



February 4, 2026

Fiscal Year 2027 New York State Executive Budget

The NYCCT is grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, and the members of the Senate and Assembly for the recent historic investment in the Reconnect Program and capital funding to New York’s Community Colleges (both SUNY and CUNY) that directly benefit students. To continue to build upon the promise of cementing New York’s Community Colleges as the engine for workforce in our state, the NYCCT respectfully ask that investments proposed within the Executive Budget be accepted, programs that were reduced be restored, & additional funding be provided in the Enacted Budget.

Support the Continuation of the Funding Floor for Community Colleges

- NYCCT appreciates that the floor allows the colleges to budget from a known baseline.
- We would ask consideration to review an increase in base funding to offset rising wages, benefits, and supplies. (S7122-May, A8504-Eachus)
- Since the reduction of the FTE rate in 2008/2009 and the subsequent “floor” established in 2019/2020, colleges have not had an increase to stay current with inflation for almost two decades.
- Absent a real increase in base funding, colleges will have no choice but to continue to shift costs to students through tuition increases and reduce academic programs & services that directly impact access, retention, and completion.

Targeted Aid: \$8 million

- NYCCT is grateful that the last two budgets included \$8 million each so colleges could apply to SUNY for funds to expand high need workforce programs. NYCCT supports an additional \$8 million in this year’s budget.

Capital Funding: SUNY Community College Local Sponsor Investment

- Support the \$128.1 million for community college capital, which provides a match (up to 50%) for local, sponsor approved projects.

Universal Childcare

- NYCCT supports the Governor’s efforts to increase opportunities for childcare throughout NYS.
- The availability of childcare for our students is essential, in addition to resources available to train and educate individuals to work in the childcare field.
- Support \$26 million requested by SUNY to create additional childcare slots at all campuses.

Support \$8.5 million in the Executive Budget for Expansion of the Reconnect Program. In addition, will Support a \$5 million Addition to Build Essential Capacity

- Support \$8.5 million for expansion of the Reconnect Program to include logistics, air traffic control, transportation, emergency management, and nursing.
- Additional \$5 million for operating support to handle increased enrollment. Includes infrastructure investments for expanded program capacity, faculty hiring and professional development, equipment and technology upgrades for specialized training programs, marketing and recruitment support for adult learners.



- One high demand field of note is nursing, which due to the high quality of infrastructure needed to educate these students, additional support is needed for all community colleges that offer these essential programs. (S7652-Stavisky/A7966-Eachus)

\$15 Million for AI Education & Empire AI Student Challenge

- Democratize AI to small businesses and the general public in NY, ensuring that human skills are developed for proper and ethical use of AI.
- Community college participation in AI Student Challenge as host sites.
- Funding will be used for AI literacy curriculum development grants, faculty professional development in responsible AI use, and access to Empire AI resources for research.

Continued Support for Student Focused Programs

- ASAP Expansion: Support the \$8 million in the Executive Budget to sustain and continue to expand the ASAP program. ASAP improves retention and credit attainment for students.
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP): NYCCT supports SUNY's request for restoration and additional funding for the EOP program. This continues to be an effective method for low-income, academically underprepared, and first-generation students to receive critical academic support while in school.
- Higher Education in Prisons: Support for the \$3 million in additional funds to develop new programs and expand academic re-entry supports for incarcerated students.

\$2.8 million for Empire State Service Corps Expansion (part of New York Career Connect Initiative)

- Support the additional funding in the Executive Budget for this popular and critical program
- Appreciate any additional support for programs to enhance the student/employer relationship. Community college students face unique barriers to internship participation (work schedules, transportation, childcare) requiring additional support infrastructure.

CUNY Community Colleges – Critical State of Good Repair Needs (\$200M in FY27)

- CUNY's community colleges face urgent State of Good Repair needs that directly affect student health, safety, and learning. An investment of \$200 million in FY27 is needed to address critical infrastructure renewal, including HVAC systems, roof & façade repairs, library refurbishments, and long-overdue upgrades to student cafeterias across the community college system.

About the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT)

The New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT) is a voluntary nonprofit consortium of community college trustees established to strengthen the effectiveness of NY community college trustees as an active force in the development and implementation of public policy impacting community colleges.

NYCCT represents the appointed board members who govern the 30 community colleges in the State University of New York (SUNY) system and NYCCT proudly includes members from the City University of New York (CUNY), which has 7 community colleges.