



## NEW YORK ALLIANCE FOR INCLUSION & INNOVATION

Thank you for taking the time to have this conversation. My name is [insert your name], I am the [insert the name of the Agency you represent and your title]. I am also a member organization of the NY Alliance, a provider association representing 135 nonprofit agencies providing services and supports to individuals with an intellectual and developmental disability.

Statewide, there are about 400 non-profit organizations, who in 2023 supported 131,000 individuals, and provided over \$9.1 billion in I/DD Medicaid services in 6,500 locations across the state.

Medicaid is the payor of I/DD services in New York State. So, our community is very concerned about the future of Medicaid, hence this call/meeting. The NY Alliance and our provider community are conducting a series of meetings and discussions with our NY delegation.

I'd like to talk a bit about I/DD as it relates to your congressional district. In your packet of information is a Congressional map, highlighting the number of sites providing I/DD services. On the back of this map, you will see all the nonprofit agencies providing supports and services in your Congressional district.

As I said at the outset, we are very worried about the future of IDD services based upon the fact that Medicaid is going to be "Pay For" in the Reconciliation process.

When we hear Block Grants, per capita caps, and reducing the FMAP – that all translates into less resources coming to NYS and it means less money for IDD Services.

As you know, Medicaid is a Federal/State/and Local Partnership. It is NOT a program funded solely by the Federal government, as suggested at a recent Senate confirmation hearing.

NYS' FMAP is 50%, the lowest percentage in the country. Reducing the FMAP is a cost shift that cannot be fully absorbed in the State budget. Nor can the loss of Federal resources be shifted to Local Government, because for the past 10 years, the local contribution has been capped – saving local governments nearly \$50 billion and keeping real property taxes in check.

If there are dramatic reductions in federal support, we will see reductions in IDD services; a reduction in our workforce; and property taxes will increase to make up for the shortfall in federal support.

I mentioned the WORKFORCE. In your packet is a one-pager on the workforce.

The job of a direct support professional (DSP) is both physically and emotionally challenging. DSPs assist in bathing, dressing, toileting and making sure folks don't choke at mealtimes. They are also involved in medication administration and transportation.

It is difficult work and finding workers is very challenging.





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As of July 2024, the average starting wage (statewide) was \$16.74 an hour, barely above the state's minimum wage.

This results in high vacancy rates of 17% and extremely high turnover rates of more than 31%.

To make matters worse, 50% of our workforce is food insecure and 50% are deemed housing insecure.

My last point is the Economic Impact of sector has in the state. In some areas of the state, our IDD providers are the largest employer.

In your packet is a link to a Rockefeller Institute study that said the disability sector provided over \$14 billion in economic output. And generated over \$2.2 billion in tax revenues.

As you can see, our sector and our services matter.

The decisions in front of Congress are daunting and difficult.

However, changes to Medicaid will have real consequences on the lives of New Yorkers with an IDD.

We hope that this information has been helpful in understanding that reductions in Medicaid will put IDD services in jeopardy and the individual with a developmental disability will be caught in the crossfire.

We hope we can count on your support to oppose cuts to Medicaid and protect individuals with IDD.

Thank you for listening and thank you for your service.

