

## Senate One-House Proposal to Cut \$100 Million in Vital Funding for Health Homes and Care Management

The Senate one-house budget proposal to cut \$100 million (\$200M with the Federal match) in funding from Health Homes would **devastate** the program. This proposed cut would mean that more than 52,000 **children and adults** with chronic health conditions including HIV/AIDS and those with serious mental health needs and those with serious substance abuse issues, including those who are dealing with Heroin and Opioid abuse would be losing crucial care management services.

Health Home Care Management has become an integral part of evolving healthcare systems in New York State. They support the largest healthcare systems in NYS including major hospitals, PPSs, FQHCs, and behavioral health provider networks by providing crucial care management and support to the highest need individuals living with chronic medical conditions including HIV, Heroin and Opioid abuse, as well as the most serious behavioral health needs.

There are currently 175,000 members enrolled in the Health Home program statewide, being served by approximately 4,500 community-based care managers. Health Homes Serving Children (HHSC) opened in December 2016, and Health Homes now serve members of all ages.

- Inpatient costs per member per month are down 8%, according to the NYS Department of Health, and emergency room utilization is down 6 percent.
- 17% decrease in preventable hospital readmissions between 2014 and 2015, according to the NYS Department of Health,
- NYS spent \$2,500 per member annually for the highest need individuals with behavioral health, substance use disorders, HIV and/or chronic medical conditions, serving 200,000 individuals.

We are writing to support the health home care management program and ask you to not devastate this vital program. Cuts to the program could reduce access to care management for the highest need individuals that we all serve and inhibit our ability to continue improving health outcomes, engagement in primary care and outpatient services and reducing avoidable and costly emergency department visits and hospitalizations.



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