

Member-Stakeholder Budget Key Points

February 5, 2021

In the Governor's Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022 proposed Executive Budget (effective July 1, 2021) submitted by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), there is a 2nd round of **significant budgetary cuts** for the seven (7) Care Coordination Organization/Health Homes (CCO/HHs), who were created in 2018 to assist Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) to provide holistic and integrated care so they may live a quality life.

- **The proposed effective funding cut date is 7/1/21.**
- This new cut is a **23% funding reduction** and *in addition* to the **16.2% CCO/HH cut** that went into effect last year on July 1, 2020—**166 million dollars (39%) will be cut from New York's disability care coordination budget leaving individuals with I/DD at high risk.**
- **A 39% reduction in funding will result in withdrawing the type of care management that individuals with I/DD have today.**
- Like last year's 16.2% budget cut, this proposed cut is being done as an "administrative action" and is hidden from the public in the NYS budget documentation. **No transparency in the Governor's Executive budget.**
- **The impact of these new proposed cuts is alarming** and creates significant concerns for the 110,000 individuals with I/DD and their families who rely on care management service delivery.
- We have not yet fully evaluated the impact of this latest cut and what this will mean for our ability as a CCO to deliver what we do currently for our members. Right now, we are laser focused on preventing the cut.
- Should this 23% new funding cut be implemented on July 1, the CCOs do know that **the negative impact on our service delivery and workforce will be significant and will have direct impact on individuals and families that need their CCO/HH Care Manager** to access services, community resources, and advocacy to ensure their eligibility, rights, and due process are met. We will do everything in our power to continue quality services and to support our workforce, but the path forward is unclear if the Governor allows this proposed funding cut take place.
- The enormity of this massive, proposed cut and budget action begs the question if the State's executive branch has been fully apprised of how these cuts will affect people with I/DD and their families. To our knowledge, no study or evaluation of the short and long-term consequences of such dangerous cuts has been conducted by OPWDD.



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- It's important to remember that Governor Cuomo in 2011 recommended, "**Care Management for All.**" Health homes were created in NYS for other specialized, complex populations—people with HIV, behavioral health conditions, and children. In 2018, the State then initiated the creation of CCO/HHs for the I/DD population. Today, the care management services will continue for the other groups but not for the I/DD population. This is both discriminatory and nonsensical—slashing the funding for the State's vulnerable and high-risk I/DD population while maintaining care coordination for the other populations.
- OPWDD will most likely respond that the CCOs can mitigate this proposed funding cut and the overall \$166 million dollars by enrolling new members into Medicare. **THIS IS NOT TRUE**—the CCOs will not be able to continue their level of care coordination if this cut takes effect on July 1, 2021.

What CCO/HHs are Doing:

- We are launching a unified effort to advocate against these deep funding reductions in collaboration with the other 6 CCO/HHs that will include media outreach.
- On 2.1.21, Jim Moran, CEO of Care Design NY, jointly with the other CCO/HHs Executives, have begun meeting with NYS Assembly members and Senators to alert them to this proposed cut and enlist their support to defend against it.
- On 2.5.21, on behalf of all CCOs, Nick Cappoletti, LIFEPlan CEO, will testify at the NYS Mental Hygiene Legislative Budget Hearing representing the CCO/HH concerns. Also, a CDNY Advisory Board member will testify at the 2.5.21 hearing.
- The CCOs are creating educational materials for members, families, providers, government leaders, and the media describing the vital role of the CCO/HH care coordination for 110,000 individuals with I/DD in NYS and the devastating impact of this proposed cut for members and their families in NYS that count on us!
- We will be sharing more information with members and families on how they can support the advocacy efforts to stop the proposed funding cut and assault on individuals with disabilities by cutting their care coordination and health home but no other health homes in the State.
- The senior leadership team is committed to transparency and we will keep members, their families, advocates, and all stakeholders updated as more information becomes available.