



**SFY 2019 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

Workforce Investments Result in High Quality Care

- **WORKFORCE SUPPORTS FOR DIRECT CARE AND CLINICAL STAFF-** The Coalition supports an additional 3.25% increase for direct care staff and clinical staff, effective January 1, 2019.
 - Estimated cost for the behavioral health workforce, this would be valued at \$11.7 million.
 - This increase would start in January 2019 and would coincide with the next scheduled increase to the Minimum Wage in New York State. Being able to attract and retain a quality workforce can only be accomplished by providing workers with a living wage.
- **CLINICAL PRACTICE EXEMPTION** (*known as the Social Work Exemption*)- **Article VII, Part Y**
The proposed requirements are not only unnecessary to ensure that consumers receive high quality services, but would lead to unsustainable and crippling increases in the costs of providing care.
 - Programs are already highly regulated, monitored and overseen by several layers of State and other governmental oversight agencies.
 - Providers and their programs offer essential, safe and highly effective services.

Investments in Infrastructure Facilitates Transformation

- **HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TRANSFORMATION** --Allocate a minimum of \$60M of the \$425M in funding to community healthcare providers, including FQHCs, behavioral health, substance use disorder and home health providers, while maintaining the proposed \$20M set aside for Assisted Living Programs from the remaining \$365M to support their ongoing participation in transformation efforts.
- **NON-PROFIT INVESTMENT CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (NICIP)**-- Allocate \$100 million. This additional investment, consistent with FY18, advances the individual and population health of New Yorkers.

Access to Behavioral Health Services Leads to Consumer Wellbeing

CHILDREN--The Coalition urges NYS to take immediate actions to counteract the detrimental impacts of delaying the implementation of the Children's Behavioral Health transition by:

- **Immediately investing \$15 million in home-based services for children and families, similar to those that would have been available if the Executive was not proposing a 2-year delay for the Medicaid Redesign plan.**
- **Expanding and investing \$14 million in Community School Mental Health Services in both community schools and the 57 small city school districts.**

For more information, please contact Christy Parque cparque@coalitionny.org or Doug Berman dberman@coalitionny.org at The Coalition.

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HEALTH HOMES

Last year Health Homes were cut by \$20 million. The Coalition is requesting a restoration of these cuts and preventing additional cuts, which will allow for enhanced enrollment rates that support more reasonable caseloads, better outcomes for Health Home members and clients and long-term cost savings for Medicaid.

- **Restore \$20 million in cuts to Health Homes from FY18**

MENTAL HEALTH HOUSING—TOTAL NEED IS \$120 M

- We must shore up existing housing resources while we continue to fund options. We cannot do one without the other.
 - **Add \$20 million to start January 2019 for mental health housing. This would annualize to \$120 million while mitigating the impact on this fiscal year.**
 - **Support the Governor's \$10 million for mental health housing**
 - **Support moving that \$10 million to January 2019**

ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- **The Coalition supports the addition of \$26 million to the existing commitment of \$200 million to combat the scourge of the Opioid/Heroin epidemic. It is estimated that the surcharge will raise \$127 million this year.**
- **The Coalition supports the 2-cent surcharge per milligram of active ingredient but the provision that the funds be used to supplement existing funding for opioid/heroin programs and services and not replace existing resources.**

ADDITIONAL ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

- **The Coalition objects to the elimination of provider prevails provisions.**

Many people with behavioral health issues have physical health comorbidities. Finding and balancing the right medication can be a delicate process and doing so requires prescribers with a keen knowledge of the individual consumer. They should not be second-guessed by distanced staff without intimate knowledge of the consumer.

- **The Coalition supports integrated clinic licensure to remove barriers and facilitate the integration of physical and behavioral health services.**

Consumers deserve holistic and coordinated care. We support the concept of no wrong door for people seeking access to health and behavioral health services. Every effort must be made to eliminate bureaucratic barriers that impede the behavioral health sector from integrating and creating parity in care provision.

- **The Coalition supports the expansion of telehealth to a consumer's home which will greatly increase access to much needed services for individuals whose access is restricted by distance or locality.**

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