

# NEW YORK DISABILITY ADVOCATES

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## **Statement from New York Disability Advocates On Governor Hochul's Announcement of State Job Availability in Critical Health and Human Services Sector**

"Today Governor Hochul announced the civil service exam requirement will be temporarily removed for thousands of direct care, health and safety titles positions across State agencies. The "HELP" program aims to address the staffing crisis by quickly hiring permanent employees to fill critical care positions.

This announcement highlights the urgency of the staffing crisis, but the solution once again targets only state operated programs. Only 15% of New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities are served by state programs. 85% receive services and supports from non-profit providers, and the state is allowing their care to erode.

Non-profit providers are facing by the same staffing crisis, yet consistently receive inequitable funding and support from the state. Today, direct care staff working for non-profit providers earn only 70% of what their state counterparts make for delivering the same essential care. That disparity is now coupled with enhanced recruitment for state staff, bringing our already depleted workforce closer to collapse.

This preferential treatment of state staff results in an inequity of care for New Yorkers with I/DD.

Non-profit service providers advocated for a Direct Support Wage Enhancement to be included in the New York State Budget to improve recruitment and retention of staff who deliver skilled care to 85% of New Yorkers with I/DD. That call was not met. The Governor's announcement only makes the DSWE more necessary.

Governor Hochul acknowledged the severity of the staffing crisis, and the urgent need to address it. It must be addressed for all. We call on Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature to ensure equitable care for New Yorkers with disabilities by establishing the Direct Support Wage Enhancement."