



New York State Budget Offers New Funds, Restorations

Network holds largest-ever Advocacy Day to help secure funding

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New York State's 2012-2013 budget includes several significant items for the supportive housing community. The just-passed budget creates a historic new program aimed at providing supportive housing to vulnerable, high-cost Medicaid recipients. In addition, the final budget restored some of the service funding needed to both provide services in supportive housing and prevent people from slipping into homelessness in the first place.

"This budget marks a banner year for supportive housing," said Network Executive Director Ted Houghton. "After months of advocacy in Albany and across the state, we're pleased to see supportive housing restorations for vital programs and the creation of a new program for high-cost Medicaid recipients. We thank Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature for their visionary work."

The new \$60 million Supportive Housing Development Program follows the recommendations of the State's Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT). It provides service funding, rent subsidies and capital dollars to create supportive housing for high-cost Medicaid recipients. The fund could grow to \$150 million annually if the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services provides matching funds.

Along with the \$60 million in MRT funding, the budget authorizes a new, ongoing community reinvestment vehicle, the Supportive Housing Development Reinvestment Program. This new program will redirect savings achieved by closing nursing home and hospital beds to build and operate new supportive housing in the community for high-cost Medicaid recipients.

In addition, following weeks of advocacy efforts by the Network and its partners, the legislature and Governor Cuomo agreed to restore \$1.5 million to both the NYS Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP) and the NYS Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP). This boost will allow the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to restore some funding for programs that were cut or left underfunded this past year.

During the run-up to these final budget negotiations, the Network held its largest-ever Advocacy Day in Albany. On March 14, the Network organized over 100 volunteer advocates in 58 meetings with elected officials and their staff.

About the Supportive Housing Network of New York:

The Supportive Housing Network of New York is a nonprofit membership organization with offices in New York City and Albany. Established in 1988, the Network represents over 200 nonprofits that develop and operate supportive housing. The Network serves as a voice for the

provider community, which has created the largest, best-managed and most innovative supportive housing stock in the nation. Learn more at www.shnny.org.

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