



## A Renewed Commitment to SUNY's Academic Medical Centers



The SUNY academic medical centers in Brooklyn, Syracuse and Stony Brook are public, state-operated teaching hospitals. The care, treatment and safety of the 1.3 million patients served by these hospitals each year is the responsibility of the state. No person in need of health care is ever refused treatment, regardless of the ability to pay.



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# BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2020

## STATE SUBSIDY

The state's subsidy for SUNY's three teaching hospitals—which was \$153 million a decade ago, was cut by more than 50 percent in 2017 and eliminated from the 2018 state budget.

Without the subsidy, it will be increasingly difficult for the hospitals to maintain high-quality health care and fund the medical schools by more than \$100 million annually. The subsidy is used to help offset costs associated with caring for a large number of underinsured and uninsured patients.

**The entire state hospital subsidy — \$78.6 million — was cut from the proposed Executive Budget.**

SUNY's academic medical centers, unlike any other state entity, pay for their employee fringe benefits and debt service costs, increasing the need for the subsidy.

Without the restoration of a state-funded subsidy, the hospitals' continued ability to provide

state-of-the-art health care to thousands of New Yorkers each day will be jeopardized.

## DSH ENTITLEMENTS

UUP is grateful to the governor for budgeting a \$60 million increase in state Medicaid-funded DSH entitlements for SUNY's teaching hospitals. These state funds are a match to federal DSH funding—a crucial joint financing supplement to Medicaid for institutions that serve large indigent populations.

UUP strongly recommends new legislation requiring that all audited entitlements through DSH to be fully allocated to the three hospitals, fully matched by state funding from state Medicaid funding appropriations.



# LEGISLATIVE ASKS

## ✓ Restore \$87 million state subsidy to SUNY's public teaching hospitals

Eliminating the hospitals' subsidy will weaken their ability to carry out SUNY's mission—codified in state Education Law—to strengthen “its educational and research programs in the health sciences through the provision of high-quality general comprehensive and specialty health care, broadly accessible at reasonable cost.”

## ✓ Pass new legislation guaranteeing SUNY's public hospitals receive all matching state funds under DSH

DSH funding is extremely important for our hospitals; this aid provides reimbursements for care already provided by the hospitals. This vital funding is used to aid our teaching hospitals to fulfill their mission to heal the sick.

## SUNY'S ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS: FAST FACTS

The state hospitals in Brooklyn, Stony Brook, and Syracuse are known as hospitals of last resort. Many patients with especially difficult, rare or hard-to-treat medical conditions are sent to SUNY's public hospitals.

SUNY's hospitals are also teaching hospitals. They provide a necessary pipeline of doctors and medical professionals to New York City and the state. New York students account for 85 percent of first-year medical students at SUNY medical schools, and many graduates stay and practice in New York.

With a workforce of more than 25,000, SUNY's academic medical centers are indispensable economic components of the local and regional communities they serve.

### Economic Benefits for Communities and the State

- Upstate Medical University—Central New York's largest employer.
- Stony Brook Health Sciences Center—employs more than 5,000 health care professionals.
- Downstate Medical Center—Brooklyn's fourth-largest employer.
- University at Buffalo Health Sciences Center—employs more than 1,000 faculty and staff.