



Meeting Life's Challenges

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March 22, 2021

Dear Families & Friends:

Each year, after the Governor's Executive Draft Budget is released in January, the Senate and the Assembly release their budget and policy priorities in March. Once they publish these priorities, called "One House Budget Bills," the budget negotiation process with the Governor can begin in earnest.

Recently the Senate and Assembly issued their "One House Bills" and they include the following priorities that would have avital impact on Living Resources and the individuals and families we support:

- Restores the 1% COLA (cost of living adjustment) OPWDD providers are supposed to receive, which the Governor proposed to defer.
- Restores funding in order to prevent the Governor's proposed 1% across-the-board targeted funding reduction to OPWDD providers.
- Restores funding associated with the Governor's proposed 5% cut to non-Medicaid programs.

The cuts in the Governor's Executive Budget would amount to a significant reduction in funding to Living Resources, which jeopardizes our ability to provide the quality supports we do. This is why it is imperative that these one-house bills be passed.

We need your help! Please write your Senator/Assembly member and urge them to make sure OPWDD funding is restored in the final budget. A draft letter is attached for your convenience. If you would prefer to send your letter online, [click here](#) and scroll down to add your personal contact information and the letter will be sent on your behalf.

Additionally, on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 12:00pm, New York Disability Advocates and The Arc New York will be hosting a virtual rally to both thank our legislators for inclusion of important funding in their one-house budgets, and to ensure that we can cross the finish line on April 1 with our needed funding in place. The event will be streamed live to The [Arc New York Facebook page](#), so there will be no need to register or receive a separate link. We expect it will last about one hour with appearances by various legislators, family members, DSPs, self-advocates and others.

We hope you join us!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Martin, CEO

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 24TH AT 12PM
GO TO [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEARCNY/](https://www.facebook.com/thearcny/) TO JOIN THE RALLY ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Care, Not Cuts!

VIRTUAL RALLY FOR NEW YORKERS WITH
INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Join New York Disability Advocates as we urge the State government to end cuts, restore funding and invest in critical services and supports for New Yorkers with I/DD.

DRAFT LETTER TO YOUR SENATE/ASSEMBLY MEMBER BELOW.

March __, 2021

Name/Address

RE: Make I/DD Services a Priority in the Final Budget

Dear _____

I write in support of our family, friends and loved ones who are New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We are grateful for the support of the Legislature and the restorations in the Senate and Assembly One-House budget proposals. We implore you to do all you can to make sure that these provisions are reflected in the final budget. We stand beside you in your work to make that happen and are counting on you to make it possible for New Yorkers with I/DD to continue to live the kind of lives that others take for granted.

Historic underfunding coupled with the additional expenses and revenue losses incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic have upended the service system - the additional rate and administrative cuts proposed in the Executive Budget, threaten providers continued ability to support those in their care. With your help, we can avoid this disaster.

With the recent enactment of the American Rescue Plan, including over \$12 billion in new state aid, continued, better than expected, state tax revenue estimates, as well as the continuation of the enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding through at least December of 2021, the difficult spending cuts originally proposed in the Executive Budget can and must be reversed. I urge the Governor to accept the restorations contained in the Senate and Assembly one-House budget proposals. We know that New York state cares deeply about individuals with I/DD and your leadership will save the lives of many people with I/DD.

In addition to restoring the cuts, we ask your support in making sure that the OPWDD budget process is developed according to a thoughtful plan, with stakeholder participation, and that the enhanced federal funding goes directly to nonprofit providers for whom it was intended. We appreciate our partnership with the Legislature and look forward to our continued work together to support our fellow New Yorkers with I/DD and their families to live healthy, safe and productive lives.

Sincerely,