

Insert Date
The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing to respectfully request your support of Cornell Cooperative Extension's (CCE) state appropriation of \$6.12 million for 2024/2025 within the SUNY Executive Budget. This funding plays a pivotal role in leveraging County support and directly places vital Extension professionals in local communities. Maintaining last year's record funding level at \$6.12M for Cornell Cooperative Extension, including CCE in NYC at \$500,000, will significantly increase our impact in the area of youth development (4-H), farmer education and applied research, economic development and healthy eating.

New York State's commitment to supporting a dynamic educational system through County Law 224 by allocating \$6.12 million ensures research at Cornell University is translated and placed into the hands of New York State citizens in order to enhance their lives and well-being. CCE statewide reaches 1.9 million people each year and 15 million indirectly via print and social media through the efforts of over 1,000 paid educators and 45,000 volunteers.

CCE is seeking continued state funding of \$6.12 million in the Executive Budget. For twenty years, support for CCE remained flat, (which reflected an actual decrease in state support) until your administration pro-actively recognized the value of CCE work in communities throughout New York in the 2021/2022's executive and enacted budget. Increased funds from last year's successful state budget have increased our county and city partners ability to meet community needs – from adding 4-H programming for our youth, focusing on addressing health inequities, assisting farmers increase production and adapt to climate change, and developing community based agricultural science workforce programs in urban areas like Monroe, and Nassau counties for at-risk youth.

CCE in my county or city (meaning NYC) has done XYZ with the funds (please insert local sentence here).

New York State has the opportunity to lead by example and increase its investment in the research, outreach and education that will build vibrant communities for our youth, businesses and agricultural sectors.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Thank you,

Insert your name here