

FINAL NYS BUDGET ADVOCACY PUSH

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

As the Legislature and Executive are in negotiations on the SFY 2025-26 Budget, now is the time to make sure our voices are heard!

We are urging provider agencies to meet with their state legislators and advocate for a flexible **Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) and the Direct Support Wage Enhancement.**

- The Governor's Executive Budget includes a 2.1% TII.
- Both the Senate and Assembly proposed a 7.8% TII in their one-house budgets.
 - However, the Senate's proposal mandates agencies provide at least a 4% wage increase for non-executive staff, limiting agencies' flexibility in utilizing the funds.
 - This language does not include the costs related to mandated fringe and benefits.

The Ask:

Between now and April 1st, reach out to the Senate and Assembly members that represent your provider agency.

Thank them for including a 7.8% TII in their One-House Budget proposals.

Urge them to support a flexible 7.8% TII and Direct Support Wage Enhancement (Senate Part BBB) in the final state budget and to continue to speak out in conference to make sure that this remains a priority for Leadership.

Why Flexibility Matters:

OPWDD data shows that past *flexible* COLA investments have already driven significant wage increases for direct care staff:

5.4% COLA



7.2% wage increase for DSPs

4.0% COLA



4.95% wage increase for DSPs

Contact: Evan Sullivan, esullivan@ostroffassociates.com

For more information, visit our website:

<https://nydisabilityadvocates.com/>

Follow us to stay up-to-date on NYDA issues:

Facebook: New York Disability Advocates

Instagram: @nydisabilityadvocates

X: @NYDisabilityAdv

FINAL NYS BUDGET ADVOCACY PUSH

It is important to highlight that OPWDD is the only state agency requiring providers to submit detailed attestations on how funds received from COLA increases were used, ensuring transparency and accountability.

This enhanced attestation process guarantees that these rate increases reach frontline staff without the need for additional restrictions.

Overly prescriptive requirements on rate increase will undermine agencies' ability to respond to local workforce needs and may destabilize services.

Providers must have the flexibility to sustain both workforce investments and operational stability—rigid funding restrictions could jeopardize service delivery and harm the very workforce they aim to support.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

Ask your legislators to support a flexible 7.8% TII and DSWE in the final budget!

1. **Email** leadership, your electeds and the Governor's office.
 - a. You may use NYDA's one-click to send a pre-drafted email to your legislators.
2. **Call** both the district offices and Albany offices of the same electeds.
3. **Post on social media**, tag the same electeds, and use **#InvestInUs** and **#InvestInMe**.
 - a. Sample Caption: [tag electeds] We need a flexible 7.8% targeted inflationary increase in the final budget! It's time to ensure people with disabilities get the support they need to thrive. #InvestInMe #InvestInUs

See contact information and social media handles for relevant elected officials on the next page.

Contact: Evan Sullivan, esullivan@ostroffassociates.com

For more information, visit our website:

<https://nydisabilityadvocates.com/>

Follow us to stay up-to-date on NYDA issues:

Facebook: New York Disability Advocates

Instagram: @nydisabilityadvocates

X: @NYDisabilityAdv

ELECTED OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Governor Kathy Hochul

Email

Call: (518) 474-8390

Facebook: @govkathyhochul

Instagram: @governorkathyhochul

X: @GovKathyHochul

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie

Email: Speaker@nyassembly.gov

District Office Phone: (718) 654-6539

Albany Office Phone: (518) 455-3791

Facebook: @carl.heastie

Instagram: @cheastie

X: @CarlHeastie

Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara

Email: SantabarbaraA@nyassembly.gov

District Office Phone: (518) 382-2941

Albany Office Phone: (518) 455-5197

Facebook: @AsmSantabarbara

Instagram: @AsmSantabarbara

X: @AsmSantabarbara

Don't know your Senator or
Assemblymember?

[Find your Senator](#)

[Find your Assemblymember](#)

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Email: scousins@nysenate.gov

District Office Phone: (914) 423-4031

Albany Office Phone: (518) 455-2585

Facebook: @andrea.stewartcousins

Instagram: @andreastewartcousins

X: @AndreaSCousins

Senator Patricia Fahy

Email: Fahy@nysenate.gov

District Office Phone: (518) 842-2159

Albany Office Phone: (518) 455-2225

Facebook: @PatriciaFahy46

Instagram: @patfahy46

X: @PatriciaFahy46

Senate Majority

Facebook: @NYSenDems

Instagram: @nysenatedemocrats

X: @NYSenateDems

Assembly Majority

Facebook: @NYSAssemblyMajority

Instagram: @nysa_majority

X: @NYSA_Majority