

PRESERVE THE HEALTH HOME PROGRAM

Invest in Health Home Care Management

The Governor's Executive Budget contains a misleading and potentially harmful administrative proposal to "Recalibrate the Health Home Program to Improve Care Management for Vulnerable Populations." When in fact, this proposal will do the opposite and create significant disruption to the continuum of mental health care that the Governor has committed to fixing.

The Department of Health's proposal seeks to disenroll 70,000 New Yorkers with serious mental illness, active substance abuse disorders, significant chronic health conditions including those with HIV/AIDS, which would create disruption in the continuity of care causing an increase in emergency department visitation, in-patients stay and completely ignores the social care needs of these New Yorkers.

This valuable infrastructure is being marginalized to make room for more fragmented interventions that will further silo the healthcare system and waste valuable healthcare and tax payer dollars. This proposal is completely contrary to the Governor's plan to address the continuum of mental health care in the State of New York. **We ask that you support this vital program and reverse this damaging proposal.**

Bifurcation of State Agency Oversight = Confusion

- Health Home Care Management and Health Homes Plus straddle between the Department of Health and the Office of Mental Health. This has led to our most valued workforce to not be recognized or received needed funding, such as a COLA.
- We recommend a committee look into this oversight structure to see if streamlining would lead to better wages for staff and better outcomes for those we serve.

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)



- Since the Health Home/Care Management programs falls under the Department of Health, the program is **currently NOT eligible** for the Executive's proposed 2.5% Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA).

Recommendations:

- To correct this, we are requesting that the COLA language be amended to include the Health Home Care Management program, at approximately \$28.3 million; and
- The July CPI-U was at 8.5% COLA. We respectfully ask the legislature to add money to the Executive's proposal to bring the behavioral health sector to an 8.5% COLA.

Data Transparency Needed



- On average, Health Homes have **invested \$180,000 and countless hours to achieve security attestation status for access to member level data from the State.** This work has happened for several years with Health Homes still not having access. We request member level data, along with transparency into program performance be shared to help inform the work and outcomes. Health Homes are positioned to play a pivotal role in Value Based Care and the 1115 Waiver. Without this data transparency the success of the HHCM program is at stake.

Build the Care Management Pipeline



- Support pilots to professionalize Health Home Care Management such as developing statewide training and collaborating on best practices to support career growth, expanding placement capacity for clinical hours and advancing diversity and cultural competencies.
- Health Home Care Managers **must be included in the 1115** workforce initiatives.