

Coalition Briefs

FLASH

BREAKING NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH IN NEW YORK

Governor Pataki's fiscal year 2001 budget proposal is a winner

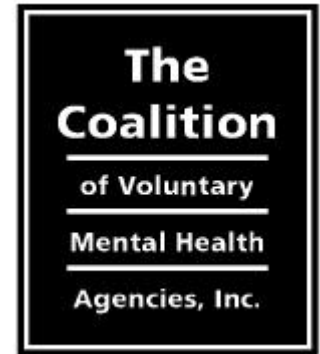
The FY2001 budget proposal Governor Pataki unveiled today includes an increase of \$98,266,500 for the State Office of Mental Health's (SOMH) Aid to Localities budget. It also increases SOMH's State Operations/Capital budget by \$10,168,000. Total proposed aid to localities spending, including general funds, medication reimbursement accounts, Health Care Reform Act funds and federal dollars, is \$759,535,000 for State Operations; \$1,056,801,000. Highlights of the proposal include:

- **Kendra's Law** -- \$32 million including
 - \$28.9 million in Aid to Localities
 - To pay for care coordination (SCM, ICM, ACT), grants to counties for medication for people coming out of inpatient acute care facilities while their Medicaid application is evaluated and to cover the costs of urinalysis for individuals in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program.
 - \$3.1 million State Operations Funds
 - To support 39 positions and provide for monitoring and coordination of the AOT program.
- **Enhanced community services** -- \$125 million
 - Adults
 - \$14.8 million (\$28.2 million when fully implemented in FY02) for **case management services** for an additional 10,000 individuals. The gross figure is \$52.4 million including federal and local share
 - \$14.65 million for 2,000 new **Supported Housing Units**. 1,500 are anticipated to become operational during FY01. The remaining 500 are proposed for FY02 and will bring the full allocation to \$20 million
 - Children
 - \$3.7 million **for case management services** for an additional 2,600 children (\$6.9 million when fully operational in FY02 -- \$13 million with matches).
 - \$3.1 million for **Home and Community-Based Services** (HCBS) for an additional 600 slots. (\$7.1 million annualized -- \$14.3 million gross).
 - \$2.0 million for **family support services** (annualizes to \$2.6 million)

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Fiscal year 2001 budget

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- \$2.35 million for 125 new **family-based treatment slots** to bring the Statewide total to 490. (\$5 million gross)
- **Reinvestment** -- \$17.2 million of which \$11.6 million will annualize Reinvestment year VI (FY00) and \$5.7 million for a fifty percent phase-in for FY01 which will annualize to \$11.43 million. These figures are based on a “per bed” savings of \$63,500 for 180 beds.
- **Psychiatric Rehabilitation** -- \$880,000 for 400 additional supported employment slots.
- **Cost of Living Adjustment for Adult and Children’s Residential Providers** – 2% adjustment for the Medicaid reimbursable component of Community Residences for a 15-month period beginning April 1, 2000 (annualizes to \$6 million).
- **New Capital appropriations in the community** -- \$13.4 million for on-going maintenance and rehabilitation of community-based mental health programs. In addition, reappropriates nearly \$190 million for the preservation, maintenance and development of housing for people with mental illness including, but not limited to, New York/New York II.
- **Trend for Children’s Residential Treatment Facilities** – 3% trend factor for operating and education components of the program.
- **Change in COPS rate cap** – Increase from \$83.20 to \$100 that will replace net deficit funding with Medicaid. This will save the State \$1.7 million.
- **Special Needs Plan (SNP) Start-up funding** – Reappropriation of \$30 million for HIV and mental health SNPs which was initially appropriated in FY99. This money has already started to flow to the Counties.
- **SNP administrative costs** -- \$1.5 million to cover County administrative costs.

In addition the Executive has proposed eliminating the expiration date on the legislation authorizing Special Needs Plans.

At this stage of our understanding The Coalition is very pleased with the Governor’s proposal. We feel it is an excellent starting point from which to begin budget negotiations. We are grateful that the administration recognized the need for rate adjustments in some segments of the community-based mental health care system and we will work to convince the legislature that the rest of the sector needs adjustments too. Kudos to Governor Pataki and SOMH Commissioner Stone are in order. ▣