

Medicaid

Medicaid Matters New York

Matters

2016-2017 Executive Budget Medicaid Consumer Advocacy Response: **Access to Services**

The Governor proposes several changes to the Medicaid program that could threaten access to needed services. Medicaid Matters New York (MMNY), the statewide coalition representing the interests of Medicaid beneficiaries, recommends the following actions:

[Changes to Managed Long Term Care \(MLTC\)](#)

The Governor's budget proposes two changes of concern:

- 1) Limiting eligibility for MLTC to beneficiaries who need nursing home level of care. (In contrast, at present, MLTC eligibility is triggered only when a beneficiary needs 120 days of home or community-based care).
- 2) Removing transportation as a MLTC benefit, which means transportation services would be provided by a separate vendor.

MMNY recommendations:

- 1) Exercise caution in enacting changes to MLTC to ensure seamless access to services to those who still need considerable in-home or community-based care, but do not need nursing home-level care.
- 2) If transportation services are removed from MLTC, the State should enact new consumer protections to ensure that beneficiaries are informed of their right to transportation services, educated on how to access these services, and informed of their appeal rights. ([see separate sheet](#)).

[Oppose elimination of "prescriber prevails"](#)

The Governor's budget once again proposes to eliminate, with limited exceptions, provisions that allow a person's physician to have the final word when it comes to disputes over whether a prescription is filled as the prescriber intended. The Legislature has aptly rejected this proposal in the past because people should be able to get their prescriptions as prescribed.

MMNY recommendation: Reject the elimination of "prescriber prevails."

[New children's mental health services](#)

The Governor's budget proposes \$7.5 million for six new children's mental health services to the Medicaid benefit package. With proper funding, this could mean better access to services for children with mental health needs.

MMNY recommendation: Support \$7.5 million in new funding for these new services for children.

[Support essential community providers and community-based organizations \(CBOs\)](#)

The Governor's budget allocates large sums to hospitals for health system transformation and nothing to essential community providers and community-based organizations. This is incongruous with the state's own goals of emphasizing care and services in the right setting, which is more often in the community.

MMNY recommendations: Make existing pools of funding for health facility transformation available to essential community providers, require that any new funding be made available to them, and provide new funding for facility transformation specifically for essential community providers. In addition, the State must provide funding to support CBOs, including non-medical and non-Medicaid providers, so they will be better equipped and prepared to participate in payment and delivery system reform.

[Increase of New York City's share of Medicaid cost](#)

The Governor has proposed to increase New York City's share of the State's Medicaid expenses, reinstating a formula that was changed several years ago to ease local burden. There is concern that relying so heavily on the City's coffers to support the program will impose a heavy burden on safety-net providers already strapped for resources, which will result in reduced access to services.

MMNY recommendation: Ensure safety-net providers in New York City are able to continue to provide needed services to the Medicaid population and low-income, uninsured New Yorkers.