

Invest in New Yorkers With Disabilities

Invest in the services and staff they rely on

Decades of inadequate funding caused severe staff shortages and left nonprofit provider agencies struggling to maintain facilities and provide quality care and support for New Yorkers with disabilities.

Recent investment by the state made progress toward addressing this crisis and stabilizing the system of care, but without sustained investment, that progress will be lost.



NEW YORKERS WITH DISABILITIES NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR



A 2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase
to ensure funding accounts for the increased cost of living and providing services



The Careforce Affordability Initiative
to support affordable housing, childcare and healthcare for direct care staff



Infrastructure Investments
to maintain facilities, meet state climate goals, and support innovative services

Investment Works!

Recent state investments have begun to stabilize our system, strengthen supports, and more fairly compensate Direct Support Professionals for their skill and responsibility.

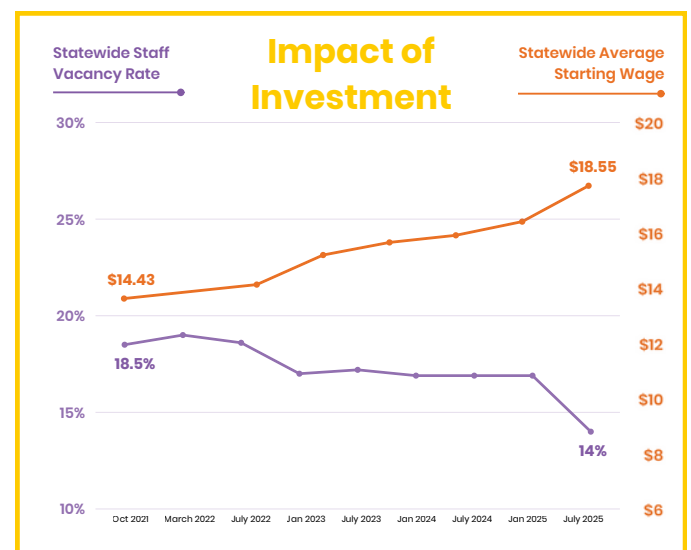
Most providers used this funding to increase staff wages.
As direct care pay increases, staffing improves.

A decade without investment in our care system left providers unable to pay fair wages or recruit and retain the essential direct care staff that keep our services strong.

This lack of investment drove severe staffing shortages, inequity for direct care staff, and reduced access to critical services and support for New Yorkers with disabilities.

Investment has finally made progress.

To sustain that progress, investment MUST be ongoing.



INVEST IN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. INVEST IN STAFF. INVEST IN EQUITY!

2.7% Inflationary Increase

A 2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) will simply adjust for inflation to cover the increased cost of food, benefits, transportation, utilities, medical supplies and more.

Why is it needed?

- The 2.7% increase reflects inflation over the past year based on the Federal Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Since 2020, basic costs have increased **more than 25%** due to inflation. Over that time, NYS increased provider rates by **less than 16%**
- A 2.7% increase won't close this gap between funding and the cost of services, but it will keep it from growing.

If Medicaid reimbursement does not cover rising costs, providers cannot sustain services, pay fair wages, or maintain the facilities where people with disabilities live, work, and receive essential care.



Careforce Affordability

This package of initiatives aims to make housing, healthcare and childcare more accessible and affordable for New York's essential direct care staff, to support our workforce and improve equity.

Why is it needed?

- 4 out of 5 DSPs make under \$20/hour, significantly less than a living wage
- Half of DSPs report experiencing food and housing insecurity
- DSPs struggle with childcare costs and availability of flexible childcare hours to cover shift work
- Most DSPs are women and are disproportionately high percentage are BIPOC people
- Staff vacancies are the primary reason providers are unable to meet the needs of New Yorkers with I/DD
- Undervaluing care work disproportionately harms women, people of color, and people with disabilities

The Careforce Affordability Initiatives would support Direct Care staff by providing: affordable housing preference, employer-assisted housing grants, down payment assistance and interest rate reductions, site-based childcare centers, expanded child tax credits, and health care funding.

Capital Funding and Infrastructure

Thoughtful capital investment will ensure providers can maintain and modernize their programs and facilities to make them more efficient, which improves outcomes and saves money.

Why is it needed?

- Many nonprofit provider agencies operate with outdated resources and facilities that do not meet New York's ambitious climate goals
- Funding dedicated for building repairs and renovations has remained flat since 2016. For providers to maintain safe, quality homes for the people they serve, this funding must be adjusted for inflation
- Without resources for innovation, providers cannot develop new service models that improve outcomes, enhance efficiency, and adapt to changing community needs.

Modernizing facilities and programs to make them more efficient improves outcomes for people with disabilities, while generating long-term savings.

