



# Coalition Briefs

 F L A S H 

**BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK**

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## **Governor Vetoes Legislative Proposals to Fiscal 2006-2007 State Budget**

Governor George Pataki announced yesterday his veto of over 200 legislative add-ons to the budget. These vetoes occurred within the larger context of political struggles between the Governor and the legislature, and the mental health community was caught in the middle. **Contrary to some early information, the Governor did not veto the 2.5% COLA for non treatment programs.** Rather, he vetoed the legislature's attempt to enact restrictions on how the COLA could be used by providers.

The other vetoes of most concern to Coalition members are:

- \$300 thousand for a rate enhancement for Children's Day Treatment Providers
- \$2 million for non-COPS clinic providers;
- \$810 thousand for 54 scattered site supported housing beds intended for adult home residents;
- \$3.4 million to fully restore the \$7.7 million Aid to Locality cut enacted two years ago;

Early indications from the legislature are that the override process will begin on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Whether the overrides will stand remains uncertain. The Coalition will continue to monitor this situation and will keep you fully informed over the next several days.