

# Invest in Opportunity



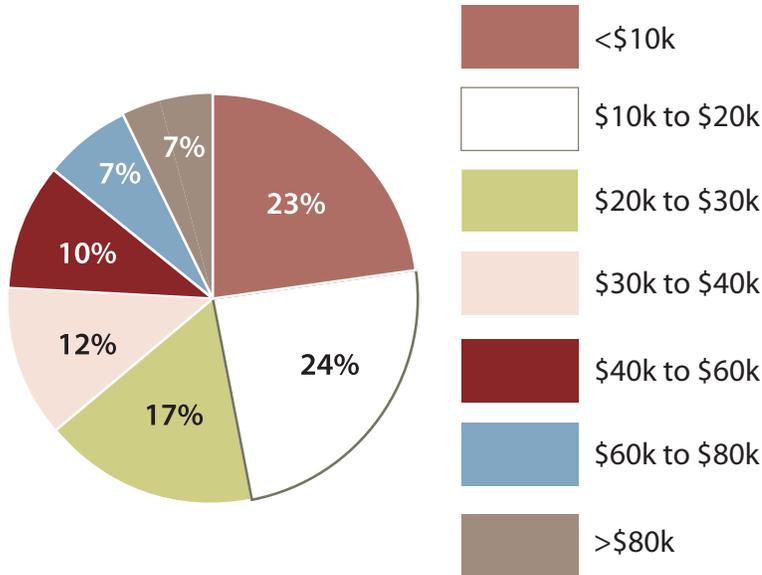
# Invest in CUNY Community Colleges



PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS

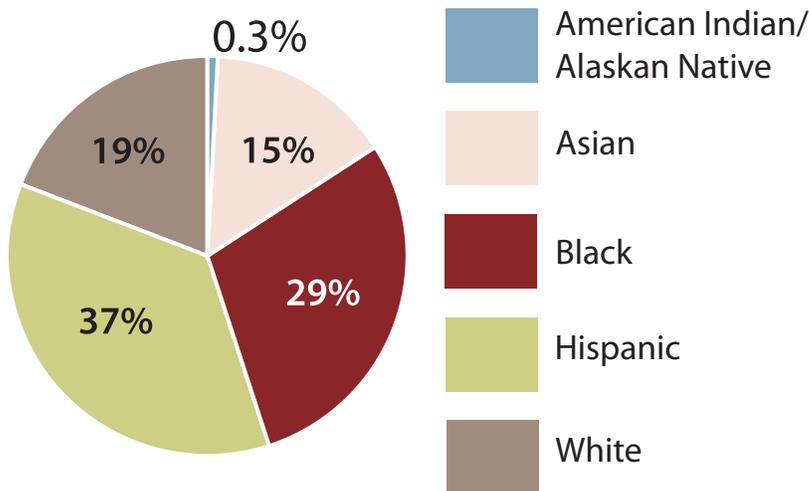
# Invest in Opportunity

## Household Income of CUNY Community College Students



**47%**  
of CUNY  
community  
college students  
have household  
incomes less  
than \$20k

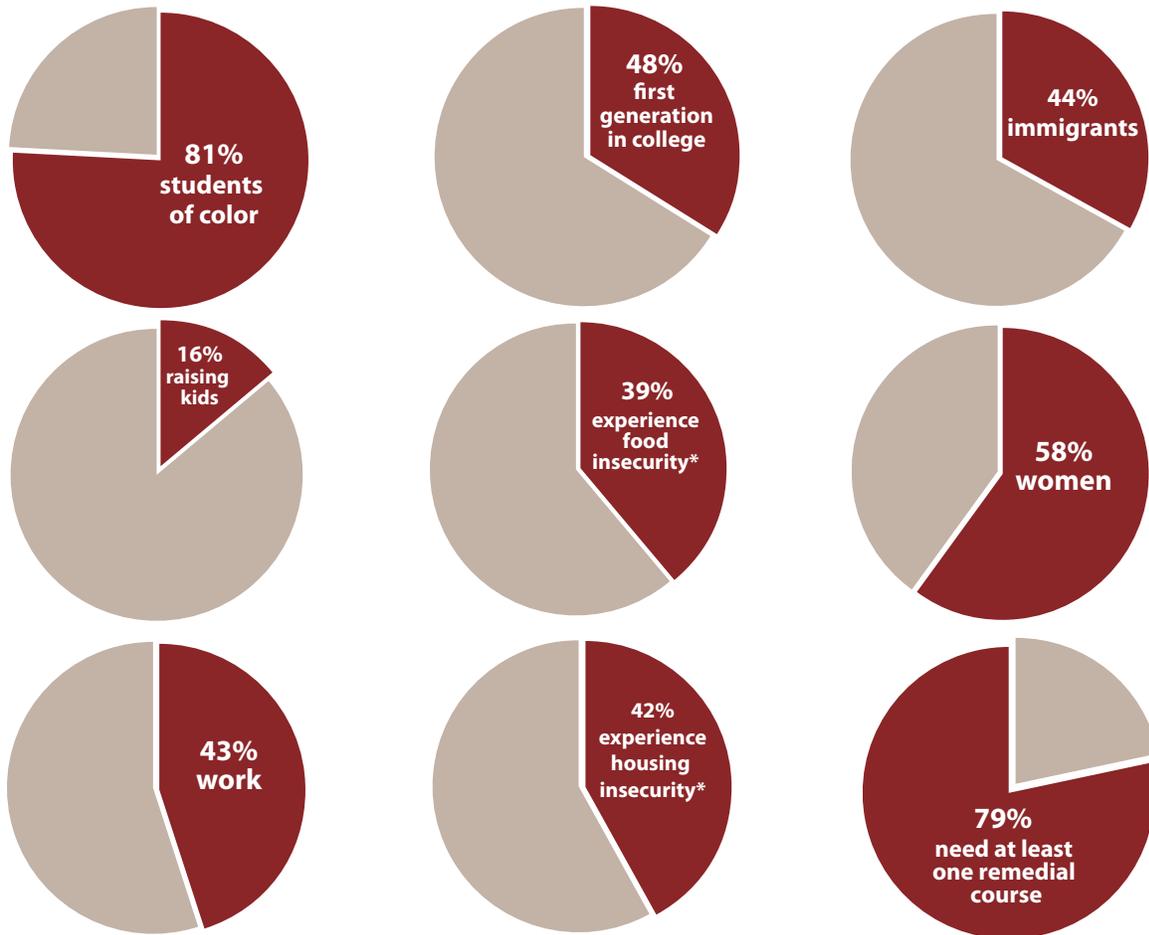
## Race\Ethnicity of CUNY Community College Students



**81%**  
of CUNY  
community  
college students  
are people of color

CUNY is the GREATEST source of opportunity for lower middle income New Yorkers and people of color, but tuition hikes are pricing students out of their chance at a better life. At the community colleges, CUNY plans to increase tuition by \$1,500 over five years, from \$3,300 in 2010-11 to \$4,800 in 2015-16.

# Invest in CUNY Community College Students



## CUNY'S OPEN ACCESS MISSION AND REMEDIATION

**CUNY community colleges** guarantee college access to any city resident with a high school diploma or GED. Since 1999, all CUNY students who need to take one or more remedial courses have been required to start their studies at a community college, or in an associate's program at a comprehensive college, even if they intend to pursue a baccalaureate degree. Taken together, these two facts account for the high degree of remedial need at CUNY community colleges. As enrollments have grown, and the number of

at-risk and academically challenged students has increased, the resource needs of CUNY community colleges have increased as well.

Pilot programs like the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (or ASAP) have proven that investments in smaller classes, faculty mentorship, hands-on counseling and advisement, and better financial aid can dramatically improve student retention and success, especially for students with remedial needs.

Sources: 2010 CUNY Student Experience Survey, [http://owl.cuny.edu:7778/portal/page/portal/oira/OIRA\\_HOME/SES\\_2010\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://owl.cuny.edu:7778/portal/page/portal/oira/OIRA_HOME/SES_2010_Final_Report.pdf)  
Data on food & housing insecurity from 2011 Campaign for a Healthy CUNY, CUNY School of Public Health, <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/cunyfoodinsecurity.pdf>; <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/che/cunyhousinginstability.pdf>

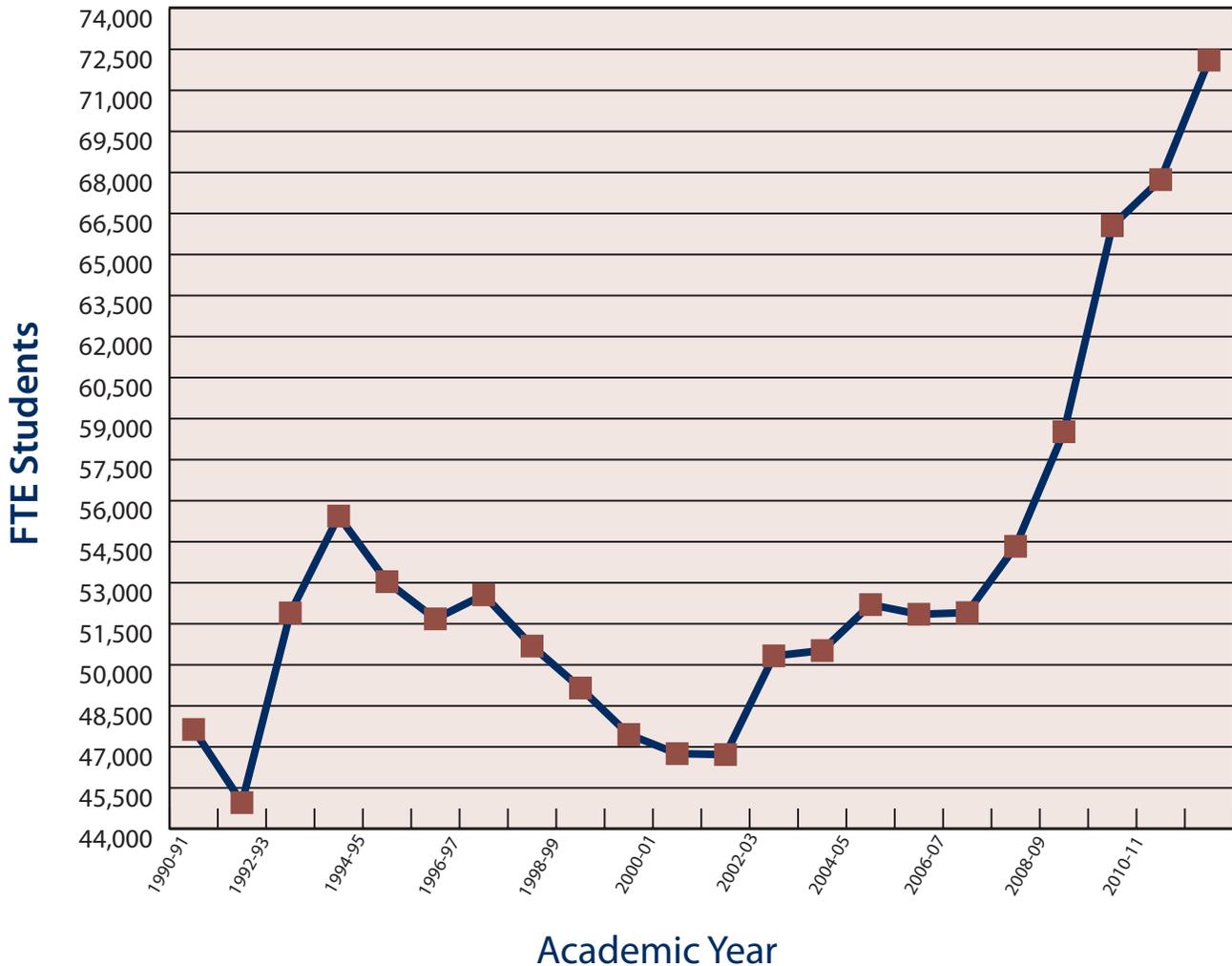
\*Statistics about food and housing insecurity refer to all CUNY students.

# Enrollment Growth at CUNY Community Colleges

Full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment at CUNY community colleges has increased 51.4% since 1990-91.

## CUNY Community Colleges: FTE Enrollment

1990-91 through 2011-12

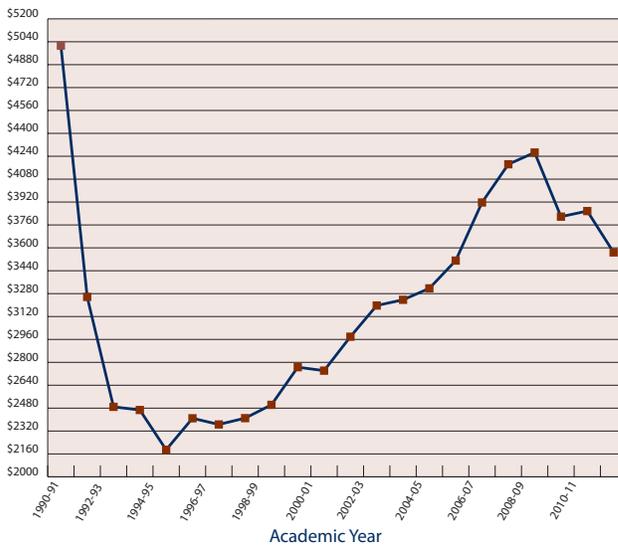


As the cost of a CUNY senior college education has increased and decent job opportunities for high school graduates have disappeared, more and more students have turned to CUNY community colleges for a chance at a better life.

Enrollment increases at CUNY community colleges are also the result of the influx of workers who are returning to college to gain an edge in the city's tight job market.

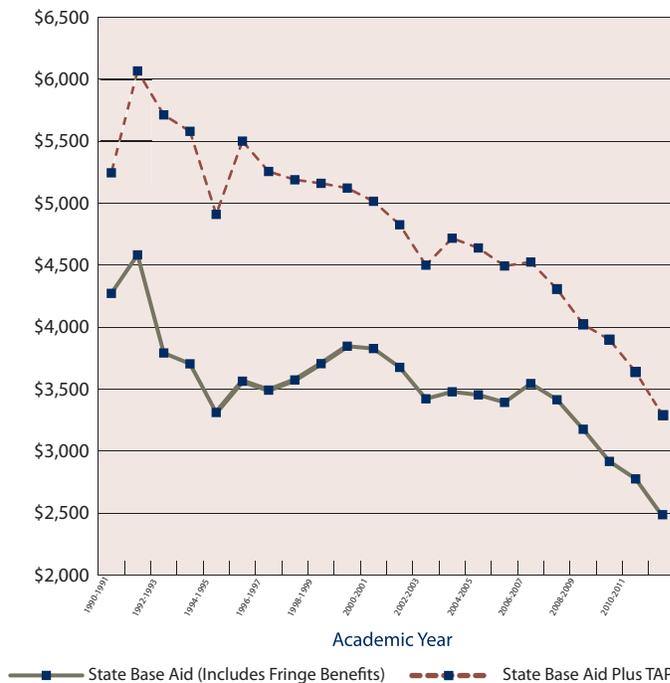
# City and State Support is Failing to Keep Pace with Enrollment Growth

**CUNY Community Colleges:  
City Revenue per FTE Student**  
1990-91 through 2011-12 / Inflation-Adjusted



While the amount of city support has increased since 1990-91, it has failed to keep up with enrollment growth. Overall, city support per full-time equivalent student **has fallen 29.1%** since 1990-91.

**CUNY Community Colleges: Revenue per FTE Student**  
State Base Aid and State Base Aid Plus TAP

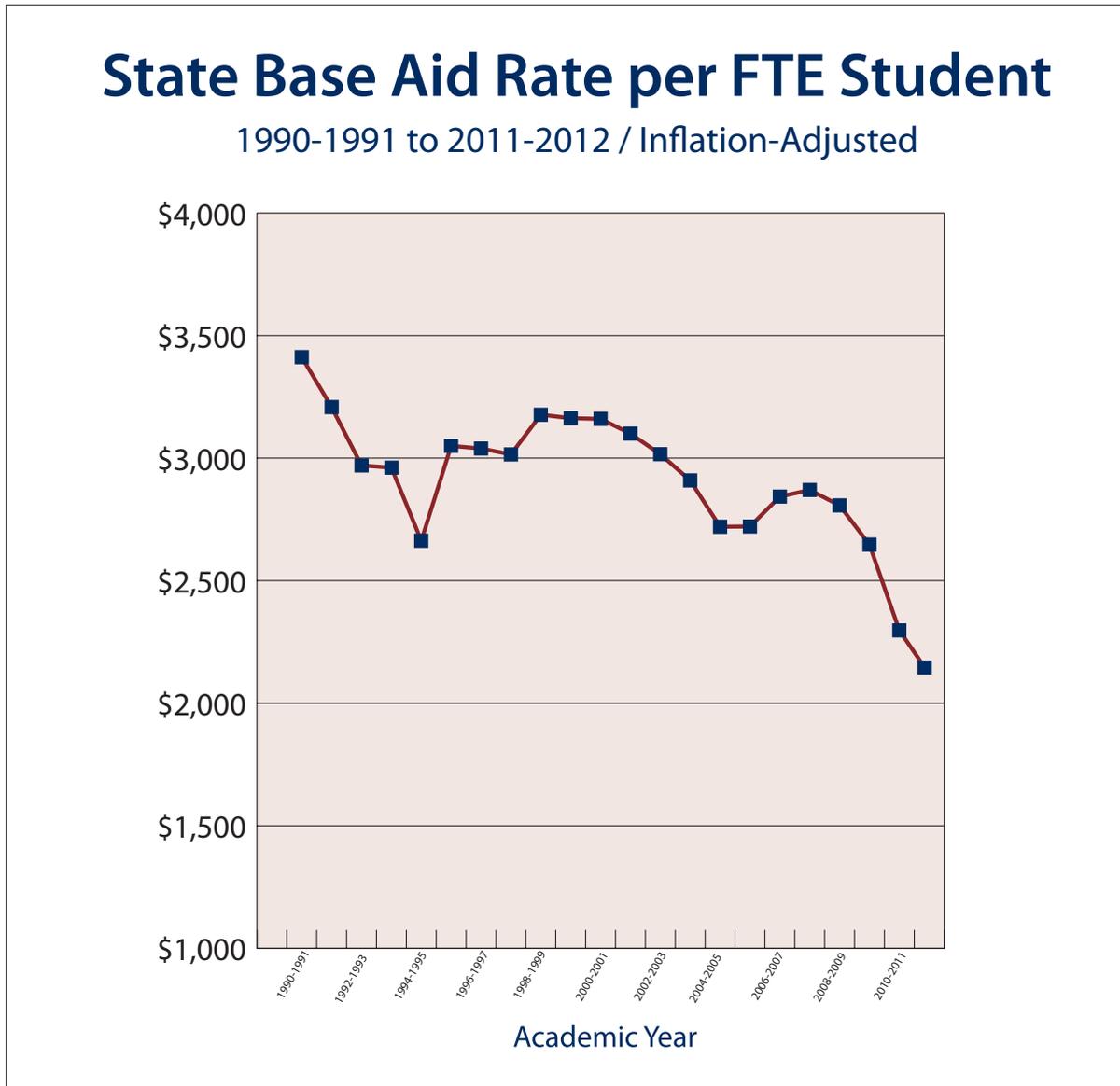


The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) covers all or part of tuition for more than 23,000 FTE CUNY community college students. However, TAP funding doesn't increase CUNY's total operating revenues.

Overall, revenue from State Base Aid plus TAP per FTE student at CUNY community colleges **fell 37.1%** since 1990-91. Revenue from State Base Aid without TAP per FTE student **fell 42.6%** since 1990-91.

# Decline in State Base Aid Rate per FTE for Community Colleges

CUNY community colleges are chronically underfunded by the State.



The State Base Aid rate per FTE for community colleges declined by 37.8% from 1990-91 through 2011-12 and by 24.4% from 2008-09 through 2011-12.

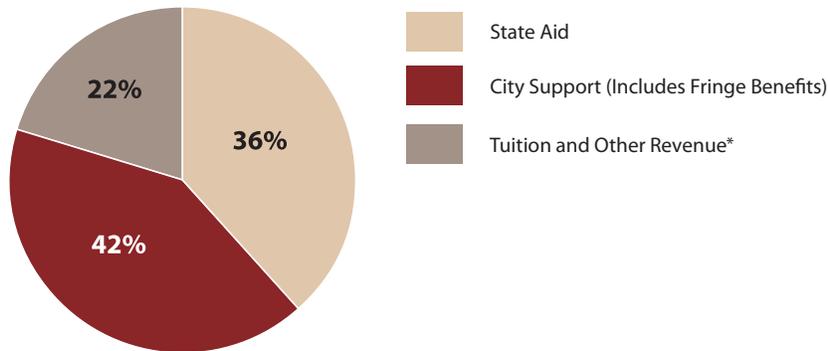
The State Base Aid rate in 2008-09 was \$2,675 per FTE student. Adjusted for inflation, in 2012 dollars, State Base Aid in 2008-09 was worth \$535 more than the \$2,272 provided in the state budget for 2012-13.

In the 2011-12 academic year, CUNY community colleges would have had an additional \$49.4 million for full-time faculty, counselors, and other critical student supports if State Base Aid had not been cut between 2008-09 and 2011-12.

# CUNY Community Colleges are Relying More Heavily on Tuition and Fees After Years of Budget Cuts and Underfunding

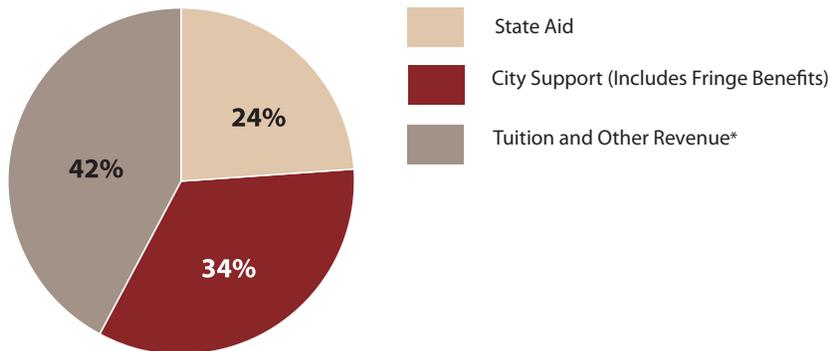
## Distribution of Revenue Sources at CUNY Community Colleges

1990-1991



## Distribution of Revenue Sources at CUNY Community Colleges

2011-2012



Between 1990-91 and 2011-12, city support for CUNY community colleges declined as a proportion of total revenues, falling from **42% to 34%**.

Over the same period, tuition and fees\* have almost doubled as a proportion of total revenues available to CUNY community colleges, rising from **22% to 42%**.

\*"Tuition and Other Revenue" includes tuition, student fees, IFR funds used to support tax-levy operations, and philanthropy. CUNY-wide, tuition and fees account for 97.4% of the total this year; IFR and philanthropy equal 2.6%.

# Community College Tuition has Tripled Since 1990-91

## CUNY Community Colleges: Nominal Tuition 1990-91 through 2012-13



Tuition at CUNY community colleges has **increased by 188% since 1990-91**. After the requested **\$300 tuition hike** scheduled for fall 2012, it will have **increased by 212% since 1990-91**.\*

In 2011-12 CUNY community college tuition and fees (\$3,946) were **33% higher** than the national average tuition and fees at 2-year public colleges (\$2,963).\*\*

\*Mayor Bloomberg's budget for 2012-2013 assumes a \$300 tuition hike for community colleges proposed in the CUNY budget request.

\*\*This CUNY tuition and fees figure uses the lowest activity fee listed by CUNY of \$58 per semester.

# Total Annual Cost of Attending a CUNY Community College

For a full-time, in-state student living at home or with relatives in 2012-13 and attending CUNY for nine months

## Tuition and Fees

Tuition	\$3,900
Technology Fee	\$200
Consolidated Service Fee	\$30
Activity Fee	\$116 and up

## Other College-Related Expenses

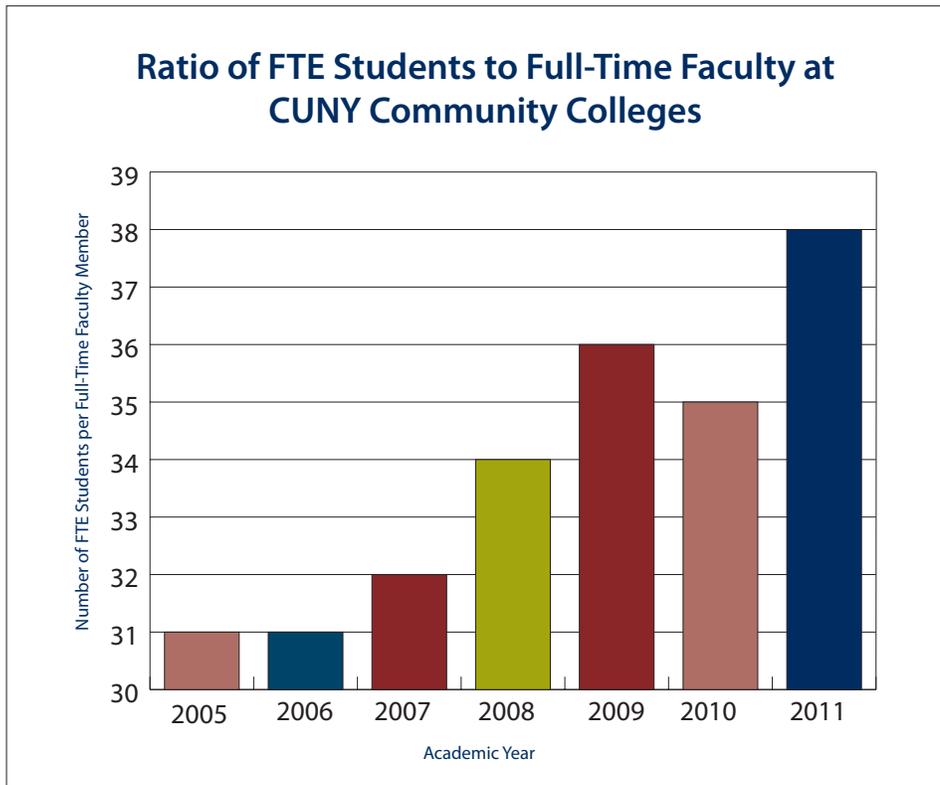
Books & Supplies	\$1,248
Transportation	\$986
Lunch	\$1,105
Personal Expenses	\$1,780
Room and Board	\$1,685

**Total**

**\$11,050**

# CUNY Community Colleges Need More Full-Time Faculty and Staff

Full-time faculty members teach only half the classes at CUNY community colleges.



CUNY's full-time faculty shortage means that class sizes are often too big, course sections are limited and upper-level courses are not offered often enough.

36% of community college students report not being able to register for a class because no seats were available.

9% report not being able to register for a class they needed to graduate.

## State and Federal Grant Aid at CUNY Community Colleges

### TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

**IT'S A MYTH THAT TAP** covers tuition for all CUNY students. TAP helps some students, but many students must pay tuition hikes out of pocket. Other college-related expenses are simply not covered by TAP.

For students who qualify based on the program's sliding income scale, state TAP aid can be used to cover all or part of tuition. However, many students with moderate family incomes do not qualify for substantial TAP awards. Others fall through the cracks in the program.

40,000 CUNY community college students are part-time and TAP offers virtually no help to them.

Financially independent students without dependents, (about 5% to 10% of CUNY full-time students) have limited TAP coverage. Their awards are much smaller than dependent students' awards and they can only receive TAP aid if their Net Taxable Income is less than \$10,000.

TAP limits most full-time community college students eligibility to four semesters and sets rules on progress for degree completion required to maintain eligibility. Many community college students work, have family responsibilities, and must overcome educational deficits. It takes them longer.

Undocumented students cannot receive TAP. An estimated 4,500 undocumented students now attend CUNY.

Consequently, only 23,000 FTE students out a total FTE enrollment of 67,800 CUNY community colleges students were covered by TAP in 2010-11— even though a large majority are low income (see page 2).

### PELL GRANTS

Federal Pell grants can be used to cover tuition and other college-related expenses, but approximately 39,000 CUNY community college students do not receive Pell grants.

# PSC's New York City Budget Plan for Opportunity

**MAYOR BLOOMBERG HAS PROPOSED** a flat-line budget for CUNY community colleges that doesn't account for enrollment increases, inflationary cost increases and past cuts to scholarships and other programs. His plan for CUNY assumes a requested \$300 tuition hike that many community college students cannot afford and it defunds council-supported initiatives that enrich the college experience and improve student success. To support opportunity for all New Yorkers, the Council should:

## **Fund CUNY's Mandatory Cost Increases (\$8.2 million)**

By failing to provide additional funds to cover regular, inflationary cost increases associated with energy and personnel that are necessary to run the university, the Preliminary Executive Budget leaves CUNY unable to maintain its current level of service to students.

## **Increase Public Funds To Add New Full-Time Faculty and Staff Lines and Avoid a Tuition Hike (\$28.9 million)**

Instead of hiking tuition, support CUNY's full budget request with increased public funds for CUNY community colleges. Protecting students from another tuition hike would require \$24.3 million. Funding CUNY's requested enhancements would require \$4.6 million. CUNY needs public funding for new full-time faculty lines, new counselors and student services. These investments will help students get the classes they need to graduate on time, bring class sizes under control, and ensure that community college students get the support they need both in and out of the classroom.

## **Fund Programs Traditionally Supported by the Council (\$19.5 million)**

The Vallone Scholarship (defunded in 2011) and Safety Net program (defunded in 2009) provided crucial financial aid to thousands of low-income CUNY students and were the only publicly-funded financial aid programs available to undocumented students. These and other Council-supported programs such as the Black Male Initiative, Murphy

Institute for Worker Education, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, the Dominican Studies Institute and the Creative Arts Team have all provided gateways to opportunity and a better future. The Council should restore these programs all to 2009 funding levels.

## **Support Capital Budget Enhancement and Critical Maintenance Needs**

After years of enrollment growth and deferred maintenance, CUNY community college facilities need sustained capital investment. Students learn more and faculty and staff are more productive when they have modern equipment, decent facilities and a safe, healthy learning/working environment. The Council must fully fund CUNY's capital budget request for the community colleges, including matching state capital appropriations completely. For too many years, the city has "left money on the table" when it has not matched state contributions and critical building maintenance and construction projects have remained stalled.

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