



2024-25 Enacted Budget Summary

SUNY DOWNSTATE

Following months of rallies, marches, community forums, intense media coverage, and public outcry in response to the SUNY chancellor's proposed plan to close SUNY Downstate University Hospital, the Legislature and the governor have responded by rejecting this ill-conceived plan.

The enacted state budget provides \$100 million in operating aid to cover the hospital's current operating deficit and up to \$300 million in capital funding is provided to upgrade the hospital's facilities and/or the health science center pursuant to a plan approved by the director of the budget.

In addition, a nine-member Community Advisory Board for the Modernization and Revitalization of SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is established. This advisory board will examine a variety of options to strengthen SUNY Downstate and promote longer term viability for its dual education and healthcare mission. The board must conduct a study and provide a report by April 1, 2025, detailing recommendations for prioritizing health care services provided in Downstate's service area. The recommendations must include a reasonable, scalable, and fiscally responsible plan for the financial health, viability, and sustainability for SUNY Downstate. It also must incorporate utilization of all available state and federal appropriations and shall not exceed 250% of such amounts. The board is also required to solicit the opinion of experts and stakeholders and hold at least three public hearings. Furthermore, the public health and health planning council and the commissioner of health are prohibited from reviewing or approving a certificate of need application related to reduction in inpatient services at Downstate until at least April 1, 2025.

The board's members will include:

- The commissioner of health
- 1 representative of organized labor recommended by UUP
- 1 member appointed by the temporary president of the NYS Senate
- 1 member appointed by the speaker of the NYS Assembly
- 3 members appointed by the governor
- 1 member appointed by the governor upon the joint recommendation of Brooklyn community boards 9 and 17
- The SUNY Chancellor

In completing their study, the advisory board must consider:

- Overall healthcare service delivery trends and models
- Historic and projected financials for the hospital and campus
- Current state of the building infrastructure and capital needs
- Community healthcare needs, outcomes, and disparities
- Existing inpatient and outpatient service offerings and outcomes
- Capacity and availability of inpatient and outpatient services in the broader primary and secondary service areas
- Efficiency of operations and quality of services benchmarking
- Training needs for students and employment outcomes

GENERAL FUNDING

Operating Aid: The 2024-25 enacted budget provides \$114 million in new operating aid state-operated SUNY campuses. This funding is in addition to the recurring \$163 million increase that UUP's advocacy secured last year.

Full-Time Faculty Funding: The enacted budget includes \$53 million for hiring full-time faculty at SUNY state-operated campuses and community colleges.

Hospitals: The enacted budget fails to provide any additional direct funding for SUNY Upstate and Stony Brook hospitals. It does include debt service relief totaling \$79 million, but not employee fringe benefit funding.

The final state budget does provide \$3 billion to support distressed hospitals and \$20 billion for health care infrastructure.

Educational Opportunity Programs/Educational Opportunity Centers: The 2024-25 enacted budget increases funding for EOP by \$1.9 million for a total of \$44.4 million. Funding for EOCs and ATTAIN labs is \$72.6 million.

Tuition Assistance Program (TAP): The enacted budget provides an increase of \$55.7 million for a total of \$959.76 million. The minimum tap award is raised from \$500 to \$1,000 and the income thresholds are also raised (See ELFA Part X).

TAP GAP: The enacted budget provides an increase of \$5.1 million to cover the TAP gap for a total of \$54.7 million.

Part W - Part-time Tuition Assistance Awards

This legislation authorizes part-time tuition awards to be granted to students attending any degree granting higher education institution.

Part X – Increasing the Minimum Award and Income Thresholds for Tuition Assistance Program

This legislation increases the minimum TAP award from \$500 to \$1,000 and increases the income thresholds as follows:

- Families of dependent students ---> from \$80,000 to \$125,000
- Independent students ---> from \$10,000 to \$30,000
- Independent students with a spouse and no other dependent ---> from \$40,000 to \$60,000

SUNY Pre-Medical Opportunity Program: The final budget provides \$1 million for the Pre-Medical Opportunity program.

Part QQ - Tier 6 Final Average Calculation Pension Reform

This legislation changes the final average salary calculation for determining pension benefits for members of a defined benefit pension program from five years to three years.

MISCELLANEOUS

University Wide Programs

The enacted budget provides funding for several new initiatives as follows:

- \$ 2.5 million for SUNY's participation in the Empire AI Consortium

- \$1.9 million for the statewide More Swimming (NY SWIMS) initiative
- \$2.75 million for the Empire State Service Corps Program
- \$1.5 million for the State weather Risk
- \$1 million for the Science of Reading Microcredential program at New Paltz

The budget includes the following funding for existing programs:

- \$2.6 million for Small Business Development Centers
- \$2 million for mental health services
- \$150,000 for the Benjamin Center
- \$433,000 for the immigrant research institute at the Rockefeller Institute
- \$2.6 million for the High-Need Nursing Program
- \$250,000 for additional services and expenses at Farmingdale

SED Opportunity Programs: The budget funds SED opportunity programs at the following levels:

- \$1.1 million for the Liberty Partnership Program
- \$20.8 million for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)
- \$15.8 million for the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)
- \$7.9 million for the Foster Youth Initiative

Capital Funding: The enacted budget includes a total of \$1.4 billion in capital appropriations for SUNY, as follows:

- \$860 million in new capital funds for campus maintenance and improvements
- \$1.5 million to SUNY ESF and Cornell for research and development of forestry and forest products
- \$1.25 million to ESF for the Timbuctoo pipeline summer climate and careers institute
- \$250,000 to ESF for parks, recreation, and historic preservation projects
- \$2 million to SUNY Stony Brook for research development and testing towards improved water treatment systems to remove contaminants
- \$100,000 to UAlbany for the Atmospheric Sciences research Center
- \$250 million for the Empire AI Consortium, appropriated to the Urban Development Corporation. The Empire AI consortium, designed to make NY a leader in artificial intelligence research and responsible use, will include SUNY and CUNY as founding members, alongside four private institutions of higher education.

- \$500 million for the Albany Nanotech Ultraviolet Lithography Center. This funding—appropriated to the NYS Urban Development Corporation—will create North America’s first publicly owned High NA Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography Center, bringing advanced semiconductor research and manufacturing to New York’s Capital Region, housed at the NY CREATES’ Albany Nanotech Complex.

Article VII Legislation

EDUCATION, LABOR AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE (ELFA)

Part C - Requires the Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by High School Students

This legislation would require high school seniors or their parent or guardian, to certify that they have either completed and submitted the FAFSA or DREAM Act application, or completed a waiver form indicating they were aware of the FAFSA but had chosen not to complete it.

Part E – Authorization to Share Student Data by Educational agencies (HESC, SUNY & CUNY)

Proposal by the Governor, rejected by the Legislature.

Part F – Tuition Assistance Program Tuition Credit and NY-SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Extenders

This legislation would permanently extend the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) tuition credit and the other remaining provisions of the NY-SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program Act.

Part J - Require Paid Breaks for Breast Milk Expression in the Workplace

This bill would require paid break time up to 20 minutes for breast milk expression.

Part M - Sunset the State’s COVID-19 Sick Leave Law

This legislation would sunset the State's COVID-19 Sick Leave Law as of July 31, 2025.

Part P - Authorize the Repurposing of Real Property Owned by SUNY

Proposal by the Governor, rejected by the Legislature.

This legislation would authorize the SUNY Trustees to lease approximately 8.7 acres of vacant land at Farmingdale and 10 acres of vacant land at Stony Brook for the purposes of developing, constructing, maintaining and operating multi-purpose facilities to support housing needs and related amenities. The ground leases would be for 99 years, and would be subject to the approval of the Director of the Budget, the Attorney General, and the State Comptroller.

Part CC - Requiring Project Labor Agreements for SUNY Construction Fund Projects

This legislation requires project labor agreements on all large-scale construction projects (\$10 million or more) unless such project is inconsistent with state competitive bidding laws or project labor agreement stipulation pursuant to section 222 of the labor law.

Part PP – Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program

This legislation establishes a reproductive freedom and equity grant program in the NYS Department of Health to ensure access to abortion care in the state. The program shall provide funding to abortion providers and nonprofit organizations that provide or facilitate access to abortion care and shall provide support to abortion providers and nonprofit organizations to increase access to care, fund uncompensated care, and to address the support needs of individuals accessing abortion care. Funding used to support the program shall be subject to appropriation.

Part SS – Authorizes SUNY Stony Brook to Lease Land to the Town of South Hampton

This legislation authorizes SUNY Stony Brook to lease land to the Twon of South Hampton for the purpose of rehabilitating and restoring the historic Windmill located on such campus.

PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT (PPGG)

Part M - Establish First-in-Nation Paid Prenatal Leave

This legislation adds prenatal care into the New York State Paid Family Leave program and allows an employee to take up to 20 hours of paid leave for prenatal care. The benefit is not to exceed 20 hours in a 52-week period and may be taken in hourly increments.

Part Q - Eliminate the Lag Payroll and Salary Withholding Program

This legislation eliminates the one-month lag on initial paychecks and the 10% pay reduction during the first ten weeks of employment for newly hired state workers beginning July 1, 2025.

Part S - Cease Reimbursement of the Medicare Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMA) to Retirees and their Dependents

Proposed by the Governor, but rejected by the Legislature.

Part KK- Extension of Overtime Exemption for Basic Member Contribution (BMC) Rates

Chapter 56 of 2022 excluded overtime and compensation for supplemental work for determining future Tier 6 BMC rates. This section extends the exclusion until April 1, 2026.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE (HMH)

Part O - Medical Debt Protections

This legislation:

- Limits the ability of hospitals to commence legal action for recovery of medical debt or unpaid bills from patients earning less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Expands hospital financial assistance programs for low-income New Yorkers, limits size of monthly payments and interest charged, and improves access to financial assistance.

P - Scope of Practice Extender

This legislation:

- Permanently authorizes pharmacists to be qualified health care professionals for purposes of directing limited-service laboratories and performing COVID-19 and influenza tests.
- Extends for two years authorization for Nurse Practitioners with over 3,600 hours to practice independently.
- Makes permanent authorization for physicians and certified nurse practitioners to order non-patient specific regimen to registered professional nurses for tests to determine the presence of COVID-19 or its antibodies or influenza virus.
- Makes permanent the Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM) Demonstration Program.

Part S - Healthcare Safety Net Transformation Program

This legislation establishes the Healthcare Safety Net Transformation Program. Safety net hospitals, meeting certain criteria, must apply jointly with a partner organization. The Commissioner could enter agreements for fund distribution and could waive certain regulatory requirements for effective project implementation, excluding those related to patient safety and rights. Applicants would be required to submit a Transformation Plan outlining a strategic five-year vision, roles, responsibilities, and regulatory flexibility

needed. Continued support will be dependent on compliance with regulations and fulfillment of key milestones.

TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (TEDEC)

Part TT- Establishes the New York State Empire AI Consortium

Creates a state-owned research and computing facility at the University of Buffalo known as the Empire AI research institute. The consortium will file a plan of operation one year after incorporation and must include:

- The mission of the consortium and principles of ethical use of AI technologies
- Procedures for application and approval of new members and a policy regarding rights and responsibilities of a member of the consortium
- Adequate privacy controls to ensure the privacy of individuals' personal data
- Adequate cyber security controls

The state will also have financial oversight over the consortium for five years.