

General Budget Allocation Process for CUNY

Each year, the University submits a tax-levy budget request to New York State composed of the mandatory (base-line needs) and the programmatic request for increases for the operating budget.

- The mandatory request includes contractual salary increases and other than personal service (OTPS) inflationary increases. It also includes requests for rent increases, fringe benefits, energy, and operating costs for new buildings.
- The programmatic request is based on University program initiatives outlined in the Master Plan and is developed by the University's central leadership in consultation with CUNY constituencies, including members of the Board of Trustees, college presidents, and faculty and student representatives.

The state budget includes an appropriation for special revenue accounts, including the Income Fund Reimbursable Account (IFR), the City University Tuition Reimbursement Account (CUTRA) (for senior colleges only), and the City University Stabilization Account.

- The IFR is made up mostly of self-supporting adult and continuing education programs. Colleges can spend what they collect. The IFR programs, however, are subject to a 12.0% cost recovery target.
- The CUTRA account enables the senior colleges to roll over into subsequent fiscal years excess tuition revenue. It gives senior colleges the ability to plan better for the use of additional revenue and, in effect, grants the senior colleges additional appropriation authority albeit limited due to the non-recurring nature of these resources.
- The Stabilization account enables the colleges and University to carry-over into subsequent fiscal years unexpended tax levy appropriations.

The tuition revenue budget is appropriated by the state to CUNY as a lump sum, and then distributed by CUNY to the campuses. Lump sum allocations include child care, collaborative programs with the NYC Department of Education, Coordinated Undergraduate Education, language immersion programs, SEEK, and services for the disabled. Throughout the year, the colleges may receive additional allocations for various miscellaneous items. For the community colleges specifically, the University requests increases to state aid on an annual basis. Funding for mandatory increases and special programs for community colleges come from the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York.

Items that are paid for centrally, such as fringe benefits, building rentals, and student financial aid, are not allocated to the colleges but expended centrally on their behalf. However, energy budgets are now allocated to the colleges. The colleges have the opportunity to generate additional operating funds by achieving savings. Savings remain with the campus; conversely, deficits must be funded within college budgets.

All other sources of funding (grants managed by the Research Foundation of the City University of New York, funds raised by the college foundations and/or auxiliary services) are separate and not managed by the University.

The University gives the colleges their own customized excerpts of the overall CUNY audited financial reports and A-133 audits.