

INVEST IN NEW YORK'S CARE ECONOMY

NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES DESERVE SUPPORT!

For decades, New York state has not made adequate investments to sustain the essential programs and services people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) rely on. This systemic underfunding has driven us into a critical staffing crisis and eroded New York's system of supports for its citizens with I/DD.

- **38%** of providers discontinued or reduced programs and services in 2021 alone.
- Turnover costs for non-profit providers have risen to more than **\$100 million** annually.
- Nearly **20,000** critical Direct Support positions are vacant statewide.
- This **18% vacancy rate** means New Yorkers with disabilities are missing out on needed care and support!



Invest in the WORKFORCE

Include a wage enhancement for DSPs

Invest in the SYSTEM

Include an 8.5% COLA for service providers

What is the crisis?

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.

What is the solution?

Permanent investment in Direct Support Professional (DSP) salaries is essential to recruit and retain skilled support staff.

Ongoing investment in the field is necessary to reverse years of underfunding and ensure the sustainability of essential supports and services for New Yorkers with I/DD.

The Arc New York and our advocacy partners are calling for:

- The Establishment of a Direct Support Wage Enhancement (DSWE), and
- The Inclusion of an 8.5% COLA in the 2023-24 Budget

What is the DSWE?

Under the Direct Support Wage Enhancement (DSWE), provider agencies will receive \$4,000 per eligible employee to be used for the purpose of enhancing the hourly rate of pay for all staff that have direct care/support responsibilities for individuals with I/DD. This wage enhancement will enable provider agencies to raise wages by approximately \$2.19 per hour.

What is the COLA?

The annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) is intended to increase budgets appropriately to adjust for inflation and rising costs. In the past decade, inflation rose 27%, yet our field received only a 1.2% COLA. A 5.4% COLA was committed in the 2022-23 budget, but this promised increase does not compensate for a decade of underfunding. The proposed 8.5% COLA for 2023-24 is derived from NYS statute, which states the annual COLA will be calculated based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) from July of the previous year. Upholding the COLA will support the increased cost of delivering quality services and sustain supports for the future.