “level” fund NFP to previous base amounts (\$3 million). We urge NYS to restore funding to the previous year’s amount of \$4.2 million.

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 paraprofessional to increase their chances for success.

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Primary Mental Health Project at \$895,000. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$1.25 million.

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.

- The Governor has proposed level funding the Network at \$9.56 million and we urge the Legislature to support this request.

Support for School Based Health Centers (SBHCs)

The URMHC sponsors the SBHCs at East High School, which is one of the more than 262 SBHCs statewide. Services to students include physical exams, health screenings, care for acute and chronic illnesses, mental health counseling, lab services, sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy testing and prevention, health education, and immunizations. Students receive services free of charge without regard to insurance status.

- The proposed budget provides \$20 million for SBHCs, including \$2.1 million allocated for specific programs. This is an increase in \$3 million over the “base” funding provided for the program last year, but slightly less than the \$20.8 million total funding the program received with the \$3.8 million provided by the Legislature last year. The proposed budget does include level funding of \$38,000 for East High’s SBHC.
- We urge the Governor and the Legislature to permanently carve-out the SBHC’s from the Medicaid managed care (MMC) benefit to fee-for-service (FFS). (A.6029/S.2339).

Reimbursement Parity for Lactation Services

International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) are a critical professional group that provide care to all communities. However, serving these communities are limited by limited reimbursement for lactation services, which are currently paid for by the patients themselves out-of-pocket since lactation consultants cannot qualify for traditional insurance reimbursement.

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

Support the Licensure of Genetic Counselors

New York has been at the forefront of genetic counseling education since its inception. NYS is home to the nation’s oldest and largest genetic counseling program based at Sarah Lawrence College. This program has graduated more than 1,000 genetic counselors since 1969. There are 26 states that currently license genetic counselors, NYS is not one of them.

- We urge the Legislature to pass A.49/S.3552 to provide for the licensure of genetic counselors.



Support for Higher Education

NYS 2024-2025

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.

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 23-24 academic year, 714 University of Rochester undergraduates received assistance through the TAP program.

- We urge NYS to increase the income limit to \$110,000 (A.1889/S.3474), increase the min award from \$500 to \$1,000 (A.8089/S.7931), and increase the max award from \$5,665 to \$7,070. We urge NYS to restore Grad TAP.

Support the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP)

HEOP, sponsored jointly by the University and the NYS Department of Education (SED), provides economically and educationally disadvantaged students access to support services and financial aid to help them succeed. For the 2023-24 academic year, 98 students at the University participated in HEOP.

- The Governor is proposing to cut HEOP from \$48.89 million to \$46.89 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore HEOP but increase support by 20% to \$53.6 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 scholarships for NY families who have exhausted other forms of financial aid. The \$911,858 we receive in Bundy Aid annually is vitally important to the \$300 million in overall institutional tuition assistance we provide our students. For the 2023-24 academic year, 938 students at the University received support through Bundy Aid.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal to limit eligibility for Bundy Aid to institutions with endowment assets less than \$750 million, effectively eliminating the program for 17 institutions, including the University of Rochester. We also urge a restoration in funding to \$35.1 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 Governor did not include another round of funding for HECap in her proposal. We urge the Legislature to fund HECap at \$30 million in the FY 24-25 budget.

Support Nursing Education

The University of Rochester urges continued support for the Senator Pat McGee Scholarship Program and Nursing Faculty Loan Forgiveness Program, as well as the High Needs Nursing Program, in order to continue to address nursing shortages in Upstate New York.

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

- The Governor is proposing to decrease support for the Patricia McGee Scholarship. We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal to cut the program to \$3.93 million and level fund the program at \$4.93 million.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to level fund the High Needs Nursing Program at \$941,000.
- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to level fund the Nurses Across NY Loan Forgiveness Program at \$3 million.

Support the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)

Since 1985, STEP at the University of Rochester has introduced 7th through 12th graders from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to problem-based learning, conceptual thinking, and the skills needed to enter and succeed in careers in scientific, technical, and health-related fields, or the licensed professions. For the 2023-24 academic year, the University had over 50 students participate in our education pipeline, which includes one 6-week summer program, two 4-week programs, and a 12-week academic program.

- We are disappointed that the Governor is cutting the STEP program from \$21.51 million to \$20.87 million. We urge the Legislature to not only restore the program but provide an additional 20% increase to \$25.8 million.

Create the Charles L. Reason Fellowship

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

- Pass A.2703/S.1046 and provide \$3 million in the FY 2024-2025 budget for the Fellowship.

Support for Diversity in Medicine

With state support, the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) have offered an array of programs across the state with the intent of expanding the pool of students choosing careers in health and medicine, including the AMSNY Post-Baccalaureate Program which provides academic enrichment and support to students from educationally or economically underserved backgrounds. AMSNY's Diversity in Medicine Scholarship program supports under-represented medical students who agree to practice full time in a health care shortage area in NY after graduation.

- We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal to provide level funding of \$3.644 million for the Program.
- We urge the Legislature to also provide \$1 million for the Diversity Scholarship.

Modernize Higher Education Programs

The University of Rochester supports legislation that seeks to allow students and institutions to be flexible and adapt to a changing environment. A.8389/S.6592 will allow institutions to meet the demands of students by having SED expedited the program approval process.

- We urge NYS to pass A.3282/S.3412, which relates to the registration of new curricula or programs of study offered by a not-for-profit college or university.

Expand the Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

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

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



Economic Development, Innovation, Life Sciences & Biomedical Research NYS 2024-2025

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

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

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

Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs)

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

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

- We are disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the CATs. We urge the Legislature to not only restore funding but to increase support for the CATs at \$1.25 million each in the FY 24-25 budget.

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 2021-2022, the Rochester COE in Data Science generated \$25.7 million in economic impact, served 11 companies and created or retained at least 25 jobs. And thanks to continued support from the state, the University of Rochester is among the most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in the world. After two years with reduced funding, we are grateful that the Legislature was able to fully restore funding for the COEs in the FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 budgets, which included \$1 million for the Rochester COE in Data Science.

- We are disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the COEs. We urge the Legislature to not only restore funding but to increase support to \$1.25 million for each of the COEs in the FY 24-25 budget.





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

NextCorps is an affiliate of the University of Rochester and the region's only state- and federally designated business incubator. It is currently home to more than 70 companies. NextCorps programs and services support innovation and growth across all stages of the company life cycle. NextCorps is part of NY's MEP program, a designated Innovation Hot Spot, a STARTUP-NY location, and also manages and coordinates NYSERDA's statewide effort to place experienced business executives known as "entrepreneurs-in-residence." In 2020, NextCorps was selected by NYSERDA as one of two new statewide cleantech accelerators offering a variety of support services and seed funding for clean energy companies to build or grow a clean energy business, a key part of the state's goal for an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund NY MEP at \$1.47 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 24-25 budget.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the Innovation Hot Spots at \$5 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 24-25 budget.



Support Luminate NY

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



Since its inception, Luminate NY has invested \$18 million in 63 startups. The companies in the portfolio now share a net worth of more than \$650 million. In addition to providing an estimated 1.5 to 2 times return on investment, many of the companies are establishing U.S. operations or some aspect of research and manufacturing in the Rochester region, which has resulted in 164 jobs.

- We thank the Governor and Legislature for the \$75 million Innovation Venture Competition Program in the FY 22-23 budget to ensure that Luminate receives \$5 million annually to continue through 2026.
- We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund the High Tech Matching Grants and Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START) initiative at \$12 million and urge the Legislature to support it as well in the FY 24-25 budget.

Empire AI

Governor Hochul has proposed Empire AI, a \$400 million public-private initiative to unlock AI R&D opportunities. The University of Rochester believes that a consortium with leading research institutions, public and private, is the right approach. However, the University of Rochester, one the nation's leading research institutions with significant strengths in AI, Machine Learning, high-performance computing, and home to the New York State Center of Excellence in Data Science, was not included as a founding member of the consortium. We believe that our expertise and resources make the University of Rochester well-positioned to be a valuable partner in this ambitious endeavor and ensure that the Rochester-Finger Lakes region is not excluded.

- We urge the Legislature to add the University of Rochester as a founding member of the Empire AI consortium if it is to be included in their one-house budget proposal.



In addition to being one of the world's most powerful computer systems, the Conesus supercomputer at the University of Rochester is among the most energy efficient, as ranked by the TOP500 list.



The Visualization-Innovation-Science-Technology-Application (VISTA) Collaboratory is a state of the art visualization lab capable of displaying massive datasets in real time.



Support Life Sciences as an Economic Driver

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. Additionally, 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.

Create a Center of Excellence in RNA

The University of Rochester and University at Albany are requesting that the State Legislature establish and provide \$250,000 in funding for a new NYSTAR Center of Excellence in RNA Research and Therapeutics (CERRT). This joint COE between both universities will tap this existing deep reservoir of expertise and resources to drive economic development through applied research and by training New York's next generation of biotech workers. RNA research like the type that led to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines has accelerated the pace of innovation and will continue to fuel economic growth across the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and health care industries. The University of Rochester and University at Albany have decades of experience in RNA-based research and therapeutic development supported by millions in NIH, foundation and industry funding. This deep experience, proven track record of external funding, and start-up potential provides New York with a significant advantage over other national biotechnology hubs.

- We urge the Legislature to establish and provide \$250,000 to create a new Center of Excellence in RNA Research and Therapeutics at the University of Rochester and University at Albany.



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

States across the nation are increasing their spending on biomedical research in order to be more competitive for federal funding opportunities. Massachusetts, Texas, California, Connecticut, and other states have instituted multi-million-dollar programs to fund biomedical translational research. Researchers in New York are being actively recruited by these states as funding from the federal government becomes increasingly difficult to secure. It is critical that New York State enhance its research faculty recruitment and retention efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness in biomedicine. NYFIRST was launched in 2017 with \$15 million to support the development of bioscience research laboratories throughout the state. In the first 3 rounds, NYFIRST has resulted in \$33.4 million in matching funds from institutions and 183 new jobs have been created. Unfortunately, in the enacted FY 23-24 budget as well as the Governor's proposed FY 24-25 budget, the NYFIRST program did not receive new funding. The initial appropriation is likely to be exhausted this year, necessitating new funding.

- We urge the State to invest an additional \$20 million in the NYFIRST program to help New York's medical schools recruit and retain leaders in biomedical research, create jobs and improve public health.

Support the Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP)

The ECRIP program supports training for clinical investigators in order to support strategically important areas of research for New York's teaching hospitals and to assist in the recruitment and retention of these researchers. At the University of Rochester Medical Center, ECRIP grants have helped to accelerate clinical research trials related to improving outcomes with chemotherapy, improving ADHD care, and treating tumor-related epilepsy, among others. In the FY 23-24 enacted budget, ECRIP was level funded at \$3.445 million. However, the Governor's proposed FY 24-25 budget eliminates funding for the program and the corresponding statutory authority.

- We urge the Legislature to reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate ECRIP and restore the program to level funding at \$3.445 million in the FY 24-25 budget.

Support Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP)

The New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) has provided more than \$79 million in research funding toward treatments for spinal cord injury since its inception in 1998. Funded by a surcharge on traffic ticket moving violations, this program has produced tangible clinical and scientific advances from robotics-based therapies to highly effective cellular replacement therapies that have been transformative for patients with these injuries while reducing their health care costs and ensuring their ability to maintain active working lives. Research projects funded through this program have attracted significant federal and private research support, industry partnerships, and the development of multiple patents. Given the advances in spinal cord injury research, we also thank New York State for the investment in a Neurorestoration Clinical Trial Network focused on novel treatments to maintain health, wellness and cure neurological disability. The Governor's proposed FY 21-22 budget eliminated SCIRP but the Legislature restored the program in the enacted FY 21-22 budget. The enacted FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 budgets level funded the program at \$8.5 million.

- The Governor's proposed budget level funds SCIRP at \$8.5 million. We urge the Legislature to remove the ceiling cap of \$8.5 million for SCIRP and instead support a \$18.5 million minimum funding allocation for FY 24-25 with future increases tied to yearly medical inflation rates.

FAST FACTS

The University of Rochester has been identified by the journal *Nature Biotechnology* as one of the top 10 universities in the nation for the impact of its life sciences research.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards more funding to the University of Rochester than any other institution in New York State outside of the New York City area.

The Finger Lakes region ranks 3rd in Biomedical Sciences Degrees and 9th in Life Sciences Degrees.

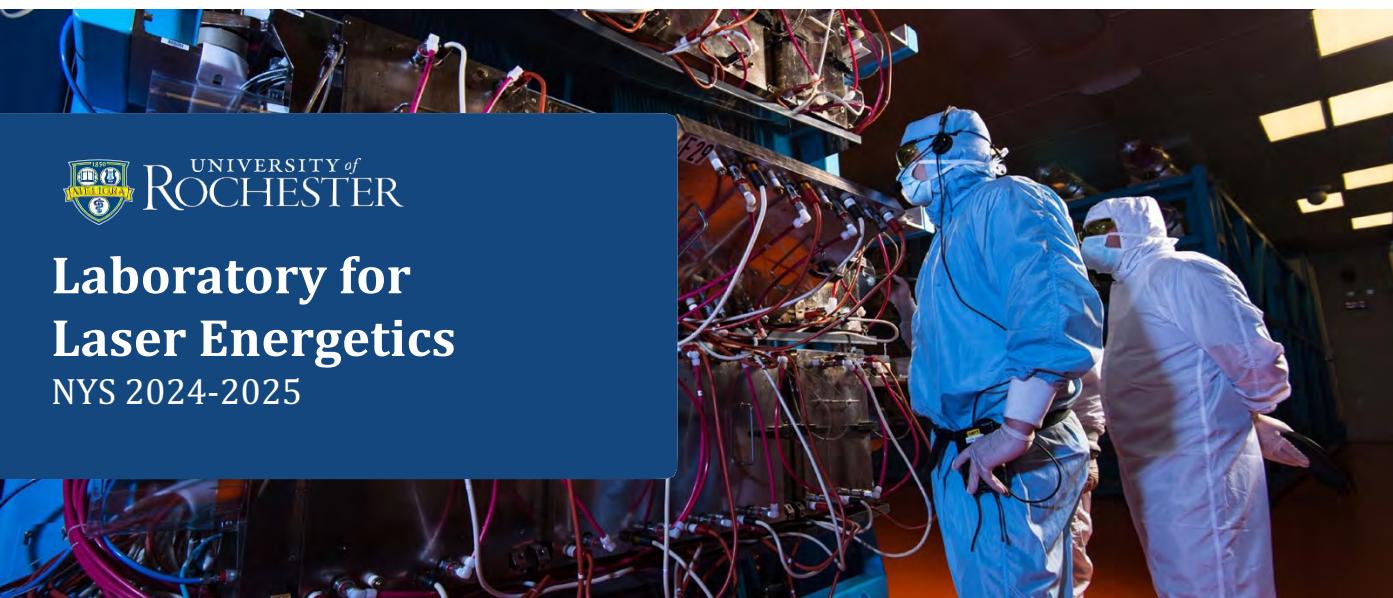
In addition, Rochester has more STEM graduates per capita than any other U.S. metro area (larger than 1 million)—including Boston, Raleigh, NYC, etc.



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

Laboratory for Laser Energetics

NYS 2024-2025



2024-25 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

2024-25 Executive Budget: \$1,000,000

2023-24 Enacted Budget: \$1,000,000

Agency: Empire State Development

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

The LLE is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) largest university-based research program nationwide and one of the only New York-based programs annually line-itemized in the federal budget. It is also home to the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. State funding helps LLE to leverage significant additional federal support and ensure the LLE's status as the nation's leading university-based research center in fusion, laser science and technology, and high-energy-density physics research.

A Global Leader

The LLE is a unique national resource not found at any other university in the nation and is one of the crown jewels of New York State technology and innovation.

The LLE is home to the largest and most capable lasers (OMEGA and OMEGA EP) at any academic institution globally. The LLE is one of three primary DOE science-based Stockpile Stewardship Program facilities, along with the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Livermore National Laboratory and the Z Pulsed Power Facility at Sandia National Laboratories. LLE is the leading laboratory for direct-drive inertial confinement fusion and a strong partner with the national labs and others on the work to

demonstrate ignition. Together these facilities made steady progress on the grand scientific and engineering challenge of fusion, culminating in NIF successfully achieving ignition in December 2022, an achievement that opens new areas of scientific exploration, helps to maintain U.S. leadership, avoids "technical surprise" from other nuclear weapons states such as Russia or China, and helps advance fusion as an energy source.

State and Federal Funding

The support the University receives annually through NYSERDA provides a more than 100:1 leverage and has proven extremely valuable in demonstrating the state's commitment to the DOE and the U.S. Congress. Thanks to the \$1,000,000 appropriation included in the 2023-24 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided \$95 million in direct fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding for the LLE. Currently, more than \$100 million in direct FY24 federal funding is pending with Congress.

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

Economic Impact

LLE employs more than ~430 full-time employees and its economic activity supports an additional 550 indirect and spillover jobs for a total impact of about 980 jobs, \$56 million in income and \$3.7 million in revenue to state and local governments.

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

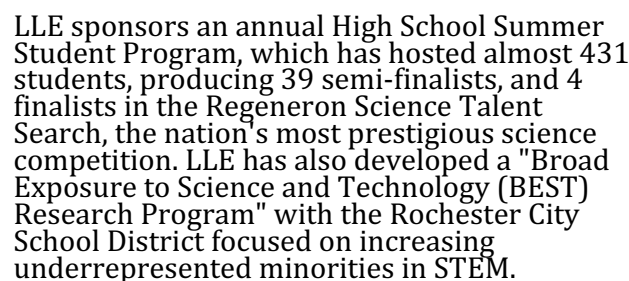
LLE serves a critical national security function and is also at the forefront of efforts to demonstrate the viability of nuclear fusion as an inexhaustible, clean, and affordable source of energy. Once realized, nuclear fusion will not only diversify the state's energy portfolio but will advance the state's energy and economic well-being. The LLE is the lead laboratory for the laser direct-drive approach to fusion and was recently awarded a four-year, \$10 million award from the DOE Office of Fusion Energy Science to lead a national research hub – one of only three nationally -- dedicated to advancing inertial fusion energy (IFE) science and technology. The research will focus on determining the scientific and technological underpinnings for a broad-bandwidth, direct-drive IFE laser system—one that could pave the way to building the world's first fusion power plant.

Thanks to state support, LLE's newly acquired supercomputer, Conesus, is now ranked as one of the world's most powerful -- #349 in the world on the Top500 list of top performing supercomputers as well as #77 on the project's GREEN500 list. This gives LLE a factor of four increase in its capability to accelerate innovation.

Education is a core component of the LLE's mission. As the DOE's largest university program, the LLE is the only facility that trains graduate students, not just from Rochester but other leading institutions, in inertial confinement fusion -- providing an invaluable

The DOE has also designated the LLE as the National Laser User's Facility which allows the LLE to host more than 750 registered users from other universities, industry, and the national laboratories utilize LLE research in ICF, HED physics and basic science, training, and education.

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



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



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



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



Education

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



MAGconnect

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



Centennial Sculpture Park

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

FAST FACTS

- MAG is grappling with a revenue loss of **more than \$4 million** brought on by the pandemic.
- **More than 5,000 students**, in grades Pre-K through 12, visited MAG on school tours and field trips in FY 2023.
- In 2023, MAG completed the final phase of the **Centennial Sculpture Park** that it broke ground on in 2021.
- **500 low-income residents** receive free transportation, free museum admission and free family memberships through MAGconnect each year.
- All Rochester City School District students receive **free admission** to MAG.