



March 2025

Support CUNY. Our students need \$144.6 million over the preliminary executive budget.

CUNY in Crisis

Per CUNY's March 2024 Enrollment Subcommittee Report freshman enrollment is up 10.6% from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 while transfer enrollment is up 9.2%. In November 2024, the CUNY Chancellor announced that total enrollment grew by another 3% driven partly by a 6% increase at community colleges. Despite these developments, CUNY and the right to public education are under federal attack. Critical programs are in question and millions in federal grant funding has already been lost. CUNY is instrumental to the safety and success of our City. We must be a bulwark against the erosion of public education.

Restore What Community Colleges Need to Succeed – Restore ALL of the Mayor's PEG cuts. Remove ALL hiring freezes. **\$80 million**

Between 2019 and 2024 CUNY lost 703 civilian and pedagogical positions, nearly 500 at community colleges. Without additional operational support, there will be no money to hire new full-time faculty, advisors or health professionals. The Council's FY25 budget restored \$15 million of the Mayor's \$95 million in PEG cuts. We thank the Council for its support. This year, let's bring the missing money back to CUNY and put positions lost due to vacancy reductions back on the books.

CUNY cannot help solve a crisis of care without faculty and staff. For example, CUNY will likely receive NY State funding for students entering our nursing program this budget cycle. But, CUNY cannot admit more students without faculty to teach them. Similarly the Brookdale Campus transformation cannot succeed without staff to expand health care programs. According to a recent Council Finance Division Briefing paper the FY26 Preliminary Plan budgets for 297,981 pedagogical, uniformed, and civilian positions at CUNY - down from 301,457 in the FY25 Preliminary Plan. **The City funds 74% of CUNY's community college budgets.** We are going in the wrong direction. Our colleges need City support.

Reconnect and Advise to Move Toward ASAP for All – Expand CUNY Reconnect, Advising, ACE, and ASAP. **\$59.2 million**

Reconnect works! Reconnect has brought back over 47,000 students since its inception. We applaud the Council's request to baseline Reconnect (\$8.8 million) and expand the program (\$2.9 million). (\$11.7 million total.)

Advising improves graduation rates! We agree with the CUNY administration: we need a more diverse pool of academic and career advisors (\$2.9 million).

ACE: Expand ACE - the senior college version of ASAP. ACE is a new program and according to CUNY, "The most recent ACE freshmen cohort admitted to John Jay College realized a four-year graduation rate of 60 percent vs. 41 percent for a matched comparison group of non-ACE students, and the first transfer cohort at Lehman College realized a two-year graduation rate of 61 percent vs. 30 percent for a matched comparison group of non-ACE students." (\$9.1 million).

ASAP: In an ASAP-for-all model, all community college students receive the academic and wrap-around support provided by CUNY's most successful community college program. As more students enroll in community colleges, the program needs additional funding to expand and thrive (\$35.5 million)

CUNY is Public Safety – Expand MetroCard Access; Address Critical Health Profession Shortages. \$5.4 million

ASAP's provision of **free MetroCards** is part of its success, but students are not screened for eligibility for existing city programs. Require CUNY to screen for Fair Fares eligibility to expand transit access and pilot a free MetroCard program. CUNY students shouldn't have to choose between jumping the turnstile and skipping class. We want more people on the subway; CUNY students want to ride it (\$1.2 million).

The Governor, Mayor and Progressive Caucus have plans to **address the shortage of healthcare and mental health professionals**. They'll all need CUNY to succeed (\$4.2 million).

CUNY is essential to building out networks of nurses, social workers, mental health counselors, addiction service providers and others needed to help stabilize the city's social safety net. CUNY graduates approximately half of the city's nurses each year.

CUNY nursing programs need to expand capacity. Students are working hard to get into these competitive programs, but there is no space.

Expansion without faculty can only go so far. CUNY nursing and health professions programs do not have the staff they need to run more classes. To address this shortage we must pay more. Health professionals are specialized and in high demand. Current salaries are simply not enough to attract faculty.

#CUNYisPublicSafety
#Reconnect&Retain
#CareNotCuts