

STRENGTHEN THE DIRECT SUPPORT WORKFORCE

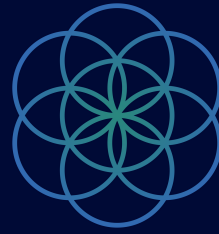
Years of underfunding coupled with rising operational costs have exacerbated a decades-long workforce crisis affecting the quality of care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Due to the lack of Direct Support Professionals:

- **38%** of providers are discontinuing or reducing programs and services
- Turnover costs non-profit providers more than **\$100 million** annually
- An **18% vacancy rate** means New Yorkers with disabilities are losing critical supports!

**New Yorkers
with disabilities
deserve better!**

Source: nydisabilityadvocates.com/workforce



CP State

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8.5% COLA MUST BE IN THE FINAL BUDGET!

We are disappointed that the Governor's budget proposal, nor the Assembly and Senate One House Bills included our requested \$4,000 Direct Support Wage Enhancement, especially in light of the proposed salary increases for State-employed DSPs to \$23/hour upstate and \$25/hour downstate.

This makes it all the more imperative that the final budget agreement includes the full 8.5% COLA.

We are calling upon Governor Hochul to join the New York Legislature in recognizing the need for the full 8.5% Human Services COLA by ensuring its inclusion in the final FY24 Enacted Budget and make the COLA funding automatic ever year - as referenced in the Senate One House Bill.

The inclusion of a COLA in enacted budgets year after year is essential for New York's not-for-profit providers to have the resources necessary to continue supporting the lives of over 130,000 New Yorkers with I/DD.

New Yorkers with disabilities deserve better!