

SFY2026 HOME CARE BUDGET PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE: INVESTMENT, STABILITY, TRANSPARENCY

INVESTMENT

SUPPORT \$150 MILLION FROM MCO TAX FOR LICENSED HOME CARE SERVICES AGENCIES (LHCSA)

According to the Governor's budget, demand for home care is growing by 12% annually as New York's older adults and persons with disabilities increasingly rely on these essential services. Home care enables individuals to remain in their homes at a lower cost than institutional care.

Licensed Home Care Services Agencies, or LHCSAs, provide high-quality, cost-effective care, yet they face rising operational expenses, like other healthcare providers. However, unlike hospitals and nursing homes, LHCSAs cannot offset costs through cross-subsidization, making adequate funding essential.

In order to deliver on the promise of empowering elders and those with disabilities to live at home with choice and dignity, the state budget must pair investment with stability and transparency.

STABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

- **PASS A1112 (Paulin) / S3599 (Rivera).** This will improve reimbursement rates for home care services by setting a regional minimum base rate and defining rate components to cover care, operations, and administrative costs. It also mandates annual rate adjustments based on a transparent trend factor and requires the Department of Health to implement accountability measures and publish related data.
- **REPEAL THE STATEWIDE FISCAL INTERMEDIARY by PASSING A2735 (Stirpe) / S1189 (Rivera).** This bill strikes a balance between maintaining consumer choice in the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) and ensuring state oversight. By implementing a structured licensure process and improving transparency, this bill restores stability to the program while safeguarding Medicaid beneficiaries and personal care workers.
- **INCLUDE A700 (Gonzales-Rojas) / S707 (May)** in the state budget. The state must increase transparency in the administration of Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) plans by making key data publicly available. It requires MLTC plans to report details on service usage, spending, appeals, complaints, and timely access to authorized services. The bill addresses gaps in tracking how well plans shift care from nursing homes to community-based services and holds plans accountable for delays in providing care. Data will be published online in an interactive format to support better oversight and consumer choice.