



LET'S #SCREEN NY

POLICY AGENDA



Federal

The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) is a critical safety net to ensure that all eligible individuals – no matter where they live or how little money they make – can get a free or inexpensive breast or cervical cancer screening. But today, the program doesn't have enough funding to serve everyone who needs it. **Policy recommendation:** Provide \$559 Million for CDC Cancer Programs, Including \$275 Million for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in FY22.

State

The New York State Cancer Services Program offers a critically important service to men and women who lack health insurance – screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer at no cost to the patient. Detected early, these cancers are more effectively treated. Failing to have these cancers detected early can lead to deadly consequences. Disparities in screening rates have long contributed to health disparities overall. The pandemic has only served to exacerbate the disparities in cancer screening. **Policy recommendation:** To help ensure that New Yorkers get back to screening, New York must increase funding for evidence-based cancer services to provide screening, patient navigation and education by \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 bringing the annual total to \$21.8 million.

The Colorectal Cancer Screening Cost Sharing Removal Act will eliminate patient cost-sharing for colonoscopies following a positive stool-based screening test for colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cause of cancer death in New York. New Yorkers are increasingly opting for less-invasive colorectal cancer screening tests that can be administered at home. While these tests are covered by insurance, patients can face large out-of-pocket costs if a follow-up colonoscopy is deemed necessary by their doctor. **Policy recommendation:** To ensure that cost is not a barrier to screening, New York State should pass the Colorectal Cancer Screening Cost Sharing Removal Act. **(A2085/S906)**

New York City

The NYC Community Cares Project, operated by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, facilitate partnerships between primary care providers and hospital in New York City to provide colorectal cancer screenings free of charge to uninsured patients. Despite a small budget and no dedicated funding line, the Community Cares Project has identified thousands of New Yorkers in need of a colonoscopy and utilized patient navigators to ensure that identified patients get the necessary screening. **Policy recommendation:** New York City should strengthen the Community Cares Project by rebranding it ScreenNYC, establishing a dedicated budget line for it, and provide \$1 million in funding in Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

To learn more about these policy proposals and the Let's #ScreenNY campaign visit www.FightCancer.org/ScreenNY.