

Medicaid **Medicaid Matters New York** *Matters*

A 2020 Vision for New York's Medicaid Program: Preserve Care and Protect Consumers

Medicaid Matters New York is the statewide coalition representing the interests of the over six-and-a-half million people who are served by New York's Medicaid program and the community-based organizations and safety-net providers that serve them. The mission of Medicaid Matters is to ensure those interests are included, understood, and met in any and all discussions on Medicaid in New York.

The intent of the Medicaid program is to provide coverage and access to low-income people and people with disabilities. New York State has been a national leader in providing public health insurance coverage and promoting health care access. Few states cover more people or provide as wide an array of community- and home-based services as New York.

New York's comprehensive and inclusive Medicaid program makes health care more affordable, enabling families and individuals to meet their health care needs and improve their quality of life. While there is room for improvement, and not all changes have been without harm, the State has made significant progress toward encouraging person-centered care and reducing costs through Medicaid redesign, once again proving to be a national leader.

While the State faces a Medicaid budget crisis, now is not the time to abandon its national leadership position in providing comprehensive health insurance to all who need it. The rest of the nation is looking to see how New York will meet its financial constraints while preserving what has distinguished its Medicaid program from all others. Medicaid Matters urges state policymakers to maintain its unwavering commitment to the Medicaid program and thoughtfully address the budget crisis by preserving its strengths. New York must show the nation that in times of financial challenge, we stand by our families, children, seniors and people with disabilities.

Medicaid Matters identifies the following efforts as critically important to creating a program in 2020 that works for those who need it (including, but not limited to):

- Protecting consumers from harm, such as loss of coverage or services as a result of potential Medicaid cuts;
- Ensuring access to meaningful care coordination and needed services for all managed care enrollees;
- Reaching greater equity in health outcomes by investing in culturally-competent, community-based, accessible care and services;
- Rightsizing Medicaid reimbursement for facilities so safety-net providers are compensated for the services they provide; and
- Ensuring that all Medicaid spending, including allocations made that are considered exempt from the global cap, be transparent.

Medicaid Matters looks forward to continuing to partner with state officials in providing for the needs of the New Yorkers who rely on Medicaid for their health and well-being and ensuring New York's Medicaid program continues to lead the nation.