

# 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:

**On Monday, April 21st, and Tuesday, April 22nd, 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.**

**Contact:** Evan Sullivan, [esullivan@ostroffassociates.com](mailto:esullivan@ostroffassociates.com)

**For more information, visit our website:**

<https://nydisabilityadvocates.com/>

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## 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 |

**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.

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## 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.
  - a. As your constituent and an advocate for New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), I deeply appreciate your inclusion of a 7.8% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) in your one-house budget proposal.
  - b. As you approach the final stages of budget negotiations, I urge you to prioritize this essential investment and ask you to speak up in Conference to support this critical investment. The proposed TII is vital to stabilizing our system of care, particularly as we face significant uncertainty and potential funding challenges from the Federal Government. Sustained investment from New York State is crucial to ensuring that individuals with I/DD and their families continue to receive the consistent, quality care they deserve.
  - c. This year's budget represents an important opportunity to address years of underinvestment and strengthen our state's commitment to supporting our most vulnerable community members. Your continued advocacy is critical as we navigate these challenging times.
  - d. Thank you for your leadership and commitment. Please fight to keep this essential funding in the final budget
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.*

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# ELECTED OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

## **Governor Kathy Hochul**

### **Email**

**Call:** (518) 474-8390

**Facebook:** @govkathyhochul

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**X:** @GovKathyHochul

## **Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie**

**Email:** Speaker@nyassembly.gov

**District Office Phone:** (718) 654-6539

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**Facebook:** @carl.heastie

**Instagram:** @cheastie

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## **Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara**

**Email:** SantabarbaraA@nyassembly.gov

**District Office Phone:** (518) 382-2941

**Albany Office Phone:** (518) 455-5197

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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

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**Facebook:** @andrea.stewartcousins

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## **Senator Patricia Fahy**

**Email:** Fahy@nysenate.gov

**District Office Phone:** (518) 842-2159

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## **Senate Majority**

**Facebook:** @NYSenDems

**Instagram:** @nysenatedemocrats

**X:** @NYSenateDems

## **Assembly Majority**

**Facebook:** @NYSAssemblyMajority

**Instagram:** @nysa\_majority

**X:** @NYSA\_Majority