3 – FOR – 5: to ensure communities thrive

Nonprofit coalitions from across New York stand together in an historic coalition to call on the State to invest in a 3% increase on contracts and rates for the next 5 years for the survival of the sector.

Human service nonprofits provide vital services including after-school programs, supportive housing, homeless services, job training, mental health services to millions of New Yorkers annually.

Human services funding at the State has been slashed by 26% since 2008, resulting in rates lower than in 1980. The State continues to expect nonprofits to do more with less, but the sector cannot continue to provide quality services to communities without fair funding.

fast facts:

- Human services local aid has fallen by 5% annually since FY12. This historic disinvestment is unsustainable and has a direct impact on the quality and quantity of vital services available in every community.

- The human services workforce, upwards of 800,000 workers in New York State, bear the brunt of this divestment. Because wages have remained stagnant due to a lack of funding, the average human services worker is living at or below the poverty line.

- 60% of the workforce qualifies for some form of public assistance.

- 39% of New York human services organizations have less than three months of cash on hand.

- 68% of NY nonprofits anticipate not being able to meet the demands for services by their communities.

- 10 years since the state last provided a cost-of-living adjustment for the sector’s workers.

The State should not be using tax payer dollars to exacerbate the gender pay gap and create poverty level jobs. New Yorkers deserve qualified workers and consistent services, but with low and stagnant wages, turnover rates in parts of the sector are upwards of 40 percent. Continuing to ignore this workforce has a detrimental impact on the economy and our communities.

The State relies on nonprofits for a broad range of essential services, programs that touch the lives of every New Yorker. The State must restore critical funding to human services programs and invest in the workers who are the backbone of the economy and local communities.

Commit to the 3-FOR-5 investment to ensure that human services and the New Yorkers they serve can thrive!