

# In-District Challenge

New York Disability Advocates (NYDA) is launching a three-month competition (July – September) to spur **direct, in-district engagement** between I/DD provider agencies and their State Senators and Assembly members. We know that Legislators who see programs firsthand become stronger champions in budget and policy negotiations. This guide explains the rules, point system, timelines, and tips to help your agency participate and win.

## QUICK FACTS

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Challenge Window</b>    | July - September 30, 2025                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Who Can Participate</b> | All not-for-profit I/DD Provider Agencies                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Eligible Targets</b>    | Senate and Assembly members representing the agency's service territory                                                                                              |
| <b>Grand Prize</b>         | \$2,500 donation to the winning agency (awarded after September 30)                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tie-Breaker</b>         | If two or more agencies finish with identical point totals, NYDA will conduct a drawing to select the winner                                                         |
| <b>Report Interactions</b> | Submit each interaction within five (5) business days using the Google form: <a href="https://forms.gle/ebarrs2zylmezWLKE8">https://forms.gle/ebarrs2zylmezWLKE8</a> |

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. **Know Your Legislators**
  - a. <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>
  - b. <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>
2. **Schedule your Engagement**
3. **Report & Repeat**
  - a. Log each interaction via the Google form and attach proof. You'll receive an automatic receipt for tracking.
  - b. Rinse and repeat with every one of the legislators representing your agency's sites.



Google Form

# In-District Challenge

## POINT SYSTEM

| <u>Activity</u>                                                                                    | <u>Points</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Legislator conducts an on-site visit/tour of a program/agency                                      | 10            |
| Legislator makes a social media post tagging the agency (X/Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) | 5             |
| In-Person meeting with legislator at their district or Capitol office                              | 5             |
| Virtual meeting (Zoom/Teams/phone) with legislator                                                 | 3             |

**Rule of One:** You may only claim points **once per legislator** during the challenge window. Plan strategically to maximize high-value engagements.

## ELIGIBILITY & RULES

1. **Legislator Scope** – Interactions must involve Senators or Assemblymembers whose districts overlap your service footprint. Cross-district events (e.g., statewide hearings) do *not* count.
2. **Documentation** – Submit supporting evidence (photo, screenshot, agenda, or email confirmation) with every Google form entry.
3. **Timeliness** – Log the interaction within five business days. Late submissions (after Sept. 30) will not count.
4. **Good Faith** – All engagements should advance disability advocacy; purely social or unrelated encounters are ineligible.

## AWARD & RECOGNITION

- **September 30:** Challenge closes at 11:59 p.m. EDT
- **October 7:** NYDA verifies totals and announces the winner via email and social media
- **Prize:** \$2,500 donation to the agency