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The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
NYS State Capitol Building, Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

December 17, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul,

The undersigned community-based organizations serving New York's adults, children, and families with mental health and substance use disorder related needs are deeply grateful for your recent investments to our community and sector.

Yet, due to decades of underfunding, we remain engaged in a full-scale state of crisis that is characterized by ever-increasing demands for our services, mounting waitlists, very limited access to care and an extremely hard-pressed workforce that we are struggling to attract and/or retain.

Further, **mental health and addiction service agencies are experiencing a statewide 20% - 30% job vacancy rate, depending on provider type, and a 35% annual turnover rate**, based on an August 2024 survey that sampled 43% of the total workforce in community OMH and OASAS programs. The survey showed on average onboarding costs for new employees at \$4,792 per new hire, resulting in approximately \$75 million annually to onboard new mental health and substance use disorder staff.

Meaningful investments must be included in the SFY 2025-26 Executive Budget Proposal to allow us to address significant treatment gaps and disparities and ongoing inflationary increases in the cost of utilities, insurance, transportation, food and benefits.

**We, the undersigned, request the following: A 7.8% investment in funding is essential to help address these alarming challenges.** The 7.8% represents the total of the current inflationary increase of 2.9% (CPI July, 2024) and the difference between the human services COLAs over the past three years (12.2%) and the CPI increases (17.1%) over that same period.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers in need and the thousands of agencies whose services are essential to their health and recoveries are counting on you to respond to our request. In doing so, we stand ready to collaborate with your administration to address New York's ongoing mental health and substance use disorder crisis.

Sincerely,

**Harvey Rosenthal**, Alliance for Rights and Recovery  
**Sebrina Barrett**, Executive Director, Association for Community Living  
**Allegra Schorr**, President, Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates of New York State (COMPA)  
**Paige Pierce**, Chief Executive Officer, Families Together in NYS  
**Sarah DuVall**, Policy Center Director, InUnity Alliance  
**Glenn Liebman**, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS)  
**Sharon Horton**, Executive Director, NAMI-NYS  
**Jackie Negri**, Executive Director, New York State Care Management Coalition  
**Kayleigh Zaloga**, President and CEO, New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health  
**Lauri Cole**, Executive Director, New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
**Pascale Leone**, Executive Director, The Supporting Housing Network of New York

With support from the undersigned organizations:

Access: Supports for Living Inc.

AccessCNY

ACMH, Inc.

Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York

Alliance of New York State YMCAs

ASCEND Mental Wellness

AsOne Healthcare, IPA

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

Baltic Street Wellness Solutions

Beacon Center

BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc

CAMBA, Inc.

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.

Catholic Charities of Cortland County

Cattaraugus Rehabilitation Center, dba Intandem

Cazenovia Recovery Systems, Inc.

CLUSTER Inc.

Coalition for Community Services

Collaborative for Children & Families (CCF)

Community Mission of Niagara Frontier, Inc.

Compeer Rochester, Inc.

Comunilife

Confidential Help for Alcohol & Drugs, Inc.

Council for Prevention, Inc.

Dynamic Youth Community Inc.

East House

EPIC Family of Human Service Agencies

Families First in Essex County, Inc.

Family and Children's Association (FCA)

Family of Woodstock Inc.

Family Resource Network, Inc.

Family Services, Inc.

Fifth Avenue Committee

Gateway Hudson Valley

Geel Community Services

Graham

Greater Mental Health of New York, Inc.

Greenwich House

Hamaspik of Kings County

Hands Across Long Island Inc. (HALI)

Helio Health

Hope House, Inc.

Horizon Health Services

Horizon Village

Hospitality House TC, Inc.

Housing and Services, Inc.

Human Development Services of Westchester

Huther Doyle Memorial Institute

Independent Living Inc

Jawonio

Johnson Park Center (JPC)

Joseph's House & Shelter

Lakeview Health Services

Liberty Resources, Inc.

Lighthouse Guild Behavioral Health

Long Island Consultation Center

Long Island Families Together Inc

Mental Health Advocates of Western New York

Mental Health America of Dutchess County, Inc

Mental Health Association in Essex County Inc.

Mental Health Association in Jefferson County, Inc.

Mental Health Association in Niagara County

Mental Health Association in Putnam County, Inc.

Mental Health Association in Ulster County

Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene

Counties, Inc.

Mental Health Association of Rochester

Mercy Haven Inc.

Metropolitan Center for Mental Health, Inc.

MHA of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc.

Mohawk Opportunities, Inc.

New Directions Youth and Family Services

New York Mental Health Counselors Association

New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc. - Stay'n

Out Programs

Northern Regional Center for Independent Living

Northern Rivers Family of Services

Northpointe Council, Inc.

NYC Family Policy Project

Onondaga Case Management Services Inc, dba

Circare

Phoenix Houses of NY

Pinnacle Community Services

Project Hospitality, Inc.

Risewell Community Services

Rising Ground, Inc.

Samaritan Daytop Village  
SCO Family of Services  
Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation  
Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Inc  
Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach Inc.  
St. Catherine's Center for Children  
St. Francis Friends of the Poor  
Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service, Inc. (Crisis Services)  
TCA of NY  
The Children's Home  
The Children's Agenda  
The Doe Fund  
The Family Counseling Center  
The Family Resource Network, Inc  
The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.

The Health & Housing Consortium  
TSLI/HHB, Inc.  
United Veterans Beacon House< Inc.  
United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region  
University Consultation & Treatment Center for MH Inc.  
Villa of Hope  
VIP Community Services  
VNS Health Behavioral Health  
WellLife Network Inc.  
Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc.  
Western New York Independent Living  
WRI Solutions  
YMCA of Greater New York  
YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County