

# A STRONGER DOWNSTATE






**As New York City's only public academic medical center,** SUNY Downstate has served the community for the last 160 years and is dedicated to training a diverse, world-class healthcare workforce, advancing biomedical science through cutting-edge research, and providing high-quality care to Brooklyn residents.

**We are committed to a strong future for SUNY Downstate and the students and community it proudly serves.**

While SUNY Downstate continues to tackle systemic health disparities in Brooklyn and beyond, **years of financial instability and a hospital facility in disrepair** have put the short-term viability and long-term success of our hospital in jeopardy. The building routinely floods, has temperature control issues, and many other physical challenges. Even beyond the urgent need for repairs, healthcare facilities across the country are seeing more care being delivered outside of the hospital, and Downstate is no exception with **low bed utilization rates and massive funding shortfalls.**

**To address these urgent, ongoing challenges and ensure that SUNY Downstate can continue pursuing its mission, SUNY is working in coordination with Governor Kathy Hochul to launch a process to establish an ambitious, clear-eyed plan that will strengthen the institution and build a sustainable and healthy future for generations to come — with a vibrant, thriving health sciences university at its core.**

## → THE FACTS: WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS?

-  It would cost more than \$4 billion and would take 15-20 years to repair the hospital. To replace it would cost more than \$3 billion over 8-10 years. Neither path is fiscally possible, and there is already an overabundance of hospital beds in Downstate's service delivery area.
-  The status quo is a constant state of fear of a catastrophic infrastructure failure and a fiscal crisis marked by an approximately \$100 million annual shortfall. **Failure to act jeopardizes the jobs of all of our employees, the university, and access to care for the vulnerable populations we serve.**
-  **Built with community input, our Downstate plan will result in a state-of-the-art medical school** training a world-class, diverse workforce; preserve the current levels of inpatient care the community receives from the hospital through stronger partnerships; expand access to desperately needed primary care and urgent care resources; and build a cutting-edge Brooklyn Institute of Health Equity to tackle the systemic health disparities the communities we serve face on a daily basis.

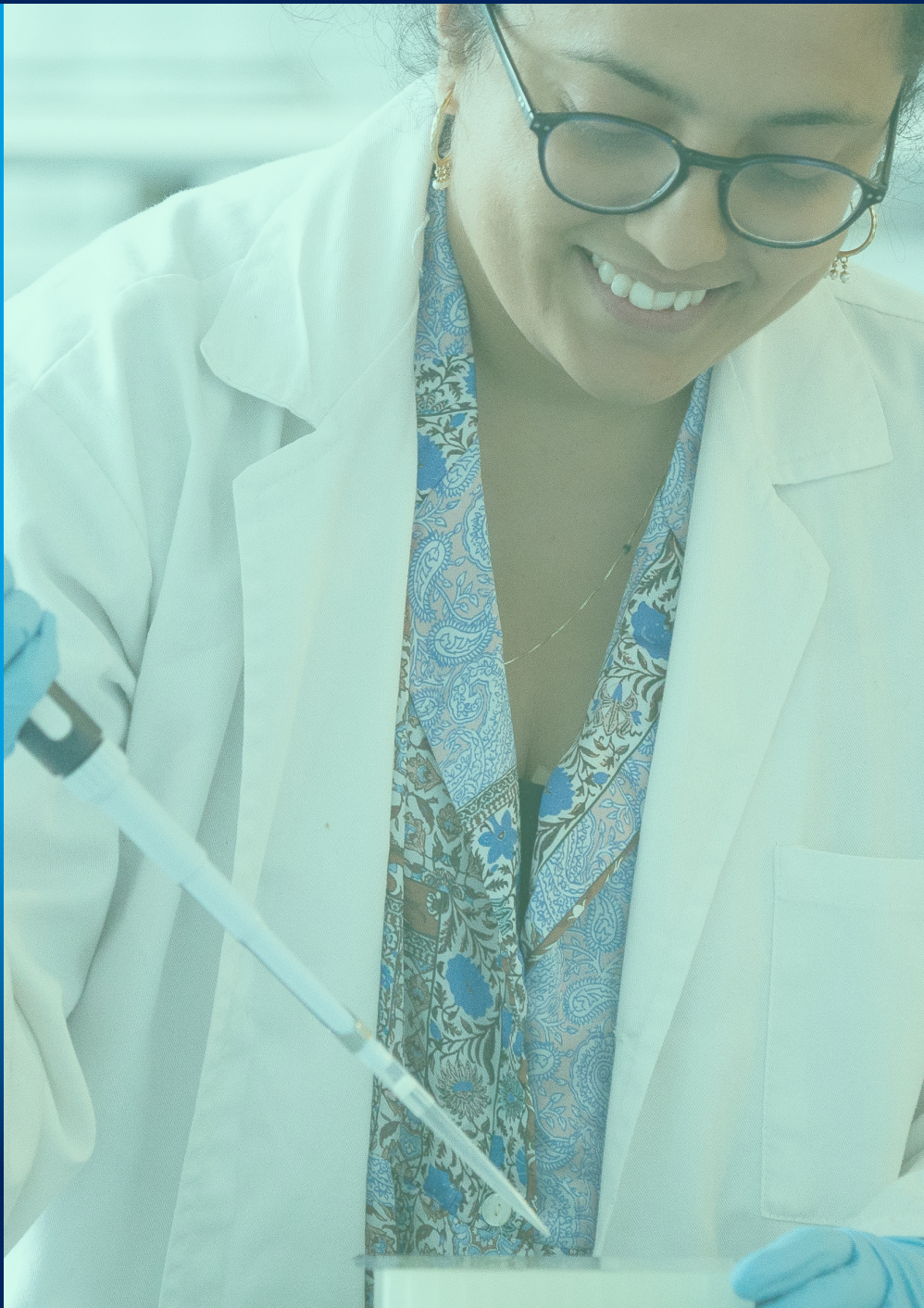
SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is made up of the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, School of Graduate Studies, School of Health Professions, and School of Public Health. At the end of the process, our institution will be even better-positioned to continue training **excellent, diverse healthcare professionals**; ensuring the communities surrounding Downstate get the **quality, affordable health care they deserve**; and **tackling health disparities** that so many New Yorkers — from Brooklyn to Buffalo — face on a daily basis.

**Downstate will be better equipped than ever to meet current and future challenges: a healthcare worker shortage, persistent health inequities compounded by economic insecurity, and a diminishing pipeline of medical research focused on practical solutions to public health crises.**

## **THE FACTS:** SUPPORTING OUR STAFF

Downstate employees are vital to the healthcare services the hospital provides. The greatest threat to employees is the status quo, since Downstate simply cannot continue to operate in its current form and location. This plan will minimize potential job loss.

SUNY Downstate employees are members of four unions: PEF, CSEA, UUP, and NYSCOPBA. As part of the Downstate plan, **we anticipate that all PEF, CSEA, and NYSCOPBA roles will be preserved** and transition to new SUNY Downstate service locations. **The vast majority — approximately 80% to 90% — of UUP roles will also be protected.** Given the current healthcare workforce shortage, it is anticipated that similar jobs with similar compensation would be available. **Downstate will set up programming to help impacted employees connect to new opportunities.**



# WHERE WE'RE HEADING

**In close partnership with the community, SUNY is committed to developing a plan for Downstate — supported by the state's investment of additional targeted capital and ongoing operating funds — that:**

- ▶ **Advances Downstate's unique role preparing excellent, diverse healthcare professionals that will go on to serve the local Brooklyn community upon graduating.** SUNY Downstate is the second largest medical school in New York State and graduates the highest number of diverse physicians. We will make major investments in SUNY Downstate's academic centers and their students by building a new University Center, expanding training in primary care services, and upgrading simulation labs.
- ▶ **Ensures the communities surrounding Downstate can access the quality, affordable healthcare they deserve.** We want to fully maintain the quality healthcare services that Downstate hospital currently provides to the community. We anticipate these services will be primarily delivered by SUNY Downstate in other physical locations – including in dedicated space right across the street at Kings County. In addition, the plan will expand SUNY Downstate's services to address community healthcare needs: state investment will make it possible to support new ambulatory healthcare space that could offer services such as primary care, specialty care, ambulatory surgery, and urgent care – which will be informed by the public engagement process built into the development of the plan.
- ▶ **Addresses the significant health disparities facing New Yorkers.** Building on our strong research foundation and reputation, as well as our relationships with community partners like the Arthur Ashe Institute and others, we will redouble our commitment to tackling systemic health disparities by building the Brooklyn Institute of Health Equity. Concordant health care, and the improved health outcomes it brings, requires more highly trained diverse doctors and nurses, which Downstate will provide.



## THE FACTS: PARTNERS ARE ALREADY ESSENTIAL TO DOWNSTATE

SUNY Downstate already collaborates with nearby hospitals to support its mission. Right now, approximately **two thirds of Downstate clerkships and residency placements** are with surrounding hospitals and health care providers.

## → **THE FACTS:** EXCESS HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY

Across the state and nation, more healthcare is being delivered outside hospitals. **SUNY Downstate has an average daily census of 155 beds, compared to 342 certified beds.** In Downstate's service delivery area, only roughly 700 beds of the 1,600 certified beds are used on a regular basis. The Downstate plan must address the services the community wants and needs in order to prepare for a strong future — not repeat the past.

# OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Downstate's plan will be developed with deep ongoing community partnership. We are excited to work alongside partners across the government, health care, labor, and academic sectors, and especially in the Brooklyn neighborhoods we proudly serve, to develop a community-centered, forward-looking, sustainable blueprint for SUNY Downstate.

## **We are committed to working collaboratively with the community to ensure community needs are met throughout this process, which will include:**

- ▶ Surveys and focus groups of SUNY Downstate stakeholders (students, staff, patients) and Brooklyn residents to identify common challenges in healthcare and academic experiences that Downstate should strive to address.
- ▶ Stakeholder visioning sessions with legislators, government officials, community leaders, healthcare experts, academics, labor representatives, and others to address concerns and generate ideas.
- ▶ Community report detailing our findings and laying out how community feedback will be incorporated into the plan.
- ▶ Extensive stakeholder engagement to ensure the future use of the current hospital site is designed with the community and based on the needs of the community, which might include housing (e.g., including for SUNY Downstate staff), community-based organizations, health and recreation, and other community-driven uses.

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