

Your Voices Are Needed!

Change the direction of 35 years of funding for caring for the uninsured and high Medicaid

We have an opportunity right now to support an important change in the direction of federal and state funding that is meant to go to hospitals to pay for the care of the uninsured and for high number of Medicaid patients. Medicaid only pays for a portion of the cost of care. The State Health Department coordinated an Indigent Care Pool Work Group (ICP) that was agreed to in state budget legislation. The group met four times and the Health Department, heard some public testimony, and will be proposing a draft change for how these funds should be distributed. We have the opportunity to support positive proposals right now instead of waiting to possibly oppose what the state proposes. **You can support these proposals below by sending the message “We support the proposals from the NYCH+H/Community Coalition and the NYSNA proposal to change the Indigent Care Pool distribution so that more money goes to Safety Net and other at-risk hospitals” to the following:**

State Medicaid Director, Donna Frescatore, at donna.frescatore@health.ny.gov or 518-474-3018

NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo at Andrew.cuomo@exec.ny.gov or 518-474-8390 & **CC the Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services** at paul.francis@exec.ny.gov

Assembly member Richard Gottfried at gottfriedr@nyassembly.gov or 518-455-4941

Senator Gustavo Rivera at grivera@nysenate.gov or 518-455-3395

Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Carl Heastie at Speaker@nyassembly.gov or 518-455-3791

The NYCH+H/Coalition proposal and the NYSNA proposal

These proposals were presented at the last meeting of the Work Group offering a positive alternative that mostly directs this funding to Enhanced Safety Net and other needy and at-risk hospitals that provide needed services in communities. The proposals address language in the state hospital code and meets the ACA federal requirements.

NYCH+H/Community Coalition Proposal

1. Eliminates the “ICP transition collar” which for the last seven years has restrained changes in the amount of funding to hospitals no matter how many uninsured or Medicaid patients are cared for and addresses concern about low Medicaid rates.
2. Shifts \$300 million of the \$1.1 billion to increase Medicaid rates for public hospitals and voluntary Enhanced Safety Net and At-Risk hospitals.
3. Uses \$25 million to redistribute to Critical Access Hospitals and to repair any impact to at-risk hospitals.
4. Removes funding linkages to bad debt which is required as part of the ACA.
5. Finally addresses the disparity between well-resourced and needier hospitals, establishing a tiered Medicaid payment for safety net hospitals.

NYSNA – New York State Nurses Association Proposal

1. Fully supports the NYCH+H/Community Coalition Proposal to eliminate the transition collar and target funding to safety net hospitals.
2. Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for Enhanced Safety Net Hospitals by 10%.
3. Changes the Priority Order of the existing ICP/DSH pools to protect NYC H+H from bearing the full costs if there are federal cuts in DSH funding.
4. Creates tiers of hospitals within the ICP Voluntary and Non-Major Public pool and change the formulas for distribution of ICP funds to target funds to hospitals with the highest rates of Medicaid and uninsured patients.
5. Fully and uniformly enforces the Hospital Financial Assistance Law.