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CUNY Rising Alliance Outraged by Governor Hochul's Executive Budget

New York, New York - Yesterday, Governor Kathy Hochul released her Executive Budget and held a press conference highlighting her budgetary priorities. The CUNY Rising Alliance and its member organizations are outraged by the inclusion of major tuition hikes and insufficient funding for CUNY. This budget would return CUNY to an era of fiscal austerity.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the Governor's sole reference to higher education in her press conference yesterday was to state "a college degree is not necessary." A college degree remains the best path for economic mobility for New Yorkers. The numbers don't lie. College-educated workers earn more than their high-school-educated peers – by an average of \$30,000 per year. The change in her rhetoric, along with downplaying her call for major tuition hikes and insufficient investment in CUNY, demonstrates that the Governor does not believe that high-quality public higher education is important, let alone should be accessible for all.

Although we appreciate that Governor Hochul made some expansions to New York's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) last year, we are disturbed that she has not introduced new investments that CUNY, its students, and its workers desperately need. TAP is New York's biggest financial aid program — but it only supports students through a maximum of eight college semesters. In comparison, the federal Pell Grant provides up to 12 semesters of financial aid support. Hochul's team contends that students from families making under \$125,000 per year will see no tuition changes, yet current financial aid and scholarship programs have barriers to enrollment and the budget does not seem to include program expansions. This budget also does not fully address CUNY's crumbling and often dangerous infrastructure, which students, faculty, and staff highlighted last year on social media in our [#CrumblingCUNY campaign](#).

This budget of austerity will only deepen New York's long-standing racial and economic inequities in both working in and pursuing a public higher education. As a result, CUNY Rising Alliance will embark on a mass campaign to prevent this austerity, privatization, and slow degradation of the departments, programs, and services that make CUNY functional and safe. Higher education must be a quality and free public good for all New Yorkers.

The CUNY Rising Alliance, on behalf of the 500,000 students, faculty, and staff of CUNY, millions of CUNY alumni, and over 20 million New Yorkers who benefit from CUNY, calls on state leaders to reject this budget proposal, and fight with us to pass a [New Deal for CUNY](#), and ensure the state budget gives CUNY all the attention and resources it deserves.



For more information on the CUNY Rising Alliance and the [New Deal for CUNY](#) visit <https://cunyrisingalliance.org/>