



NYDA 10% HCBS Enhancement Proposals

1. Increased Provider Agencies Rates of Payment to Enhance and Support Provider Workforce Crisis – Immediate

To strengthen and enhance the voluntary sector, as part of the initial spending plan OPWDD must include an increase rate of payment of 5% on HCBS services to provider agencies effective on April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

For rate rationalized programs, OPWDD can apply the 5% increase on wages and associated fringe for the 100, 200 and 300 staff in the 4/1/21 rates and will make a similar corresponding increase to all regional fees (such as respite, community habilitation, SEMP, etc.).

By providing a 5% enhancement on payments for HCBS services, providers will have the necessary funding to increase compensation to 100, 200 and 300 level employees. Additionally, flexibility is needed to ensure that these funds could be used for activities such as hazard pay, overtime pay, shift differentials and for conducting activities to recruit and retain staff.

2. I/DD System Transformation Fund

\$350,000,000 shall be made available to establish a I/DD System Transformation Fund. This fund administered by OPWDD will provide for grants to non-profit I/DD provider agencies to enhance and strengthen the delivery of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Grants made available through this fund may be used for, but not limited to the following:

- Workforce Recruitment and Retention Demonstration Programs and Workforce Training;
- Assistive Technology and Other Supports; and
- Innovative Service Delivery Demonstration Programs.