

# NEW DEAL FOR CUNY

Where We're Going • November 2024

The campaign for a New Deal for CUNY has led to important victories and invigorated the fight for our great, struggling, public university. But there is much more to do to realize the dream of a fully funded, free and quality CUNY in the next five years.

| New Deal for CUNY<br>Priorities      | FY 2026<br>Investment | Cost After<br>5 Years |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hire 5000 full-time faculty          | \$90.68M              | \$453.4M              |
| Hire 275 academic advisors           | \$8M                  | \$40M                 |
| Hire 200 mental health<br>counselors | \$7.46M               | \$37.3M               |
| Total                                | \$106.1M              | \$530.7M              |
| <b>First 60 Credits Free</b>         |                       | \$700M                |



Credit: Erik McGregor

CUNY enrollment is up two years in a row after its pandemic dip. With student headcounts rising, it's critical that Albany makes the investments needed to help keep CUNY students enrolled and on pace to graduation. Our underfunded senior colleges have a 6-year graduation rate of just 62%, well below the national average; our community college 3-year graduation rate of 23% also trails the national average.

Retention and graduation rates improve as students have more contact with full-time faculty, academic advisors, and mental health counselors, and a safe, welcoming learning environment.

Funding the New Deal for CUNY will reverse years of disinvestment and empower CUNY to fulfill New York's most pressing economic and social needs. Because of CUNY,

- families can remain in New York: 80% of graduates stay in the state.
- low-income students expand their earning capacity: no university in the nation generates more economic mobility than CUNY.
- New York can fill critical workforce deficiencies in nursing, education, computer science, and related tech fields. CUNY graduates half of NYC's new nurses and a third of its new public school teachers each year.



# Where We've Been

## COVID Disruptions in 2020

The pandemic forced classes online, enrollment dropped, and mid-year budget cuts led to mass layoffs of adjuncts.

## New Deal for CUNY Introduced in 2021

Senator Andrew Gounardes and Assemblymember Karines Reyes introduced the New Deal for CUNY to expand the number of full-time faculty, academic advisors, and mental health counselors, fix broken campuses, and make CUNY tuition-free. Nearly 80 legislators have signed on.

## State Budget Gains for CUNY in FY 2023 - FY 2025

Governor Hochul pledged significant new investments in CUNY and delivered two strong executive budgets, including +\$53 million to hire more than 500 new full-time faculty. The governor's budgets added +\$122M in FY2023 and +\$100M in FY2024. Legislative champions added +40M in additional funds to an essentially flat executive budget for FY2025.

## Deep College-Level Cuts in FY 2024

State investments were undermined by the end of federal stimulus, NYC budget cuts, and lagging tuition revenue. CUNY responded to a system-wide deficit of \$128 million by canceling classes, reshuffling students, and eliminating contingent positions. Vacancies left by retiring and departing faculty and staff went largely unfilled. **After more than 500 state-funded new faculty hires, CUNY netted an increase of only a few dozen faculty lines.**

## CUNY Enrollment Rebounds in Fall 2023 - Fall 2024

Targeted recruitment, waived fees, streamlined application processes and re-enrollment programs such as CUNY Reconnect are working. CUNY enrollment is up for the second straight year, with an increase of 3.1% full-time equivalent undergraduates from 2023-2024.

***The Time is Now for a New Deal for CUNY!***