

Higher Education

City University of New York
Higher Education Services Corporation
State University of New York
State University Construction Fund

Overview

The Executive Budget strengthens the ability of New York's public system of higher education to excel both academically and as an economic engine. New strategic investments will yield further academic gains, create employment opportunities, and connect graduates to jobs.

Each year, New York State's higher education institutions educate nearly 1.3 million students. The State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY) administer 47 four-year colleges and graduate schools that provide nearly 402,000 full- and part-time students with an array of undergraduate, graduate, and first professional educational opportunities. SUNY and CUNY also support 37 community colleges, serving more than 328,000 students. In addition, more than 543,000 students attend the more than 100 private colleges and universities across the State. Over the past 10 years, total enrollment at New York's institutions of higher education has increased by more than 160,000 (14 percent).

The State University Construction Fund (SUCF), City University Construction Fund (CUCF), and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) administer and oversee a capital program for over 3,000 academic, research, hospital, dormitory, and multi-use facilities, which make up the physical infrastructure of the university systems.

To help students obtain and afford a college education, the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) provides students and families with various types of financial aid services. HESC oversees numerous State-funded aid programs, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), the Aid for Part Time Study program, and 15 scholarship and award programs. Together these programs provide close to \$1 billion in financial aid to over 342,000 students. HESC also partners with the Office of the State Comptroller in administering the College Choice Tuition Savings program.

A Renewed Commitment to Higher Education

In 2011, Governor Cuomo signed groundbreaking legislation implementing the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program. This act strengthened New York State's system of higher education by introducing a rational and predictable tuition plan, a commitment to maintain State financial support, a competitive grant program making our State universities incubators of academic excellence and economic growth, and assistance to make college affordable for students with limited income.

The rational tuition policy replaced an era of unpredictable and sometimes extreme tuition increases by allowing each SUNY and CUNY campus to raise tuition by \$300 per year for five years. These modest tuition rates maintain the affordability of New York's public colleges and universities, and the predictability enables families to plan for college expenses.

Coupled with the NYSUNY 2020 commitment to provide a consistent level of State General Fund support, the rational tuition policy makes it possible for the public university systems to add faculty, reduce class sizes, expand program offerings, and improve academic performance.

NYSUNY 2020 also maintains higher education affordability by augmenting the State's TAP program. Using a portion of the additional tuition revenue, students who receive TAP awards and attend SUNY State operated colleges or CUNY senior colleges also receive financial aid in the form of tuition credits ensuring students with limited economic resources continue to have access to educational opportunities.

Beyond establishing a stable system of State and tuition support, NYSUNY 2020 launched a competition-based challenge grant program. This program has made New York's public universities incubators of academic excellence and economic growth at the center of the State's regionally based economic revitalization strategy. NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grants leverage State capital funding to incentivize bottom-up, individualized, long-term economic development plans on campuses and their surrounding communities.

These strategic investments began with \$140 million for capital projects across the four SUNY university centers – Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, and Stony Brook. The second phase awarded \$60 million to four projects that involve a consortium of 19 SUNY campuses. Phase III, funded in 2013, includes a third round of NYSUNY 2020 challenge grants as well as a first round of NYCUNY 2020 -- each with funding of \$55 million.

In 2013, Governor Cuomo built upon these initiatives by launching START-UP NY, a game-changing strategy to create tax-free communities affiliated with our public and private universities, and bring new economic investment to New York, especially Upstate. The program offers businesses that locate or expand in New York the opportunity to operate completely tax-free for ten years on or near eligible campuses. This unique marriage between public and private entities will drive economic growth and foster innovative collaboration. Businesses that partner with these institutions will benefit from access to industry experts and advanced research laboratories. The colleges and universities will benefit from the innovation-driven public-private partnerships that create new opportunities for students and researchers.

Another significant enhancement to our higher education system in 2013 was Governor Cuomo's Next Generation NY Job Linkage Program. This innovative program connects degrees to careers by having community colleges partner with regional employers to provide students with improved opportunities for post-graduation employment in a field related to their education. The Governor's initiative also provided \$5 million in incentive funding to reward community colleges based on the success of their students in job placement and academic performance.

Finally, both SUNY and CUNY have played key roles in implementing the New NY Education Reform Commission's recommended action plan to improve the quality of New York's education system. In 2013, the university systems took action to raise admission requirements and strengthen the curriculum for teacher preparation programs.

Summary of Spending (General Fund)

Category	AFY 2014 (\$ in millions)	AFY 2015 (\$ in millions)	Change	
			Dollar (in millions)	Percent
Higher Education	3,239	3,265	26	0.8
SUNY Operating Budget	971	969	(2)	(0.2)
CUNY Operating Budget	526	525	(1)	(0.2)
Community Colleges	687	685	(2)	(0.3)
SUNY Hospital Subsidy	60	69	9	15.0
HESC Grants and Scholarships	995	1,017	22	2.2

2014-15 Strategic Investments in Higher Education

The Executive Budget makes several new strategic investments in higher education to leverage greater academic achievement and economic development.

To build upon the success of the Challenge Grants, the Executive Budget includes \$110 million to expand and launch another round of NYSUNY 2020 and NYCUNY 2020. Priority will be given to plans that use technology to improve academic success and job opportunities for students, leverage public-private partnerships through the START-UP NY program, and better connect students to the workforce.

The Executive Budget also includes a new full tuition scholarship to any SUNY or CUNY college or university for the top 10 percent of high school graduates if they pursue a career in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) job sector and commit to work in New York for five years. This investment will help fill job openings in one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy and encourage our best and brightest students to build their careers here in New York.

SUNY's role in transforming the State's economy is further established in the Executive Budget through the creation of the NY Genomic Medicine Network and the expansion of the NY Youth Works Program. To capture economic and medical gains for New York State in the emerging field of genomic medicine, Governor Cuomo will establish a strategic partnership between the NY Genome Center in New York City and the State University of New York at Buffalo. The Executive Budget also connects the occupational training component of the NY Youth Works Program – an initiative established by Governor Cuomo to combat youth unemployment – to the Job Linkage Program. This initiative will encourage employers to hire inner-city youth by offering to meet their training needs through a partnership with a community college.

The Executive Budget will also meet emerging needs in higher education by creating the nation's first College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity. In addition, a new School of Pharmacy will be established at SUNY Binghamton.

Finally, consistent with the provisions of the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, the Executive Budget provides on-going General Fund operating support for SUNY and CUNY colleges and accommodates 2014-15 tuition increases by providing \$95 million in additional spending authority for SUNY and \$61 million for CUNY.

Major Initiatives

- **Expand and Launch Another Round of NYSUNY 2020 and NYCUNY 2020.** The Executive Budget includes \$110 million for a new and expanded round of NYSUNY 2020 and NYCUNY 2020 grants, \$55 million for each university system. Funding will continue to be awarded through a bottom-up competitive process by which campuses develop plans for improving academic outcomes, finding efficiencies, and promoting innovation and economic development. The initiative will give priority to plans that: use technology, including but not limited to the expansion of on-line learning, to improve academic success and job opportunities for students; leverage economic and academic opportunities through the START-UP NY program; and provide experiential learning opportunities that connect students to the workforce. This strategic investment will continue the Governor's initiative to make our university systems into incubators of academic excellence and economic growth.
- **Offer a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Scholarship.** The Executive Budget includes \$8 million in funding for a new STEM scholarship program. Full tuition scholarships to any SUNY or CUNY college or university will be offered to the top ten percent of high school graduates if they pursue a STEM career and work in New York for five years. The scholarship will encourage the best and brightest students to pursue STEM college degrees and build their careers here in New York in one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy.
- **Create a College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity.** The Executive Budget includes \$15 million in capital resources to fund initial planning and development costs for a new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity within SUNY. The College will create the world's most comprehensive academic programs, research, and training opportunities for aspiring professionals, policy leaders, emergency managers and first responders. Through its affiliation with SUNY, the College can also serve as an economic driver for the State through the development of new companies and industries under the START-UP NY program.
- **Establish a School of Pharmacy at Binghamton University.** The Executive Budget includes \$10 million in capital resources to fund initial planning and development costs for a new School of Pharmacy at Binghamton University. This initiative will help Binghamton continue to build its stature as a premier research university, expand enrollment, create jobs, increase economic activity in the region, and help meet health care workforce needs in the State.
- **Create the NY Genomic Medicine Network.** As the next major investment of the "Buffalo Billion," the Executive Budget will provide funding for the State University of New York at Buffalo to partner with the NY Genome Center in New York City in a network that connects the medical community in New York City with the computational infrastructure at the University at Buffalo and the research community at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. This initiative will lead to job creation and significant advances in the emerging field of genomic medicine, and develop Upstate New York in as a national center for genomic research and jobs.
- **Connect the NY Youth Works Program to Community Colleges.** To encourage more employers to hire inner-city youth, the Executive Budget will tie the occupational training component of the NY Youth Works Program – an initiative established by Governor Cuomo to combat youth unemployment – to the Job Linkage Program. Businesses that want to hire under the NY Youth Works Program, but need training, could partner with a community college that will offer a specialized certification under the Job Linkage program.