



### [Crain's: New York aims to retain frontline workers with \\$3,000 bonuses](#)

The state has launched a \$1.3 billion program to retain frontline health workers with bonuses of up to \$3,000 each, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Wednesday.

The program, originally announced in January, passed as part of the state's most recent budget. With the goal of boosting the health care workforce by 20% in the next five years, it gives bonuses ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 to a variety of health sector workers.

To be eligible, workers must have worked a consecutive six-month period since October and must make less than \$125,000 per year. Bonuses are determined by the number of hours worked and can be awarded to full-time, part-time and temporary workers.

It's the responsibility of the employer to claim bonuses for employees.

Bonuses will go to workers who provide hands-on health care services, including "practitioners, technicians, assistants, support staff and aides," according to the governor's announcement. A number of agencies are eligible, including the Office for the Aging, the Office for Addiction Services and Supports, and the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

"Our bonus program is about more than just thanks. This is an investment in health care," Hochul said in the announcement. "We will retain, rebuild and grow our health care workforce and ensure we deliver the highest quality care for New Yorkers."

The bonus program was praised by 1199SEIU United Health Care Workers, the state's largest health care union, as well as leadership from New York–Presbyterian, the Greater New York Hospital Association and Health Care Association of New York State.

The governor has received pushback because certain frontline workers were left out of the program. In June, a union representing more than 6,000 [medical residents](#) in the city criticized Hochul for excluding residents and first-year interns.

Advocates for New Yorkers with [disabilities](#) criticized the governor for leaving out some workers in their [sector](#). Tom McAlvanah, president of the New York Disability Advocates, said his organization is "deeply dismayed that these bonuses would not extend to workers with the same titles who perform equivalent functions within the intellectual and developmental disabilities sector."

Employers can register with the program on the state's [portal](#). —James O'Donnell