



**Medicaid matters to countless New Yorkers, like Michele Kaplan**

“Without Medicaid, I wouldn’t be able to have help in my home with home healthcare workers, and it also allows me to get coverage for the motorized wheelchair that I need to leave said home.”

[www.medicaidmattersny.org](http://www.medicaidmattersny.org)

Medicaid Matters New York urges consideration of the following actions related to the Governor’s proposed 2024-2025 budget:

**Support**

- ▶ Continuous coverage in Medicaid and Child Health Plus from birth to age six; add language from legislation (A.8146, Gonzalez-Rojas/S.7747, Brouk) not already included in Article VII language.
- ▶ Improvements to the Hospital Financial Assistance Law to expand access to needed hospital services and further protect New Yorkers with low income from medical debt.
- ▶ Elimination of cost sharing for insulin.

**Oppose**

- ▶ Reject proposed unallocated savings to Medicaid, which represent unspecified, opaque cuts to the program with no opportunity for public discourse.
- ▶ Elimination of wage parity for home care workers in the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP).
- ▶ Restrictions to CDPAP eligibility and other cuts that were included in the 30-day amendments, all of which significantly undermine the integrity of this successful program used by people with disabilities and older Medicaid consumers to live at home and in their communities.
- ▶ Elimination of “prescriber prevails” provision for the Medicaid pharmacy benefit to allow a person’s health care provider to make the final decision as to whether a prescription is filled rather than the NYS Department of Health NYRx program.
- ▶ Ability of NYS Department of Health NYRx program to eliminate coverage of over-the-counter medications without public notice or comment.

- ▶ Elimination of funding for and repeal of the Enhanced Quality of Adult Living (EQUAL) program, which funds quality of life enhancements (like clothing, other personal items, room air conditioners, etc.) for people who live in adult care facilities, the majority of whom are people with low income who are covered by Medicaid.

## Add

- ▶ *Coverage4All* (A.3020-B, Gonzalez-Rojas/S.2237-B, Rivera), to expand Essential Plan coverage to all New Yorkers including immigrants who are undocumented.
- ▶ Increasing the asset limit for Medicaid eligibility for people with disabilities and older adults and repeal the asset test thereafter (A.5940-A, Kim/S.4881-A, Cleare).
- ▶ *Fair Pay for Home Care*, to address the home care workforce crisis by increasing wages for home care workers (S.3189-A, May/A.8821, Paulin).
- ▶ Repeal restrictions to home care access based on the need for at least three Activities of Daily Living (ADL) (A.6346, Paulin/S.328, Rivera).
- ▶ Repeal the 30-month look-back period for eligibility for community-based long-term care.
- ▶ Additional funding for the Community Health Advocates (CHA) program.
- ▶ Increase investments in primary care. Primary care is the cornerstone of prevention – focusing on preventive measures, early detection of health issues, and the management of chronic conditions that will build a healthier New York.
- ▶ Increase existing investments and implement new initiatives to bolster the health care workforce. Shoring up the healthcare workforce will expand access to health care services for everyone, including people covered by Medicaid in underserved areas across the state.

New York needs a Medicaid budget that centers the needs of the people who are served by the program. This requires investment and strategic thinking to make sure coverage and services are accessible, comprehensive, and high quality. The budget must also allow Medicaid to contribute to health equity rather than perpetuating systemic inequities.

If fiscal confines are imposed on the program and the budget overall, policymakers must find the will to raise revenue through progressive tax policy and use of state reserve funds. The alternative is cuts to the program that will threaten the health, wellness and independence of New Yorkers.