



University of Rochester

Office of Government and Community Relations NYS FY 2026-2027 Legislative & Funding Priorities



Economic Impact

\$11.8 billion

contributed to the regional economy by URochester annually

\$952M

in research-driven economic output across New York State

\$660M

community benefit invested in healthcare, education, and outreach to strengthen the region's well-being

\$488M

research expenditures funding advancements in medicine, tech, and science to drive innovation and discovery

Largest laser in the world at an academic campus at the Laboratory for Laser Energetics

\$71,503

Average graduate salary

124
invention disclosures

400+
patents

Top 30 Value Schools*



Research Impact

R1 Research Institution

Our world-class innovators make groundbreaking discoveries

3,000 researchers

130+ institutes and centers



Life-Changing Impact

8 hospital health system

27+ counties served

5M outpatient visits annually

URochester research led to world's first cancer vaccine

Wilmot Cancer Institute is among **4% of US cancer centers to achieve National Cancer Institute designation**

Children's hospital **nationally ranked in 4 pediatric specialties**

TIER 1 **best medical school** for research*

Strong Memorial Hospital is ranked the **#1 hospital in Upstate & Western NY**

91% School of Nursing faculty currently practicing in clinical settings

13
Nobel Prizes

4 new transdisciplinary centers solving complex global challenges through deeply collaborative research

Eastman Institute for Oral Health is the region's **largest safety net oral health care provider**

Member of the **Empire AI Consortium**, accelerating the development of artificial intelligence for the public good



Student & Financial Impact

12,000+

total number of students enrolled

\$320M

institutional grants and scholarships

1,171 received Federal Pell Grants

\$54,239

average total aid per student

1,701 received Federal Work Study

1,072 received Federal SEOG

102 students participated in NYS HEOP

818

undergraduate students receive assistance through NYS TAP

75% first year students received aid

59% of the Class of 2025 had no student loan debt



Cultural Impact

Eastman School of Music

#3 best music school in the United States[†]

#11 best music school globally

13

Pulitzer Prize winners

900+

annual performances

26

music ensembles

75+

Grammy Awards

Home to the largest academic music library in North America, the third largest among US music collections

12,000+

works of art in our Memorial Art Gallery's permanent collection



University of Rochester

Office of Government & Community Relations
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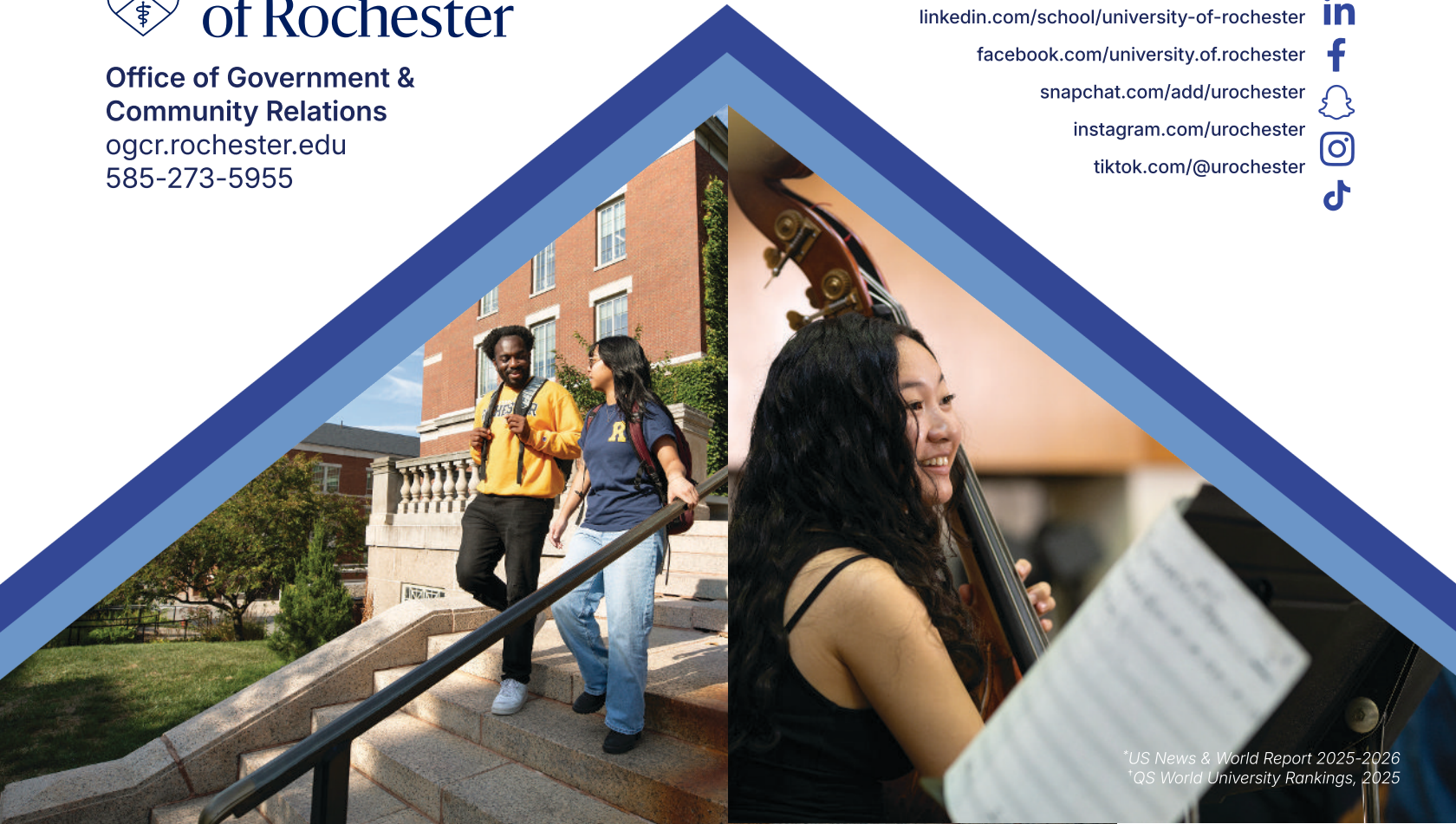
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[†]US News & World Report 2025-2026
[†]QS World University Rankings, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER (UR) MEDICINE FACT SHEET



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER HOSPITALS AND HEALTH AFFILIATES

- Strong Memorial Hospital
- Highland Hospital
- Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong
- Wilmot Cancer Institute at Strong
- The Highlands (Living Centers at Brighton and Pittsford)
- UR Medicine Home Care
- Strong West
- Jones Memorial Hospital
- Thompson Health
- M.M. Ewing Continuing Care Center, Thompson Health
- Noyes Memorial Hospital
- St. James Hospital
- Geneva General Hospital, Finger Lakes Health
- Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hospital, Finger Lakes Health
- Living Center at Geneva - North, Finger Lakes Health
- Living Center at Geneva - South, Finger Lakes Health
- Huntington Living Center, Finger Lakes Health
- The Homestead, Finger Lakes Health

About UR Medicine:

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.

- UR Medicine is the largest safety-net provider and most specialized academic health care system in upstate New York. Our eight hospitals, seven nursing home, home care, regional children’s hospital, comprehensive cancer center, and more than 28,000 doctors, nurses, physician assistants, provides care across more than 27 counties with a population of more than 3 million.
- Strong Memorial Hospital is home to the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center.
- Over the last five years, the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) has received more than \$1.3 billion in biomedical research funding to study common and rare illnesses, from cancer and heart disease to Parkinson’s and pandemic influenza. This has made us the largest recipient of NIH funding in Upstate New York.
- URMC Department of Psychiatry is the region’s largest provider of behavioral health services for children and families and the region’s only provider of acute crisis services.
- Our new Brighter Days Pediatric Mental Health Urgent Care is Upstate New York’s first ever and only walk-in mental health crisis clinic for youth to get immediate care.
- UR Medicine’s Wilmot Cancer Institute is the nation’s newest National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center and the region’s leader in cancer care and research with 13 locations serving patients across Western and Central New York.
- URMC has a long history of outstanding clinical care and research breakthroughs, including the first vaccine for childhood meningitis and pivotal contributions to the pioneering HPV cancer vaccine.

\$660M

IN COMMUNITY
BENEFIT AND
CHARITY
CARE IN
2024

\$313M

IN UNCOMPENSATED
AND COMMUNITY
CARE IN 2024





SUPPORT PATIENT CARE & HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



Preserve Support for Hospitals:

In a fiscal survey conducted by HANYS, hospitals statewide project a median 0.1% operating margin in 2025. UR Medicine plays an outsized role in health care delivery in upstate NY as the largest provider, safety net, and private employer. Medicaid investments were authorized in the FY 2025 and FY2026 enacted budgets. Notably, the FY 2026 budget includes a three-year investment plan tied to a dedicated revenue stream from a newly established Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax. Alongside other Medicaid investments, a key feature of the plan is a 10% increase in Medicaid hospital outpatient payment rates — an investment critically important to hospitals’ and health systems’ ability to preserve patient access to essential and preventive services.

- **“Healthcare Stabilization Fund”:** We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal for a \$1.5 billion (\$750 million state share) “Healthcare Stabilization Fund,” which is funded by the MCO Tax, for additional support for hospitals and nursing homes. This funding is in addition to the allocations hospitals and nursing homes received last year.
- **Medicaid Rate Add-On:** For hospitals, the Governor’s proposal includes the previously committed 10% Medicaid outpatient rate increase for FYs 2026 and 2027. We ask for support for this but also for consideration for our years.
- **Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF):** Support the Governor’s proposal for \$127 million for the MIF, including \$75 million in new funding on a one-time basis to maintain the Fund’s solvency through FY 2027.

Support Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities and Nursing Homes:

According to estimates from the state Attorney General's office, about 60% of New York’s more than 600 nursing homes are for-profit. The rest are operated by nonprofits like us, and municipal entities. In NYS, Medicaid covers only 76% of actual costs for nursing homes, with more than 85% of nonprofit homes operating at a loss. Since 2014, chronic underfunding by the state has led to 3,500 LTC beds permanently closed, 7,200 beds offline due to staffing shortages, 72,000 beds in financial distress, and 32 nursing home closures, primarily located in upstate NY. The lack of LTC capacity is delaying the discharge of medically stable patients from the hospital to a more appropriate setting. On average, UR Medicine’s Strong and Highland Hospitals have 100-120 patients ready for discharge, but with no available LTC bed to discharge too. This not only impacts inpatient beds, but is also straining our Emergency Departments, as Strong and Highland average over 110% daily occupancy.

- **“Healthcare Stabilization Fund”:** We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal for a \$1.5 billion “Healthcare Stabilization Fund (\$750 million state share),” which is funded by the MCO Tax, for additional support for hospitals and nursing homes. This funding is in addition to the allocations hospitals and nursing homes received last year.
- **Medicaid Rate Add-On:** Support the Governor’s proposed Medicaid Rate Add-On for long term care (LTC) of \$386 million (\$193 million state share) through the Healthcare Stabilization Fund
- **Capital Rate Restoration:** Increase the Executive’s proposed restoration of the Nursing Home Capital Rate from 10% to 15%, reflecting the full amount of the prior capital rate reduction.
- **Legislation: Support CINERGY** legislation (A.8738/S.8222 of 2025) and support the Governor’s proposal to authorize certified medication assistants to administer routine, pre-filled, or prepackaged medications in nursing homes, A.1272 (Clark).
- **Rebasing:** DOH must rebase nursing home rates to reflect the actual cost of care and close the \$1.6 billion gap.

Support the 340B Anti-discrimination Act and Pharmacy Measures:

The 340B Drug Pricing Program requires pharmaceutical manufacturers participating in Medicaid or Medicare Part B to sell outpatient drugs at a discount to eligible safety-net providers serving the nation's most vulnerable patients. While the program is administered by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the discounts provided to covered entities for outpatient drugs come from drug manufacturers alone, not through state or taxpayer dollars. Safety-net providers use the savings from participating in the 340B program to stretch scarce resources to establish and support programs that improve access and quality of care for low-income and uninsured individuals in their communities.

The Medicaid cuts passed by the U.S. Congress in H.R. 1 will exacerbate our financial and operational challenges and threaten our ability to care for patients and to meet the healthcare workforce needs now and into the future. Multiple recent attacks in Washington on the 340B program, including actions by nearly 40 drug manufacturers to restrict 340B discounts when patients pick up their drugs at contracted community pharmacies, are having a significant impact on our hospitals and their ability to sustain and expand access to care. To date, 21 other states have passed legislation to protect 340B hospitals from efforts by pharmaceutical companies to limit hospital contract pharmacy arrangements, and discriminatory practices by pharmacy benefit manager (PBMs) to reduce reimbursement to 340B-hospitals, which is jeopardizing New Yorkers' access to care.

- **Include the 340B Anti-discrimination Act in the FY 2026-27 budget as outlined by A.6222 (Paulin)/S.1913 (Rivera).**
- **We urge NYS to continue its commitment to fund URMIC for three years to offset losses from the transition of the 340B program.**
- **Pass A.1720 (Rosenthal)/S.5314 (Bailey) to prevent "brown bagging" and "white bagging".**

Authorize Peace Officers at Highland Hospital:

Highland Hospital, one of the University's eight hospitals and one of its two hospitals located in the City of Rochester, is a 261-bed hospital founded in 1889. Highland employs more than 3,300 direct employees and 5,100 indirect employees. Highland Hospital is experiencing increasing incidents of violence and threats against staff. Highland Hospital is now the only hospital in the City of Rochester without peace officer status for its public safety officers. Peace officer status was granted to Rochester Regional Health's (RRH) two largest facilities in 2024 and to the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital in 2017. Peace Officer status at

Highland Hospital will enhance our ability to provide a safe and secure environment for staff, patients, and visitors.

- **Pass A.7345A (Bronson)/S.7327A (Brouk).**



Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities:

The NYS Department of Labor estimates that, on average, about 170,000 healthcare jobs will be open each year in the state between 2020 and 2030. A report by Common Ground Health found that in 1990, approximately 262,000 individuals in the Finger Lakes area were aged 55+. By 2020, this group had grown to more than 423,000, representing a 61% increase in this population between that time period. They also found that by 2025, one in five people in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region will be 65 or older. Additionally, a recent study by the Annals of Family Medicine found that there were 11,847 rural family physicians nationally in 2017 and 10,544 in 2023, a net loss of 1,303 (11%). The aging population and decrease in providers have a significant impact on healthcare facilities like hospitals, home care settings, and nursing homes, and also significantly affects the workforce we can recruit from.

- **Capital:**
 - We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal for an additional \$1 billion in capital funds to supplement the Safety Net Transformation Program and allocate a minimum of \$330 million in operating funding supported by MCO tax revenue for new and existing partnerships, as well as supporting new innovative models of care.
- **Health Homes:**
 - Support level funding for the Health Homes Program (\$196 million).
- **Hospitals at Home:**
 - Support the Governor's proposal that would authorize general hospitals to provide care in patients' homes without obtaining a license as a home care agency. The language also allows for DOH to establish medical assistance program rates for this work.



- **Physician Excess Medical Malpractice:**
 - Reject the Governor’s proposal to restructure Excess Medical Malpractice payments to defer half of the current year payment obligations to the following year, effectively halving the program funding for the year.
- **Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program:**
 - Support level funding of \$3 million.
- **Doctors Across NY Loan Repayment Program:**
 - Support level funding at \$15.8 million.
- **Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship:**
 - Reject the cut the Governor is proposing to the Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship (\$4.933 million).
- **Licensure Compacts:**
 - Support NYS entering into an Interstate Nursing and Medical Licensure Compact.
- **Mental Health:**
 - Support the Governor’s proposal that would give the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) the authority to issue a joint license to providers who deliver both mental health and addiction services.
- **Scope of Practice:**
 - Support the changes proposed by the Governor to various scope of practice areas including:
 - Permit qualifying medical assistants to administer immunizations in an outpatient office under the supervision of a registered physician, nurse practitioner, or physician’s assistant;
 - Allow certified medication aides in residential health care facilities to administer routine medications to residents under the supervision of a registered nurse and remove the unnecessary exclusions preventing nurse practitioners from performing certain activities for patients, even when within their scope;
 - Permanently codify measures that were temporarily in effect during the COVID-19 pandemic permitting physician assistants to practice independently under specific circumstances and in designated settings; and
 - Permanently extend provisions expanding health care testing and other scope of practice flexibilities including pharmacist directed limited-service laboratories and non-patient specific testing orders.
- **Prior Authorization:**
 - Support the Governor’s proposal to make changes to the Prior Authorization process and consider changes included in A.3789A (Weprin)/ S.7297A (Hoylman-Sigal).





SUMMARY: SUPPORT PATIENT CARE & HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



Summary of NYS FY 26-27 Patient Care Programs:

• Support Dental Care and Academic Dental Centers:

- Increase the overall Medicaid rate for dentistry care at EIOH to at least \$300 per visit and increase the rate for all six academic dental centers.
- Provide \$20 million in capital support to EIOH to support restoration, construction, and expansion of clinical space.
- Support legislation such as: A.3071-A (Lunsford)/ S.3243-A (Cooney) to create the SMARTeeth app pilot and A.3224-B (Woerner)/ S.3966-A (Stavisky) that would offer qualified dentists trained outside of the United States and Canada the option to join the full-time faculty of a dental school or complete a preceptorship in a hospital or clinic setting in a dental HPSA as a means to become licensed in New York State.

• Support Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes:

- “Healthcare Stabilization Fund”: We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal for a \$1.5 billion “Healthcare Stabilization Fund (\$750 million state share),” which is funded by the MCO Tax, for additional support for hospitals and nursing homes. This funding is in addition to the allocations hospitals and nursing homes received last year.
- Medicaid Rate Add-On: For nursing homes, the Governor is proposing a Medicaid Rate Add-On for LTC of \$386 million all funds (\$193 million state share) through the Healthcare Stabilization Fund, which is funded by the MCO tax. This add-on is not recurring in out years, and it is reliant on a CMS state plan amendment (SPA) approval.
- Capital Cut Restoration: Support the Governor’s proposal to restore the 10% Capital Cut for nursing homes (\$54.8 million all funds-\$27.4 million state share), which would be funded by nursing home VAPAP reprogramming.
- Legislation: Support CINERGY legislation (A.8738/S.8222 of 2025) and support the Governor’s proposal to authorize certified medication assistants to administer routine, pre-filled, or prepackaged medications in nursing homes, A.1272 (Clark).
- Rebasing: DOH must rebase nursing home rates to reflect the actual cost of care and close the \$1.6 billion gap.

• Support the 340B Anti-discrimination Act and Pharmacy Measures:

- Include the 340B Anti-discrimination Act in the FY 2026-27 budget as outlined by A.6222 (Paulin)/S.1913 (Rivera).
- We urge NYS to continue its commitment to fund URMH for three years to offset losses from the transition of the 340B program.
- Pass A.1720 (Rosenthal)/S.5314 (Bailey) to prevent “brown bagging” and “white bagging”.

• Authorize Peace Officers at Highland Hospital:

- Pass legislation to authorize peace officers at Highland Hospital, A.7345A (Bronson)/S.7327A (Brouk).

• Preserve and Maintain Medicaid for Hospitals:

- “Healthcare Stabilization Fund”: We ask the Legislature to support the Governor’s proposal for a \$1.5 billion all funds “Healthcare Stabilization Fund,” which is funded by the MCO Tax. \$1.5 billion all funds (\$750 million state share) is included for additional support for hospitals and nursing homes. This funding is in addition to the allocations hospitals and nursing homes received last year.
- Medicaid Rate Add-On: For hospitals, the Governor’s proposal includes the previously committed 10% Medicaid outpatient rate increase for FYs 2026 and 2027. We ask for support for this but also for consideration for out years.



SUMMARY: SUPPORT PATIENT CARE & HEALTHCARE FACILITIES



• Invest in the Healthcare Workforce and Facilities:

- **Capital:** We urge the Legislature to support the Governor's proposal for an additional \$1 billion in capital funds to supplement the Safety Net Transformation Program and allocate a minimum of \$330 million in operating funding supported by MCO tax revenue for new and existing partnerships, as well as supporting new innovative models of care.
- **Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF):** Support the Governor's proposal for \$127 million for the MIF, including \$75 million in new funding on a one-time basis to maintain the Fund's solvency through FY 2027.
- **Health Homes:** Support level funding for the Health Homes Program (\$196 million).
- **Hospitals at Home:** Support the Governor's proposal that would authorize general hospitals to provide care in patients' homes without obtaining a license as a home care agency. The language also allows for DOH to establish medical assistance program rates for this work.
- **Physician Excess Medical Malpractice:** Reject the Governor's proposal to restructure Excess Medical Malpractice payments to defer half of the current year payment obligations to the following year, effectively halving the program funding for the year.
- **Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program:** Support level funding of \$3 million.
- **Doctors Across NY Loan Repayment Program:** Support level funding at \$15.8 million.
- **Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship:** Reject the cut the Governor is proposing to the Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship (\$4.933 million).
- **Licensure Compacts:** Support NYS entering into an Interstate Nursing and Medical Licensure Compact.

- **Mental Health:** Support the Governor's proposal that would give the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) the authority to issue a joint license to providers who deliver both mental health and addiction services.
- **Scope:** Support the changes to proposed by the Governor to various scope of practice areas including:
 - Permit qualifying medical assistants to administer immunizations in an outpatient office under the supervision of a registered physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant;
 - Allow certified medication aides in residential health care facilities to administer routine medications to residents under the supervision of a registered nurse and would remove the unnecessary exclusions preventing nurse practitioners from performing certain activities for their patients, even though such activities are within their scope of practice;
 - Permanently codify measures that were temporarily in effect throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, permitting physician assistants to practice independently under specific circumstances and in designated settings; and
 - Permanently extend provisions related to expanded health care testing and other scope of practice flexibilities including pharmacist directed limited-service laboratories and non-patient specific testing orders.
- **Prior Authorization:** Support the Governor's proposal to make changes to the Prior Authorization process and consider changes included in A.3789A (Weprin)/ S.7297A (Hoylman-Sigal).
- **Credentialing:** We urge DOH to review for flexibilities the mandated credentialing activities for locums and clarify physician re-credentialing requirements so that hospitals only need to request new affiliate information during triennial re-credentialing.



SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL

NYS FY 2026-27 HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES:

- **Bundy Aid:**
 - **Restore the FY 24-25 cut to Bundy Aid** by increasing aid from \$16.3 million to \$35.1 million and reinstating eligibility for all private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.
- **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and Grad TAP:**
 - **Restore Grad TAP to \$68 million** to support students in critical workforce fields such as health professions, STEM, and teaching.
- **Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP):**
 - **Reject the proposed budget cut to HEOP and level fund the program at \$49.75 million.**
- **Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP):**
 - **Reject the proposed budget cut to STEP and level fund the program at \$22.14 million.**
- **Support Medical, Nursing, and Dental Education:**
 - **Support level funding for the Doctors Across NY Program at \$15.8 million.**
 - **Maintain funding for the AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science Program at \$3.644 million and maintain funding for the AMSNY Scholarship in Medicine at \$1.25 million.**
 - **Support level funding for the Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program from \$3 million.**
 - **Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship Program from \$4.93 million to \$3.93 million.**
 - **Support level funding for the Nursing Faculty Loan Program at \$941,000.**
 - **Support NYS to entering the Interstate Nursing and Medical Licensure Compact.**
 - **Create a new Dentists Across NY Loan Repayment Program as outlined by A.2339 (Woerner)/ S.5339 (Fahy).**
 - **Support A.3224-B (Woerner)/ S.3966-A (Stavisky):** This legislation would offer qualified dentists trained outside of the United States and Canada the option, in lieu of a residency program, to join the full-time faculty of a dental school or complete a preceptorship in a hospital or clinic setting in a dental HPSA as a means to become licensed in NYS.

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 were used to provide scholarships for NY families who have exhausted other forms of financial aid. We received \$911,858 in Bundy Aid which helped provide scholarships to 938 students. However, the FY 24-25 enacted budget cut Bundy Aid and eliminated eligibility for certain institutions, like ours, based on their endowment size. This directly impacted our students and the scholarship opportunities they received through the program.

- **Restore the FY 24-25 cut to Bundy Aid by increasing aid from \$16.3 million to \$35.1 million and reinstate eligibility for all private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.**

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and Grad 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 2025-26 academic year, 818 University of Rochester undergraduates received assistance through the TAP program.

- **Restore Grad TAP to \$68 million to support students in critical workforce fields such as health professions, STEM, and teaching.**

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 2025-26 academic year, 102 students at the University participated in HEOP.

- **Reject the proposed budget cut to HEOP and level fund the program at \$49.75 million.**

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 2025-26 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.

- **Reject the proposed budget cut to STEP and level fund the program at \$22.14 million.**



SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL



Support Medical, Nursing, and Dental Education:

The University of Rochester School of Medicine admits 96 MD and 8 MD/PhD students annually who learn in the Double Helix Curriculum, the first in the country to integrate clinical and basic science all four years, and continues to offer early meaningful clinical experience. With opportunities in research, community service, and international health, students can pursue personal interests within the curriculum. There is a total of 865 trainees in ACGME-accredited programs. Nearly 500 graduate students and 200 postdoctoral appointees are in training to become the basic, translational, and clinical investigators of the future. There are 1,973 total full-time faculty at the school.

The University of Rochester's School of Nursing is an innovator and leader in the field of nursing. UR Nursing developed the acute care nurse practitioner (NP) and the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Today, the NP role is the most in-demand and fastest-growing job in the U.S and NFP is now in 41 states and serves over 340,000 families. UR Nursing ranks among the top (#31) nursing schools in research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). 91% of the School's faculty are actively practicing in their field. Today, our School has an enrollment of more than 650 students across our academic programs.

For more than 100 years, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) has been a safety net provider for the community and a recognized national leader in outreach dentistry. EIOH is unique among academic health centers in the US. There are six academic dental centers in NYS. Despite the absence of an undergraduate dental school, we have internationally recognized dental residency programs, vibrant oral biology research that is in the top tier of NIH rankings, and robust clinical services. With roughly 160 residents at EIOH, dentists from all over the world come to Eastman for advanced training.

We urge NYS to:

- **Support level funding for the Doctors Across NY Program at \$15.8 million.**
- **Maintain funding for the AMSNY Scholars in Medicine and Science Program at \$3.644 million and maintain funding for the AMSNY Scholarship in Medicine at \$1.25 million.**
- **Support level funding for the Nurses Across NY Loan Repayment Program from \$3 million.**
- **Reject the Governor's proposal to cut the Patricia McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship Program from \$4.93 million to \$3.93 million.**
- **Support level funding for the Nursing Faculty Loan Program at \$941,000.**
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- **Support A.3224-B (Woerner)/ S.3966-A (Stavisky): This legislation would offer qualified dentists trained outside of the United States and Canada the option, in lieu of a residency program, to join the full-time faculty of a dental school or complete a preceptorship in a hospital or clinic setting in a dental HPSA as a means to become licensed in NYS.**



Ever wonder. Ever better.



ADDRESSING THE ORAL HEALTH CRISIS

NYS FY 2026-27 DENTAL PRIORITIES:

- **Increase the overall Medicaid rate for dentistry care at EIOH to at least \$300 per visit and increase the rate for all six academic dental centers.**
- **Provide \$20 million in capital support** to EIOH to support restoration, construction, and expansion of clinical space.
- Support legislation such as:
 - **A.3071-A (Lunsford)/ S.3243-A (Cooney):** Creates a pilot program in Monroe County for the SMARTeeth app and mechanisms for reimbursement.
 - **A.3224-B (Woerner)/ S.3966-A (Stavisky):** This legislation would offer qualified dentists trained outside of the United States and Canada the option, in lieu of a residency program, to join the full-time faculty of a dental school or complete a preceptorship in a hospital or clinic setting in a dental HPSA as a means to become licensed in New York State.
 - **A.2339 (Woerner)/ S.5339 (Fahy):** Creates a new Dentists Across NY loan repayment program.
 - **A.1069-A (Paulin)/ S.4955-A (Harckham):** Would provide due process protections to health care providers and recipients in the medical assistance program when under scrutiny by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG).

About the Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH):

For more than 100 years, the Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) at the University of Rochester has been a safety net provider for the community and a recognized national leader in outreach dentistry through time-tested strategies like school-based programs, remote clinics, community health centers and hospitals. EIOH is unique among academic health centers in the US, of which there are six centers in NYS. Despite the absence of an undergraduate dental school, we have internationally recognized dental residency programs, vibrant oral biology research that is in the top tier of NIH rankings, and robust clinical services. As one of the region's few dental care providers accepting Medicaid and the largest provider accepting Medicaid outside of NYC, patients at EIOH face considerable waits to be seen for care. **EIOH sees roughly 200,000 visits per year. About 77% of the patients at EIOH are covered by Medicaid. More than 40% of the patients who are seen at EIOH have complex diseases and conditions that usually cannot be treated elsewhere.**



THE FACTS:

- EIOH has more than **35,000 patients on the waitlist to receive dental care**. 77% of the patients we see are Medicaid-eligible and 33% of those patients on the waitlist are children ages 9-17.
- These patients on the waitlist **represent 55 different counties**.
- The waiting time for children requiring treatment under general anesthesia (GA) is approximately **one year**.
- For patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) or other conditions, such as Alzheimer's, who need treatment under GA, the wait time extends to **3.5 to 4 years**.
- Another critical statistic is the number of **urgent care dental visits, which totals around 30,000 annually**. These patients are unable to receive routine care, and if our clinic does not see them, they often end up in the Emergency Department (ED), where treatment typically involves opioids.
- The cost of a dental visit is approximately \$259, compared to \$1,800 for an ED visit. This means that, in Rochester alone, **our services save the healthcare system an estimated \$46 million annually**.



MEDICAID VISIT RATE & THE COST TO EIOH





SUPPORT PEACE OFFICERS AT HIGHLAND HOSPITAL

Pass A.7345A (Bronson) / S.7327A (Brouk), which confers peace officer status on members of Highland Hospital's security team.



About Highland Hospital:

Highland Hospital, one of the University's eight hospitals and one of its two hospitals located in the City of Rochester, was founded in 1889 and is a 261-bed hospital. Highland employs more than 3,300 direct employees and 5,100 indirect employees. It generates more than \$967 million in economic activity and provides more than \$64 million in community benefits. It provided care to more than 211,000 outpatients and 38,000 people in its emergency room. Medicare and Medicaid patients make up 65% of all people admitted and 66% of all outpatient care provided.

What are peace officers?

Peace officer is an additional status that may be granted to certain employees in certain titles once an institution, like a college or hospital, has received authorization through New York State law. Appointment as a peace officer requires the administration of an oath of office. Peace officers do not have the same level of authority as police officers and their peace officer duties are usually limited to very specifically assigned duties and locations.

Why does Highland Hospital need peace officers?

Highland is facing increasing incidences of violence, drug-related activities, and the presence of weapons, which pose significant challenges to maintaining a secure and safe environment for Highland Hospital staff, patients, and visitors. Violent incidents with criminal intent have increased 100% over the past two years at Highland Hospital and weapon confiscation has increased dramatically over the last decade and in 2024, there were 36 weapons confiscated in total at Highland Hospital.

Who currently has peace officers in Rochester?

Highland Hospital is now the only hospital in the City of Rochester without peace officer status for its public safety officers. Peace officer status was granted to Rochester Regional Health's (RRHs) two largest facilities in 2024 and to the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital in 2017.

Currently, Highland Hospital security personnel lack the necessary authority and tools to effectively manage these threats. When security detains an individual with intent for arrest, many times the City of Rochester Police Department (RPD) has a delayed response time or does not have the resources to charge them—it is typically easier to release the individuals off Hospital property.

Peace officer status would provide Highland Hospital with the authority needed to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies, prevent violence, and maintain a secure environment for our patients, visitors, and staff members.

It will increase efficiency and reduce response times, as well as have a greater deterrent effect on crime and misbehavior. It would also allow greater interagency cooperation and interoperability with the City of Rochester Police Department and Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

The escalation in violence in and around hospitals, including the shootings in Newburgh, NY and in Garner, NC, is a national trend that places hospital staff and visitors at risk and is showing no signs of slowing. In July, a Highland nurse was assaulted following her shift while walking to her vehicle.

Ensuring a safe and supportive environment for patients, visitors and staff members who work hard every day to provide compassionate, high-quality patient care is essential.

Who supports this legislation?

This legislation is supported by the University of Rochester, City of Rochester Mayor Malik Evans, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Finger Lakes Organization for Nursing Leadership (FLONL), City of Rochester Police Department, and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

PASS A.7345A (BRONSON) / S.7327A (BROUK)





LABORATORY FOR LASER ENERGETICS



About the Laboratory for Laser Energetics

Thanks to strong and consistent investment from New York State (NYS) since 1983, The University of Rochester's (UR) 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, a foundational component to strategic work on an independent energy future, and one of the key economic drivers for upstate New York.

A Global Leader

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 (HED) science research. 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 Omega Laser Facility, which houses the two largest and most-capable lasers (OMEGA and OMEGA EP) at any academic institution globally. LLE is one of the nation's three primary Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) and HED science facilities, along with the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore and the Z Pulsed Power Facility at Sandia. LLE is the lead lab for the laser-direct-drive approach to fusion, and partner on laser technology, target and diagnostic development. Together, the ICF Program diligently worked to learn and overcome challenges to control fusion, culminating in the NIF demonstrating ignition in 2022. This achievement opens new areas of scientific exploration, maintains U.S. scientific leadership, avoids "technical surprise" from other nuclear weapons states such as Russia or China, and helps advance fusion as an energy source.

OUR REQUESTS:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2026-27 Budget Request: | \$1,000,000 |
| 2026-27 Executive Budget: | \$1,000,000 |
| 2025-26 Enacted Budget: | \$1,000,000 |

Agency: Empire State Development

State and Federal Funding

The support the University receives annually through NYSERDA for LLE provides a more than 120:1 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 2025-26 Enacted State Budget, the U.S. Congress provided \$104.5 million in direct fiscal year (FY) 2025 funding for the LLE. Currently, more than \$116 million in direct FY 2026 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 (FES), 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 ~450 full-time employees and its economic activity supports an additional 550 spillover jobs for a total impact of about 1,000 jobs, \$66 million in income and \$3.7 million in revenue to state and local governments. Since FY 2015, LLE has made around \$60 million in purchases from over 1,000 NYS vendors. LLE provides a strong stimulus to the local economy by helping attract and develop new companies and investors, for example companies like Sydor Technologies. As a result of its growth and demand, the University completed a \$46 million, 66,000 sq. ft. office and lab building expansion.

Thanks to LLE and New York State support, NSF recently selected the University as a finalist for its Regional Innovation Engines Program to further grow the region as America's preeminent laser research and development hub. This effort has brought 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.

Scientific Leadership and Innovation

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. LLE was recently awarded a four-year, \$10 million award from DOE FES to lead one of three national research hubs dedicated to advancing inertial fusion energy (IFE). IFE-COLoR will focus on a broad-bandwidth, direct-drive laser IFE system that could pave the way to realizing fusion as a power source. FES also awarded LLE \$2.25 million to lead the Inertial Fusion Energy Science and Technology Accelerated Research (IFE-STAR) ecosystem that brings together academia, national laboratories, and the private sector to develop a clean, safe, and virtually limitless energy source, built on US leadership in inertial fusion.

LLE is helping the U.S. regain its leadership in intense, ultrafast lasers. LLE was awarded \$18 million from the NSF to design and prototype key technologies critical for a new laser system called NSF-OPAL. A successful NSF-OPAL design would enable the construction of the highest-power laser system in the world, which would open exciting new areas of scientific discovery and potential future technological applications. In 2025, LLE was awarded \$35 million to advance research on directed energy systems, an area of growing emphasis in the Department of Defense's efforts to counter a full range of missile threats, and is currently leading a project, with industry, to demonstrate military utility of short-pulse lasers.

Acquired thanks to state, and federal, support, LLE's super-computer, Conesus, ranked as one of the world's most powerful. Conesus quadruples LLE's computing power and better enables the use of AI to help predict, design, and improve laser-fusion implosions to accelerate innovation.

Education and Growing the STEM Pipeline

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 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 230 students are conducting their research and education at the LLE, one-third of whom go on to work in the national laboratories and a third are employed in the Rochester region after graduation at

companies like L3Harris. More than 800 users from more than 65 institutions, including other universities, industry, and national laboratories utilize LLE for research, training, and education in ICF and HED science. LLE is designated as the DOE National Laser User's Facility, making it possible for users to conduct experiments without a direct facility charge. Additional access for qualified users is made possible through the DOE FES supported LaserNetUS and NSF supported Center for Matter at Atomic Pressures (CMAP).

The LLE also provides research opportunities for undergraduates, including students at SUNY Geneseo. The LLE has partnered with SUNY Geneseo for more than 25 years and provided more than \$7.5 million for research and equipment that annually supports for more than 16 undergraduate students and 5 faculty.

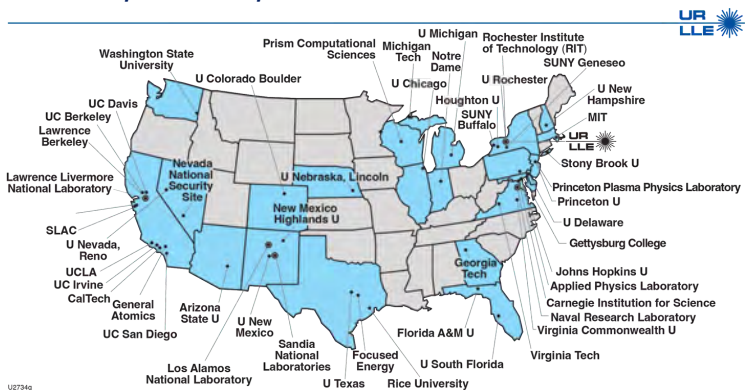


LLE sponsors an annual High School Summer Student Program, which has hosted 448 students, producing 39 semi-finalists, and 4 finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's most prestigious science competition. LLE has also developed a "Broad Exposure to Science and Technology (BEST) Research Program" to better engage students and teachers within the Rochester City School District.

The Need for State Support

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 HED science research.

Academic, Industrial, and Government Users of LLE





SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIFE SCIENCES, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

NYS FY 2026-27 PRIORITIES:

- Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs):
 - Restore funding to **\$1 million each for all 15 Centers.**
- Centers of Excellence (COEs):
 - Increase funding to **\$500,000 for the Center of Excellence in RNA Research & Therapeutics.**
 - Restore funding to **\$1 million for the other 14 Centers.**
- Luminate NY
 - Provide **\$25 million to fund Luminate for 5 more years at \$5 million annually.**
- Empire Biomedical Research Institute (EBRI)
 - Provide **\$500 million in funding to establish EBRI.**
- Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP):
 - Increase funding to **\$4.345 million for the MEP program.**
- High Tech Matching Grants and Security Through Advanced Research and Technology (START):
 - **Support \$12 million in level funding for the High Tech Matching Grants and START initiative.**
- New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent (NYFIRST):
 - Add an additional **\$10 million to help New York's medical schools recruit and retain leaders in research.**
- Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP):
 - Restore **\$3.445 million in funding for ECRIP** that was cut in the executive budget proposal.
- Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP):
 - Increase funding to **\$18 million for SCIRP.**

FAST FACTS:

- The University of Rochester is the **largest private employer in Upstate New York.**
- Since 2005, **more than 50 startup companies were formed** using technology developed at the University of Rochester.
- 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 NYC area.**
- 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 University of Rochester is a **lead partner in the \$41 million EDA Tech Hub** for Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse to create a **globally leading semiconductor cluster.**
- The University is a finalist to be one of the **NSF's next Regional Innovation Engines** focused on developing a **world-leading laser and optics ecosystem in Rochester and Upstate NY.**



About the University of Rochester:

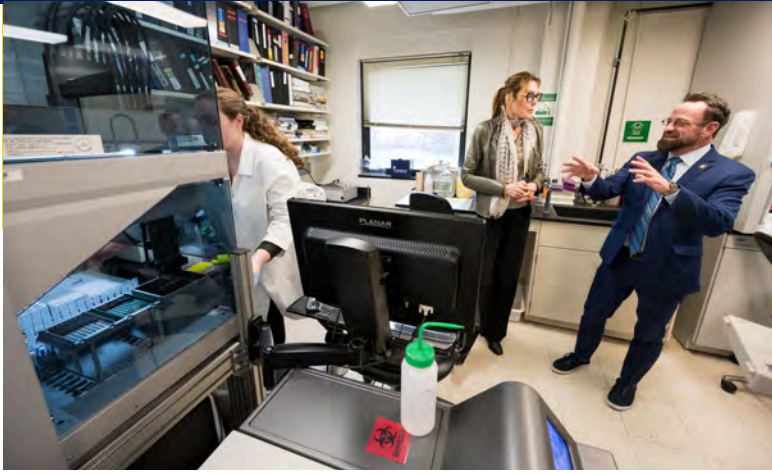
With more than 39,000 employees, the University of Rochester is the largest private sector employer in Upstate New York. The University is responsible for generating an estimated \$13 billion in statewide economic impact.

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, more than 50 startup companies were formed to license and commercialize technology developed at the University of Rochester.

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 URochester research enterprise has nearly a \$1 billion positive impact on New York State. 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.



SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIFE SCIENCES, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS



CEIS has led or supported efforts to secure all 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 grant and will play a vital role with its implementation. In 2023-2024, CEIS generated \$27.4 million in direct economic impact and created or retained at least 22 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 for the CATs to \$1 million each of the 15 Centers in the FY 26-27 budget.**

Support the Centers of Excellence (COEs):

New York State's 15 COEs are partnering with industry to transform research and technology capabilities into commercial applications. In 2023-2024, the Rochester COE in Data Science & AI created or retained at least 33 jobs and generated \$22.5 million in economic impact. And thanks to continued support from the state, the University of Rochester is among the most powerful university-based supercomputing sites in the world.

We are grateful that the 2024-2025 state budget established the Center of Excellence in RNA Research & Therapeutics (CERRT), a new joint COE between the University at Albany and University of Rochester. Initially funded at \$250,000, this joint venture will leverage the combined RNA expertise at both universities and work closely with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in New York to develop RNA-based therapies and train the next generation of New York's biotech workforce.

- **We are disappointed to see that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the COEs. We urge the Legislature to increase support to \$500,000 for CERRT and restore funding to \$1 million for each of the other 14 COEs in the FY 26-27 budget.**

Support the Centers for Advanced Technology (CATs):

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

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, and also manages NYSERDA's statewide effort to place experienced business executives known as "entrepreneurs-in-residence."

- **We thank the Governor for proposing to level fund NY MEP at \$1.47 million and urge the Legislature to increase funding by \$2.875 million to \$4.345 million in the FY 25-26 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 25-26 budget.**





SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIFE SCIENCES, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS



Support Luminare NY:

Luminare 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, Luminare NY has invested \$21 million in 85 startups. Those companies have spent \$21.6 million on more than 140 projects with New York design, manufacturing, and supply chain companies. These efforts have resulted in 210 new direct hires and supported or retained an estimated 700 jobs. Luminare companies have raised an additional \$437 million, providing an estimated 14:1 investment ratio.

Luminare was established in 2017 with funding from the Upstate Revitalization Initiative (URI). Then in the 2022-23 budget, the \$75 million Innovation Venture Competition Program was created to fund Luminare and other programs. However, that funding will end in 2026.

- **We urge the Legislature to include \$25 million to fund Luminare NY at \$5 million annually for another 5 years.**
- **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 26-27 budget.**

Empire Biomedical Research Institute (EBRI):

The Empire Biomedical Research Institute is a new initiative proposed by the Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) to launch a New York State institute that would fund scientific research in key areas of public health significance, infrastructure development, and workforce training. AMSNY recommends a large-scale investment – \$6 billion over 10 years – in funding for EBRI which should include a balance of capital and operating funding for grant making.

As the federal government reassess its research policies and funding, states like California, Massachusetts, Texas and others that have invested billions in biomedical research and are launching new initiatives are poised to galvanize their positions as global leaders in science.

New York State is the second leading recipient of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding – \$3.6 billion in 2024 supporting more than 6,000 research projects. 70% of this funding was awarded to scientists at our medical schools.

Investments in biomedical research drive employment and help New York create the highly skilled workforce of the future. 35,000 New Yorkers work in federally funded biomedical research. More than 17,000 people are directly engaged in research at our medical schools, generating \$8.3 billion in economic activity. Another 120,000 people are employed in life sciences companies in New York State.

- **We urge the Legislature to add \$500 million in funding for EBRI in the 2026-27 budget.**





SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIFE SCIENCES, AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS



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. Since 2018, with \$13.7 million invested by the State, NYFIRST generated \$123 million in matching funds through institutional investments. This represents a near 11:1 return on every state dollar invested in NYFIRST. In the first four years of this program, the State has enabled New York research institutions to retain or recruit nine leading scientists, creating 177 new jobs with an average salary of \$77,500.

The University of Rochester was awarded 3 NYFIRST grants for \$1 million each in 2018, 2019, and 2020 to help with the recruitment of top researchers. The funding allowed for the renovation and upgrade of scientific laboratories that focus on translational research for cancer, vision, and HIV.

- **We urge the Legislature to add an addition \$10 million for NYFIRST in the 2026-2027 budget 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 2024-2025 budget, ECRIP was level funded at \$3.445 million but it was eliminated in the 2025-2026 executive budget proposal.

- **We urge the Legislature to reject the governor's proposed cuts and fully restore ECRIP funding to \$3.445 million in the 2026-2027 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.

- **We urge the Legislature to increase funding for SCIRP up to \$18 million in the 2026-2027 budget.**





SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



Support Mt. Hope Family Center:

For over 45 years, the University of Rochester’s Mt. Hope Family Center has delivered life-changing, evidence-based interventions to at-risk children and families with the goal of reducing the devastating impact of childhood trauma, especially child maltreatment. Mt. Hope’s ties to academic research with direct services is unique. Through its Translational Research that Adapts New Science for Maltreatment Prevention (TRANSFORM) Center, Mt. Hope is one of only three NIH-funded “Centers of Excellence” across the nation dedicated to reducing the risk for, and consequences of, child abuse and neglect. We request a specific new line item for Mt. Hope Family Center that would allow us to hire additional trained clinicians to serve 90 additional families annually and to implement after school and summer youth programs for 450 more at-risk children per year.

- **Provide \$250,000 in direct support 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 support preventive services for vulnerable families and children. Building Healthy Children, a collaborative effort between Mt. Hope Family Center (MHFC), Monroe County Dept Human Services (MCDHS), the Society for the Protection and Care of Children, the United Way and the University of Rochester have long benefited from COPS support to address the causes of child abuse and neglect through evidence-based practices and home visitation services that provide parenting education, positive parent-child relationship

development, treatment for maternal depression, and vital support services to low-income teen families. This long-standing partnership between MHFC and MCDHS is critical to MHFC’s mission and the broader well-being of the community. The program has demonstrated measurable and sustained outcomes with 97% of participating families avoid Child Protective Services involvement during the program saving taxpayer funding and BHC mothers show clinically significant reductions in depressive symptoms by mid-treatment.

Building on the proven success of BHC, MHFC is now partnering with Monroe County Department of Public Health to expand the program universally across Monroe County through the Building Healthy Communities (BHComm) program.

- **Support level fund the COPS program at \$12.125 million.**

Ensure access to services for those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):

In NYS, there are only two FASD Clinics: one in New York City at Weill Cornell Medicine, consisting of a single provider, and the University of Rochester’s FASD Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic. Currently, FASD is not considered a developmental disability under NYS mental hygiene law, unlike in other states such as North Dakota. This has prevented those with FASD from receiving services from the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (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).

- **Include FASD under mental hygiene law as outlined by A.999A (Clark)/S.382A (Brouk).**

Support the Treatment and Prevention of Eating Disorders:

URMC is host to the Western New York Comprehensive Care Center for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs), one of only three Comprehensive Care Centers statewide. The Centers provide a 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. NYS established the CCCEDs in 2005 and originally provided \$1.5 million in funding for all three Centers. However, since 2008, the Centers have not been fully funded.

- **Restore funding for the Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs) to \$1.5 million.**

Support Suicide Prevention Programs:

Since 2016, the University of Rochester, through the Sources of Strength Program, has worked with school districts across the state to help combat youth suicide rates. Sources of Strength is a comprehensive wellness program that is evidenced-based and trains students as peer leaders and connects them with mentoring adult advisors at school and in the community where they, in turn, help fellow students with healthy coping and connections that reduce vulnerability to suicidal behavior. Over 60 schools have implemented this program (in more than 24 NYS counties), over 4,000 youth peer leaders and 920 adult mentors have been trained. The FY 24-25 and FY 25-26 budget included a new line item of \$200,000 directly for the University of Rochester's Sources of Strength Program.

- **Reject the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Sources of Strength Program (\$200,000).**

Support the Discharge of Children with Complex Cases:

In recent years, Strong Memorial Hospital has seen an increase in patients with acute behavioral health crises, mental health crises, and patients with significant Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (IDD), especially children. These patients have had increased lengths of stay in the hospital and need additional staff support to ensure proper care. The extended hospitalizations are attributed to a variety of factors, including a lack of outpatient service options and the lack of state agencies such as OMH or OPWDD taking "ownership" of the issue. This has created an environment where hundreds of New Yorkers with complex behavioral care needs unnecessarily languish in emergency departments and hospital beds annually, often for months or years. A.7603-A/ S.7978 could assist with these issues by giving the Council on Children and Families (CCF) the power to establish and maintain a confidential online data portal to help facilitate the coordination of residential and non-residential services to children and adolescents.

- **Support and fund A.7603-A (Hevesi)/ S.7978 (Brouk).**

Protect School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs):

New York's approximately 250 SBHCs provide a highly unique and child-centered model of care. SBHCs across the state care for approximately 350,000 at-risk youth in the most underserved rural and urban areas of New York. In many cases, SBHCs are the only source of access for these children to receive physical, mental, dental, and reproductive healthcare. The University of Rochester supports the SBHCs at East High School and Monroe High School within the City of Rochester. SBHCs have always been "carved out" of Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) in NYS and have remained in Fee-for-Service (FFS). While SBHCs were initially scheduled to transition to MMC in 2014, the carve-in date has been

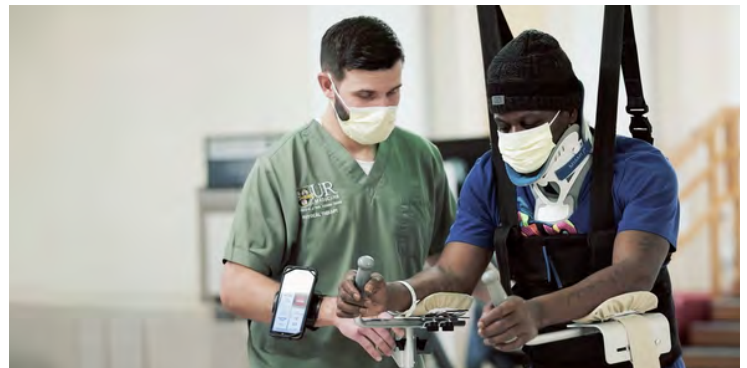
extended multiple times - most recently postponing it to April 1, 2026.

- **Maintain support at \$25 million for the SBHCs.**
- **Ensure that SBHCs remain in Fee-for-Service (FFS).**

Maintain support for the NYS Children's Environmental Health Centers (NYSCHECK):

NYSCHECK centers are located at eight medical centers across NYS, including one at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). The Centers provide a range of pediatric services, including patient care services to prevent, diagnose, and treat environmental health conditions, and education and training of providers. Thanks to the funding from NYS, all eight Centers have now started screening, counseling, and referrals in a range of clinical settings, as well as linking families with community-based prevention resources.

- **Support level funding for NYSCHECK at \$4 million.**



Increase support for the NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN):

NYS OHCN is the nation's only state-based occupational health clinic network. Its nine sites located throughout the state include one at URMC. The network offers specialized medical diagnoses, high-quality care, and support services. The OHCN assists New Yorkers by helping them to return to work quickly and safely and by preventing disease and injuries. Clinic services are available to all workers, retirees, and residents in NYS. Thanks to the support from the Legislature, funding for the Clinics increased from \$9.5 million to \$14.56 million in the FY 24-25 enacted budget, however, it was decreased to \$9.5 million in the FY 25-26 enacted budget.

- **Support level funding of the OHCN at \$9.5 million.**

Support the 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.

- **Support level funding for the CSP at \$19.825 million.**



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

The CEAD is a network of 10 medical centers and teaching hospitals, including the URM, recognized nationally and by NYS as experts in the diagnosis and care of individuals living with Alzheimer’s Disease or other dementias (AD/D). They offer interdisciplinary and comprehensive medical services for the diagnosis of AD/D, coordinate treatment and care management for individuals living with AD/D, provide linkages to community-based services for patients and caregivers, and provide expert training to physicians, health care professionals and students on the detection, diagnosis, and management of AD/D.

- **Support level funding of the CEAD \$26.36 million.**

Support the 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. Through NFP, specially educated nurses regularly visit first-time moms starting early in the pregnancy and continuing until the child’s second birthday.

- **Reject the Governor’s proposal to decrease support for the NFP from \$4 million to \$3 million.**

Provide Licensure for Genetic Counselors:

At URM, Genetic Counselors play a critical role in helping individuals with concerns about their personal or family history make medical decisions about managing their genetic health risks. While 26 states currently license genetic counselors, NYS is not one of them. The lack of licensure in NYS is a barrier to increasing our Genetic Counselor workforce at URM and ensuring all individuals get the care they deserve.

- **Pass A.183 (Rosenthal)/ S.3029 (Stavisky).**

Provide Licensure for Creative Arts Therapists (LCAT):

The University of Rochester’s Division of Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness’ Creative Arts Therapies program allows patients to utilize their creativity and interest in the arts to support their therapy goals and healing through foundational

skill development. Through URM and the Eastman School of Music, music therapists work with patients diagnosed with acute and chronic illnesses. From birth to adulthood, they help individuals cope with and process their hospitalization through music listening or music creation. Currently, the services provided by LCAT are not reimbursed under Medicaid.

- **Support A.3319 (Bronson)/S.1001 (Brouk) from 2025 and provide funding support for reimbursement.**



Support Early-Intervention (EI) Services:

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) serves children, ages 0-3, with a developmental delay or with a diagnosed condition with a high probability of resulting in delay. New York’s EIP is one of the largest in the nation, delivering services approximately 70,000 children and families. But the program has been underfunded for decades, leaving children and families in crisis. The Governor is proposing level funding for EI.

- **Reimagine Early Intervention (EI) by completing a comprehensive assessment of the Early Intervention system to identify what will make services accessible, equitable, and effective for every child who needs them and advance the Early Intervention Reform Bill (A.283A Paulin/ S.1222A Rivera) to modernize and strengthen EI statewide.**
- **Resource the Early Intervention system by fulfilling the promise made to providers by implementing the 5% EI rate increase.**
- **Grow and sustain the EI workforce by expanding the pipeline of qualified early childhood professionals by providing loan forgiveness to individuals entering the EI workforce as outlined by (A.1974 Paulin/ S.8290 Ryan).**



SUMMARY: SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS



Summary NYS FY 26-27 Public Health Programs:

- **Mt. Hope Family Center:**
 - Provide \$250,000 in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center.
- **Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program:**
 - Support level funding of the COPS program at \$12.125 million.
- **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):**
 - Include FASD under mental hygiene law as outlined by A.999A (Clark)/S.382A (Brouk).
- **Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs):**
 - Restore funding for the Comprehensive Care Centers for Eating Disorders (CCCEDs) to \$1.5 million.
- **Suicide Prevention:**
 - Reject the Governor’s proposal to eliminate the Sources of Strength Program (\$200,000).
- **Support the Discharge of Children with Complex Cases:**
 - Support and fund A.7603-A (Hevesi)/ S.7978 (Brouk).
- **School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs):**
 - Maintain support at \$25 million for the SBHCs.
 - Ensure that SHBCs remain in Fee-for-Service (FFS).
- **NYS Children’s Environmental Health Centers (“NYCHECK”):**
 - Support level funding of the NYS Children’s Environmental Health Centers at \$4 million.
- **NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network (OHCN):**
 - Support level funding of the OHCN at \$9.5 million.
- **Cancer Services Program (CSP):**
 - Support level funding of the CSP at \$19.825 million.
- **Centers of Excellence in Alzheimer’s Disease (CEAD):**
 - Support level funding of the CEAD at \$26.36 million.
- **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP):**
 - Reject the Governor’s proposal to decrease support for the NFP from \$4 million to \$3 million.
- **Licensure for Genetic Counselors:**
 - Pass A.183 (Rosenthal)/ S.3029 (Stavisky) and provide licensure.
- **Licensure for Creative Arts Therapists:**
 - Pass A.3319 (Bronson)/S.1001 (Brouk) from 2025 and provide funding support.
- **Early-Intervention (EI) Services:**
 - Complete a comprehensive assessment of the EI system to identify what will make services accessible, equitable, and effective for every child who needs them and Advance the Early Intervention Reform Bill (A.283A Paulin/ S.1222A Rivera) to modernize and strengthen EI statewide.
 - Resource the Early Intervention system by implementing the promised 5% EI rate increase.
 - Expand the pipeline of qualified early childhood professionals by providing loan forgiveness to individuals entering the EI workforce as outlined by (A.1974 Paulin/S.8290 Ryan).



SUPPORT MT. HOPE FAMILY CENTER (MHFC)

Mt. Hope Family Center (MHFC):

- Provide \$250,000 in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center with a new line item.
- Support level funding for the Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) Program at \$12.125 million.

About Mt. Hope Family Center (MHFC):

For over 45 years, MHFC has delivered life-changing, evidence-based interventions to at-risk children and families with the goal of reducing the devastating impact of childhood trauma, especially child maltreatment. We support children and families as they work toward short- and long-term psychological, physical, and economic well-being. These services strengthen the foundational connections between community wellness, mental health, and equity for Rochester’s children and families. Our unique approach combines clinical services, innovative research, and hands-on mentoring and training in one facility.

MHFC exists because:

- **One in seven** children experiences abuse or neglect each year nationally.
- Rochester children experience **abuse at 2.5 times higher** than the national average.
- **46 percent** of Rochester children live in poverty – among the worst in the nation.
- The child abuse-related infant fatality rate in Monroe County is **4 times the national average (per capita) and twice the NYS average.**
- The teen birth rate in Rochester is **about twice the national rate and three times the rate in NYS.** The teen birth rate in Rochester is seven times the rate in Monroe County towns and suburbs.

Mt. Hope’s Translational Research that Adapts New Science for Maltreatment Prevention (**TRANSFORM**) Center is **one of only three National Institutes of Health (NIH)-designated National Centers for Child Abuse and Neglect and the only one in New York State.** The Center identifies best practices for prevention and screening, as well as treatment of children affected by abuse. **Each year, MHFC serves more than 2,000 children and families** while contributing to national and international efforts to strengthen the field of child maltreatment prevention and intervention. **The Center reaches all 50 states and 11 countries** while engaging with scientific and lay professional communities alike to share 40 years of child abuse and neglect research to help raise awareness for a broad transdisciplinary audience. In addition, MHFC participates in the National Child Traumatic Stress Network - a unique network of frontline providers and researchers committed to raising the standard of care and



increasing access to services for children and families who experience or witness traumatic events.

With **support from New York State’s Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) program, MHFC partners with the Monroe County Department of Human Services (MCDHS) to deliver the Building Healthy Children (BHC) program**—an evidence-based, home-visiting intervention that promotes positive parent-child relationships and family well-being. Starting prenatally and extending through the first years of their baby’s life, BHC serves young mothers through service connection, intensive home-based support, and mental health treatment to strengthen parenting skills, reduce family stress, and foster healthy child development.

Need for NYS Support:

Despite Mt. Hope’s undeniable success and outcomes, there remains an urgent need to expand prevention and intervention efforts to reach even more vulnerable families in our community. Rochester’s kids and families need us now more than ever. The demand for MHFC’s services is particularly acute in Rochester, where high rates of poverty, violence, teen pregnancy, and economic hardship persist.

\$250,000 in direct support for Mt. Hope Family Center will allow MHFC to hire additional trained clinicians, allowing us to serve 90 additional families annually and to implement our after school and summer youth programs for 450 additional at-risk children per year. It will enhance our programs and services to meet demand and improve the well-being of Rochester’s and New York’s most vulnerable children and families. Your support will make it possible for MHFC to provide parents with the tools they need to break cycles of maltreatment, teen pregnancy, understand child development, and resolve conflicts peacefully.



SUPPORT ARTS PROGRAMS

NYS FY 2026-27 ARTS PRIORITIES:

- We urge the Governor and Legislature to **support the New York State Council on the Arts**. We are grateful for NYSCA funding, which provides critical operating support.
- We are **thankful for the recent \$25,000 grant award to MAG from NYSCA** that will help partially fund the Director of Academic and Community Programs.

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.

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 invited back for a second group visit focused on hands-on art-making.

Centennial Sculpture Park:

Completed in 2023, MAG's Centennial Sculpture Park is an artistic urban oasis that is always open and always free. The project received a \$600,000 grant from Empire State Development through the 2019 New York State Regional Economic Development Council initiative. 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:

- **Nearly 200,000 people visited** the museum in 2025.
- **12,453 school children from 28 school districts** toured MAG for free, which was often their first-ever visit to an art museum.
- **500 classroom teachers attended free professional workshops** and learned how to incorporate art into their curriculum.
- **MAG teaching-artists helped 2,719 participants develop their artistic talents over 51,138 instructional hours** in our Creative Workshop classes.
- **MAG exposed audiences to diverse forms of art in 11 special exhibitions**, from a survey of 500 years of drawings and watercolors to an inspiring exploration of colorful paintings by Alma Thomas.
- **MAG added 74 artworks to our collection** for generations to enjoy.

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 across the city. Through the MAG-RCSD Expanded Learning Collaboration (ELC), approximately 700 students in grades 2–4 visit the museum over consecutive weeks to see art and then create artwork of their own in MAG's Creative Workshop, connecting art with the school curriculum. In the 2024–25 school year, MAG eliminated school tour fees, ensuring access for all school groups—whether from urban, suburban, or rural districts—to visit the museum for free.





SUPPORT ARTS PROGRAMS



University of Rochester Eastman School of Music

The University's Eastman School of Music, located downtown in the City of Rochester, 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.

The Eastman School of Music is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), which is an association of post-secondary music schools in the U.S. We offer a Bachelor of Music curriculum, which is a four-year program designed to develop not only students' performance abilities but also their practical and academic skills. Additionally, we offer Master's level degrees in Music, Arts, and a Doctor of Musical Arts.

Education:

Outside of classes and degrees for undergraduate and graduate students, Eastman offers:

- **Eastman Community Music School:** Music lessons, ensembles, classes, and workshops to community members of all ages and backgrounds. From pre-school and early childhood programs to college prep and diploma programs to adult ensembles and classes, ECMS nurtures and inspires music students at all levels and provides financial aid to those that need it.
- **Eastman Pathways:** Provides scholarships for dedicated and talented Rochester City School District (RCSD) students to pursue music at the Eastman Community Music School. 93% of Pathways graduates have gone on to attend college, including Eastman, University of Rochester, Harvard, MIT, Columbia, the University of Miami, SUNY Fredonia, the Manhattan School of Music, and Juilliard.
- **ROCmusic:** Partnership of the Eastman School of Music and Eastman Community Music School, the Hochstein School of Music and Dance, the City of Rochester, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Rochester City School District.
- **New Horizons:** Provides entry points to music making for adults, especially seniors. Inclusive for all, including those with no musical experience at all, experienced musicians, and those who have been inactive for years.

Community Engagement:

Eastman's mission includes a deep dedication to community engagement, including connections with local partnerships and initiatives in Rochester. These include programs like:

- **Eastman Evenings at the Strong Museum of Play:** Two major Rochester, NY institutions, Eastman Community Music School (ECMS) and The Strong National Museum of Play (The Strong), formalized a partnership in 2023 in order to offer two main programs: Eastman Evenings is a series of short concerts in the museum's atrium featuring solo instrumentalists or ensembles; and Story Time Club are interactive events where ECMS Faculty provide instrumental accompaniment to narrators as they read children's books aloud.
- **If Music Be the Food:** Eastman faculty members and students join special guests for chamber music concerts at area churches to benefit Foodlink.
- **Jazz For Justice:** – A collaboration between the Eastman School of Music and the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar, the charitable arm of the Monroe County Bar Association.
- **UR in Tune:** Eastman Faculty bring their scholarship and artistry to the Highlands at Pittsford senior living community.





SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH FASD

Pass A.999-A(Clark)/ S.382-A (Brouk), which amends the mental hygiene law, in relation to adding fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) to the definition of developmental disability.

What is fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)?

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the range of effects that can occur where there is prenatal alcohol exposure. FASD includes several diagnostic conditions:

- Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS)
- Partial fetal alcohol syndrome
- Alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder (ARND)
- Alcohol-related birth defect (ARBD)

How is FASD diagnosed?

A person is diagnosed with an FASD by looking carefully at certain physical characteristics, growth patterns, and learning strengths and weaknesses. Interviews or records are reviewed to determine whether the person may have been exposed to alcohol during pregnancy.

How many people have FASD?

FASD affects 1 in 20 people in the United States. Rates are higher in special populations such as those connected to the child welfare system, who have mental health needs, special education populations, those connected to the justice system, etc.

Associated developmental and learning issues:

Most people with FASD have some degree of developmental delay or difficulty learning. Common difficulties include:

- Difficulty with social skills and building relationships
- Delayed motor skills or poor motor coordination
- Difficulty with daily living skills
- Learning problems: Children with FASD can have cognitive abilities ranging from severe intellectual disability to above-average intellectual ability.

URMC and FASD:

The FASD Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic is a multidisciplinary clinic created in partnership through Mt. Hope Family Center and Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at Golisano Children’s Hospital within the URM. **This is the ONLY clinic in upstate NY.** The clinic currently serves children and adolescents from infancy through age 22+ years old. The University of Rochester’s FASD clinic has the capacity to see 220 children each year and draws families from across the state. Out of the roughly 200 people we see a year, maybe half receive a diagnosis. Of that 100, not all would need the services under OPWDD. While the number of individuals is small, the impact of access to services for them would be great.



The need for NYS support:

Currently in NYS, FASD is not considered a developmental disability under the mental hygiene law. This is not the case in other states such as North Dakota. This lack of definitional inclusion has prevented patients with FASD from receiving services from certain agencies like OPWDD. Services not received include family services (i.e., in-home behavioral supports, respite), assistance with daily living skills, recreation and socialization opportunities (specialized recreational activities), adaptive equipment, and OPWDD services that support transition to adulthood (i.e. job training, housing, transportation). The lack of access to these supports makes it harder for people with FASD to participate fully in their communities.

Legislation such as A.999A (Clark)/ S.382A (Brouk) would allow those who are diagnosed and are in need of the services, to be eligible to receive services. While there has been some feedback from OPWDD that this legislation would “open the flood gates” to anyone who has FASD. That is simply not true. A.999A/S.382A would not change any of the current OPWDD requirements that other diagnoses must adhere to, such as Autism. A person with an Autism diagnosis doesn’t automatically qualify for OPWDD services. Like with other diagnoses, under this proposed law, a person with FASD would still need to:

- be over the age of seven years;
- have an FASD qualifying diagnosis by a provider;
- have an onset of such condition, disorder, or syndrome prior to the age of 22;
- exhibit a likelihood of indefinite continuation of such condition, disorder, or syndrome; and
- such diagnosis must have a substantial impact on the person’s ability to complete activities of daily living.

This legislation would simply ensure that those with FASD services who really need the support and whose daily life is impacted could qualify and apply for services.

This legislation is supported by the University of Rochester and URM, Weill Cornell Medicine, University at Buffalo (UB), and the Healthcare Association of NYS (HANYS).