



## NEW YORK ALLIANCE FOR INCLUSION & INNOVATION

### NY ALLIANCE E-NEWS

#### 2024-25 SFY Budget Pertinent Components for NY Alliance Members

Over the weekend, the Governor and Legislature finalized the 2024-25 SFY budget negotiations, bringing the budget making process to a close about 3 weeks after the start of the state fiscal year on April 1st. Following is a review of some of the more pertinent components of the budget for members of the NY Alliance.

##### **OPWDD Aid to Localities**

The FY 2025 budget appropriates nearly \$5.2 billion in local assistance funding for the following items:

- \$88.83 million to support a 2.84 percent cost-of-living-adjustment (see below for more detail);
- \$351.6 million for Residential services;
- \$86.22 million for Day Program services;
- \$97 million for Family Support Services;
- \$56 million for the provision of workshop, day training, and employment services;
- \$14.2 million for the provision of other services including but not limited to hepatitis B; care at home waiver; epilepsy services; Special Olympics; and voluntary fingerprinting; and
- \$45.14 million to address increases in the state's minimum wage.

##### **Cost-of-Living-Adjustment**

In the Health and Mental Hygiene Article VII legislation (A.8807-C; Part FF), the Legislature adopted language to implement a cost-of-living-adjustment for state fiscal year 2024-2025.

For the period of April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, the Commissioners of OMH, OPWDD, OASAS, OTDA, OCFS, and the State for the Aging shall establish a 2.84 percent COLA for projecting the effects of inflation upon rates of payments, contracts, or any other form of reimbursement.

##### **Eligible OPWDD Services**

The following programs and services funded, licensed, or certified by OPWDD are eligible for the COLA: local/unified services; Chapter 620 services; voluntary operated community residential services; Article 16 clinics; day treatment services; family support services; 100% day training; epilepsy services; traumatic brain injury services; hepatitis B services; independent practitioner services for individuals with I/DD; crisis services for individuals with I/DD; family care residential rehabilitation; supervised and supportive residential habilitation; respite; day habilitation; prevocational services; supported employment; community habilitation; ICF day and residential services; community transition services; family education and training; fiscal intermediary; support broker; and personal resource accounts.

##### **Targeted Salary Increase**

Each local government unit or direct contract receiving COLA funding shall use such funding to provide a targeted salary increase of at least 1.7 percent to eligible individuals.

*Eligible Individuals for the targeted salary increase* are defined utilizing the Consolidated Fiscal Report title codes as follows:

- Support Staff - Position Title Codes ranging from 100 to 199;
- Direct Care Staff – Position Title Codes ranging from 200 to 299;
- Clinical Staff - Position Title Codes ranging from 300 to 399; and
- Non-Executive Administrative Staff – Position Title Codes 400, 500 to 599, 605 to 609, and 703 to 799.

Individuals employed in CFR Position Title Codes 601 to 604, 701, and 702 shall be ineligible for the 1.7 percent targeted salary increase.

OPWDD providers receiving funding for the cost-of-living-adjustment shall submit a written certification attesting to how such funding will be or was used to first promote the recruitment and retention of support staff, direct care staff, clinical staff, non-executive administrative staff, or respond to other critical non-personal service costs prior to supporting any salary increases or other compensation for executive level job titles.