NEW YORK DISABILITY ADVOCATES

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SFY 2026-27 Budget Priorities

#InvestInUs

WHERE DO WE STAND?

What has happened so far in New York's state budget process:

- **Governor Hochul proposed a modest 1.7% increase, which is below the minimum required to sustain existing needs.**
- **In response, both the Senate and Assembly one-house budgets include a 4% increase, recognizing this shortfall.**
- **As the budget process enters its final weeks ahead of the April 1 deadline, NYDA now urges that the final budget MUST uphold this updated commitment by including the full 4% increase to truly support the disability community and its workforce.**

Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII)

Including a **4% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII)** in SFY 2026–27 is crucial to ensuring access to support and services. Over the past five years inflation has increased by 23.7% and minimum wage has increased by 26.5% while rates have increased by 15.8%. Without a 4% increase, funding will continue to lag behind the actual cost of delivering services—leaving non-profit providers unable to competitively compensate Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), sustain existing programs, or meet the growing needs of New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

In addition, we are requesting that Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) are **restored** as eligible programs under the TII. Doing this is critical to preserving person-centered planning, navigation of services, and coordination of medical and behavioral health care for individuals with I/DD—functions that are foundational to quality outcomes and cost-effective care.

INVESTMENT WORKS!

Since SFY 2021–22, the State has provided nearly 16 percent in cumulative inflationary increases to nonprofit providers. NYDA data has shown that these investments have produced measurable and encouraging results: DSP vacancies have declined by 44 percent, turnover has decreased by more than six percent and starting wages have increased by 28.6 percent. However, investments in New York's I/DD services have lagged behind inflation over the past five years alone, and while recent progress has been made, sustained investment—including the full 4% TII—is critical to keep pace and build on that progress.

Statewide Average Starting Wages and Staff Vacancy Trends

SFY	COLA/TII	Average Wage Increase
2021-22	1.0%	2.7%
2022-23	5.4%	6.9%
2023-24	4.0%	4.6%
2024-25	2.84%	3.5%
2025-26	2.6%	9.1%
	15.8%	**26.8**

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