

## **Governor Cuomo Releases Proposed 2015 Budget**

Governor Cuomo released his proposed 2015 budget on January 21, 2015. The budget incrementally addresses supportive housing initiatives but falls short of the needed funding levels.

### **Statewide NY/NY Plan**

As the NY/NY III agreement concludes, the governor proposed 5,000 units of new supportive housing to be created for a new NY/NY 4 agreement over the next five years. While the Network applauds the expansion of the plan to the entire state, the number of NY/NY 4 units proposed is less than half of the number of State-funded units under NY/NY III, and just one-sixth of what is recommended by the Campaign 4 NY/NY Housing.

### **Rate increases for Office of Mental Health Supported Housing**

An additional \$50 million in JP Morgan settlement funding, (\$10 million per year for five years), will help offset cost increases in scatter-site housing in areas with rapidly escalating fair market rents. This is a much needed intervention, but represents only 10% of the current need across all OMH housing types, which in fact is \$99 million.

### **Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Homeless Services**

Service funding for the combined New York State Supportive Housing Program (NYSSHP), Services to End Homelessness Program (STEHP) and Operating Support for AIDS Housing (OSAH) reached \$31,681,000 which is a \$400,000 increase. The Network has called for \$2.46 million for new NYSSHP funding, \$5 million for new STEHP funding and an additional \$573,000 for a 2% increase for NYSSHP staff salaries this year.

### **Capital programs**

Both the Homeless Housing Assistance Program, at \$63.5 million and the Housing Trust Fund at \$47.5 million continue to receive strong support from the governor, and have reached and exceeded last years' record funding levels.

### **Medicaid Redesign Team Supportive Housing**

The two year budget for MRT is \$254 million. The program continues to grow and the plan is to fund \$120 million in the next year, up from \$96 million.

### **Salary increases for OMH, OASAS and OPWDD**

The budget contains a 2% increase for direct care and clinical staffs of nonprofits.

### **Support for new units**

The budget fully funds the New York/New York III pipeline, including DOH/AIDS Institute, OMH and OASAS. This covers the 80 remaining OASAS congregate units and 1,200 pipeline units. Additionally OMH will fund 400 new units for adult home transition and 100 for nursing home transition.

### **Next Steps in budget process**

Now the Assembly and Senate will hold a series of budget hearings while they develop their one house bills. The Network plans on testifying at three of these hearings. Once those bills are produced, joint committees will be formed for each budget area and additional funding allocated to each. Then the negotiations begin. The deadline for a final budget agreement between the Senate, Assembly and Governor is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **What you can do**

Plan on attending the second Network lobby day, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Steve Piasecki [spiasecki@shnny.org](mailto:spiasecki@shnny.org) to sign up.