



45 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10006
Phone: (212) 967-0322 www.unhny.org

UNH State Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget & Policy Priorities **Youth Services**

Children and youth are learning all the time, not just in the hours between the first and last school bell. After-School programs, youth employment programs and summer camp programs throughout the year help keep children and youth engaged and learning with enriching and educational activities.

Advantage After-School Program – Restore \$2.5 million and invest an additional \$2.5 million

Funding History:

Executive FY 18-19: \$17.3 million
Enacted FY 17-18: \$19.8 million
Enacted FY 16-17: \$22.3 million

Services Funded: Advantage After-School programs offer youth development programs for elementary, middle school, and high school students in the three hours after the school day ends. Programs are operated in public school buildings by settlement houses and other community based organizations, with typical activities including homework help, athletics, hands-on science activities, music and arts.

Challenge and Opportunity: If funding is not restored to the \$22.3 million level, 56 programs whose contracts expire in 2018 will not have the opportunity to apply for continued funding. This will cut after-school programs for 3,600 children. While the Governor has proposed increasing funding for after-school through the Empire State After-School Programs, 103 Advantage After-School Programs operate in districts that are not served through Empire State After-School Program.

Support the Governor's Proposals to Extend Eligibility for the Empire State After-School Program to Community-Based Organizations

Funding History

Executive FY 18-19: \$45 million
Enacted FY 17-18: \$35 million New Investment

The Empire State After-School program launched last year provides after-school programs to 35,000 children and youth in localities with high poverty levels. However, the initial RFP did not allow settlement houses and other community based organizations to apply for the funding. In the FY 18-19 Executive Budget Proposal, Governor Cuomo proposed allowing community based organizations to apply directly for this funding. UNH strongly supports this reform. Community based organizations have developed ties to their neighborhoods and have implemented innovative models for quality after-school programs for years. Their multi-service approach and long-standing expertise position them as well-suited to offer programming through the Empire State After-School Programs.

UNH Recommendation: New York State should allow community-based organizations to apply directly for the Empire State After-School program.

(over)

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) – Fund at \$44 million (\$4 million increase)

Funding History

Executive FY 18-19: \$40 million (increase covers minimum wage cost; no expansion)
Enacted FY 2017-2018: \$36 million (increase covers minimum wage cost; no expansion)
Enacted FY 2016-17: \$31 million

Services Funded: SYEP funding supports subsidized wages and workforce training for youth taking part in youth employment programs across the state, as well as a modest administrative costs that allow youth bureaus and community-based organizations to operate the program. In New York City, a record 70,000 young people took part in SYEP this year.

Challenge and Opportunity: Summer jobs offer young people opportunities to learn job skills, experience new career fields, and earn an income. As the Governor’s office has noted, the program allows young people to “gain valuable work experience, and a much-needed paycheck...” and help “them acquire skills they can use in school and beyond.” Research has even shown that certain SYEP participants demonstrate higher rates of school attendance and passage of the NYS Regents examinations, and in addition, experience decreased rates of mortality. However, the SYEP lottery means many young people who are ready to work cannot participate in the program, including nearly 77,000 who applied for SYEP in New York City and did not get a job due to a lack of funding

UNH Recommendation: New York State should increase its investment in SYEP to \$44 million to add 3,000 jobs statewide.

For more information, please contact Gregory Brender gbrender@unhny.org or 917-484-933