



2024 Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) Policy Statement

Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Pay

The staff supports we depend on to live are in crisis because DSPs are not getting paid enough. If New York State does not give more money for DSP pay, we will be at a higher risk for harm. Until this problem is fixed, NYS is going backwards not forward. Over the long term, the cost of our unmet needs will lead to higher costs for NYS as more people will require hospital stays or to live in less independent and more costly settings.

We support the governor's campaigns and other investments to raise awareness about the need for workers and to help make hiring easier.

We want:

- ◆ A 3.2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to pay DSPs more
- ◆ A \$4,000 wage enhancement to be paid to DSPs

Nurse Practice Act

SANYS supports changes to the Nurse Practice Act to make it easier for support staff in community settings to give us the medications we need. We should not be forced into a more restrictive home just because we need help with our medications.

We want:

- ◆ Pass bill A7740 to allow more of us living in the community to have staff help us manage our medication.

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance (CDPA) Eligibility

#RestoreHomeCare

Recent passed changes to how people get CDPA (self-directed home care) will make it harder for us to live in the community. If no action is taken, these changes will take effect before March 2025.

We want:

- ◆ Restore Home Care by undoing the recent changes to how people get CDPA which make it harder for us to get this service.
- ◆ Pass bills S328/A6346

CDPA Pay

We want to live in the community instead of expensive institutions, but low pay for CDPA staff is making it difficult to do so. This year's budget cancels some CDPA pay increases from past years.

We want:

- ◆ Higher pay for staff in the CDPA program so that people can keep living in the community
- ◆ Pass the Fair Pay for Home Care bill A6329/S5374A to make sure home care staff get paid above the minimum wage



Managed Care

SANYS has said for a long time that we would only support Managed Care for people with developmental disabilities if 2 conditions are met:

1. We want to know that Managed Care would make our services better.
2. We want to know that Managed Care would not take away money from services that already exist.

So far, NY State hasn't shown us that Managed Care can do either of these things.

If approved, we want to better understand how Managed Care would affect us, and we want to be included in the planning process.

Olmstead Plan and Employment First

We thank the Governor for investing \$250,000 to create an Olmstead Plan for New York, which would help people living in institutions better understand their rights and their choices. We look forward to working with the Most Integrated Settings Council as they create and share the plan.

We also thank the Governor for trying to make New York an "Employment First" State with a \$6.7 million investment. This means that people with disabilities will be offered, and supported to be part of, job programs as a top priority.

Durable Medical Equipment

Organizations that provide Durable Medical Equipment (DME) must be successful so that we can get the equipment we need to live our lives. We are worried that smaller businesses which provide DME will go out of business because of higher costs and lower payments they get from Managed Care.

We want:

- ◆ Pass Bill S3468/A3408 to make payments fair and to support smaller providers that we know and trust to stay in business.

Housing and Transportation

We are at increased risk when we cannot afford available places to live and when accessible public transportation is not reliable. It is harder to live in the community and have a job without affordable housing and reliable transportation.

We want:

- ◆ More money for affordable, accessible housing in places we want to live
- ◆ More money for accessible transportation, especially in rural areas
- ◆ Inclusion in planning for accessible and affordable housing and transportation
- ◆ Improved transportation services so that all parts of our communities are accessible