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2026 Budget Campaign: Speak Up and Call for Action!

What is the calling campaign

The campaign is a collective push for members of The Arc New York community to place calls to Governor Hochul and legislators, telling them what they need to do to support people with IDD in the NYS budget. Instructions and a call script can be found below.

Who should call?

YOU! And your family and friends across New York State

Who are we calling?

Governor Hochul, NYS Senators, and NYS Assemblymembers OR Staff

When are we calling?

NOW until the NYS budget is passed on or after April 1

Why are we calling?

The Senate and Assembly's one-house budget resolutions included a 4% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII), compared to the initial 1.7% offered by the governor's Executive Budget. We are now calling on the governor and legislature to include a 4% TII with a bare minimum of 2.7% made available to providers to cover everyday costs apart from dedicated wage increases.

What number do I call?

You can find your representative's phone numbers on the Senate and Assembly websites below. You can call Governor Hochul directly at [518-474-8390](tel:518-474-8390).

[**FIND YOUR NYS ASSEMBLYMEMBER**](#)

[**FIND YOUR NYS SENATOR**](#)

How should I let you know to count my calls?

Complete this short response [short response form](#) to let us know who you called so we can track our shared success or simply email us at advocacy@thearcny.org!

Additional Information:

You can call any time, day, night and weekends to leave a message if you don't want to speak directly with a staff member. Emailing a personal message is great too. Once you look up your representative, you will find options to send a message directly to their email address or use the online form.

A sample script has been provided below. Please feel free to change it. It's important for you to feel comfortable, so we recommend writing out your script in its entirety and practicing a few times before you call.

We have created some additional resources with talking points to help support your call. You can ask for your legislator's email address so you can follow up and forward the materials to their office. The script focuses on the 2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase, but there is nothing holding you back from conveying the additional requests found in the budget priorities and legislative action documents below. Also consider calling on multiple days to cover each topic. Here are the links:

- [The Arc New York Budget Priorities](#)
- [About The Arc New York Info Sheet](#)

Longer Script

Hello *<insert name of person who responds>*, my name is _____, and I am a _____ *<give example of who you are and share more specific details concisely: parent \ staff member \ self-advocate \ family member \ supporter \ board member of>*...and a constituent of *<insert legislator name>*.

Optional: ...and a part of the _____ Chapter of The Arc New York.

I am asking you to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the workforce that supports them through nonprofit providers in the Enacted Budget.

It is essential that the *<legislature/governor>* include the full 4% inflationary increase, which supports wage increases and covers the increased cost of food, benefits, transportation, utilities, medical supplies and more.

As your constituent, I am asking for your leadership and decision-making authority to

make this a reality.

Thank you and appreciate your support for this very important issue.

What if My Legislator is in the Minority Conference?

Members in the Senate and Assembly Minority might not be in the room as the budget is negotiated, but they have the ability to speak publicly about our requests and talk to their colleagues across the aisle. This is common practice in Albany.

In the closing of your message, simply request that they also, “speak to colleagues across the aisle to gain their support.”