



## 2025 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. This has been a crisis for over a decade, interfering in our ability to live our lives as we wish and taking a toll on our physical and emotional health.

We applaud the proposed continuation of the nearly \$850 million in rate increases to providers, investments to support required minimum wage increases. While we are pleased to see that Governor Hochul has recommended an inflationary adjustment, we must ask if 2.1% is enough to solve this problem which has plagued us for over a decade.

We want:

- ◆ Support for the proposed investments to maintain increased voluntary provider rates and support in minimum wage costs.
- ◆ Increase Governor Hochul's proposed inflationary adjustment to 7.8%

### 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:

- ◆ Changes to the laws that would allow OPWDD Community Habilitation staff to assist us with our medications.

### Consumer Directed Personal Assistance FIs

New York has committed to transitioning to a single Fiscal Intermediary (FI) for NYS. SANYS is concerned that transitioning to a single large entity will lead to less personalized and responsive services. Also, transitioning all 280,000 New Yorkers served (as well as their staff) will lead to disruptions of vital services and create risks to the health and wellness of those receiving services.

We want:

- ◆ NYS to slow down and take time to determine the best path forward regarding improvements to the CDPA FI system.
- ◆ A plan developed that will transition to new practices over reasonable timelines which do not risk interruptions and loss of services

### 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.

We want:

1. Reassurances that Managed Care would make our services better
2. Reassurances that Managed Care would not take away money from services that already exist

So far, NYS 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.



## Durable Medical Equipment

Far too many of us experience significant delays when we need new equipment or repairs to durable medical equipment such as wheelchairs and other mobility devices. In the State of the State briefing book, Governor Hochul stated that she would

“.. increase wheelchair access...by increasing rates for clinical specialty evaluation for new wheelchairs, expanding coverage for repairs...and... coverage of routine and preventative maintenance for wheelchairs...”

We want:

- ◆ This promise to be kept, please support the Governor’s proposed investment.
- ◆ Support NYS senate Bill S1616

## Transportation

We applaud the Governor’s proposed investments in transportation. However, there is a significant shortage in accessible and general public transportation in NYS. This limits our opportunities to live and work where we choose, and be a part of our communities.

We want:

- ◆ Support for Governor Hochul’s proposed investment
- ◆ Legislators to go further and look into the communities of your constituents to better understand this problem and work with us to arrive at future solutions
- ◆ Support of Assembly Bill 2025 A574 which would increase the number of accessible buses required of transit authorities and expand the service range of accessible buses by 3 miles, making it accessible to more New Yorkers with disabilities currently living, working, or seeking to live or work beyond current service areas.

## CDPA and HHA Pay

We want to live in the community instead of expensive institutions, but low pay for CDPA and HHA staff is making it difficult to do so.

We want:

- ◆ Higher pay for staff in the CDPA and HHA programs so that we can get the quality health and self-care support we need to live in our communities

## Housing

We are thankful for the ongoing investments in affordable and supportive housing and welcome the additional \$15 million specifically aimed at “independent living opportunities for people with IDD” within the OPWDD budget. However, it is important to note that most of the existing and new housing stock in NYS is not accessible. We ask NYS to look aggressively at significantly increasing accessible housing development so that we may be able to choose where we live and work as freely as our fellow New Yorkers who do not have the same accessibility needs.

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

## Marriage and Benefits

For too long, many of us have been afraid to marry the person we love due to the risk of losing or having serious reductions of the benefits upon which we rely. We are happy to see current NYS Senate and Assembly bills S1758 and A2242 which seek to protect our benefits by requiring that our eligibility, should we become married, would be determined based on our eligibility status before marriage.

Additionally, Federal bill HR 6640 seeks to protect those of who receive social security benefits through our parents so that we would not automatically lose the benefit upon marriage.

We want:

- ◆ Support of NYS Senate and Assembly bills S1758 and A2242
- ◆ Support of Federal bill HR 6640