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The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

The undersigned community-based organizations serving New York's adults, children, and families with mental health and substance use disorder related needs are deeply grateful for your recent investments to our community and sector.

Yet, due to decades of underfunding, we remain engaged in a full-scale state of crisis that is characterized by ever-increasing demands for our services, mounting waitlists, very limited access to care and an extremely hard-pressed workforce that we are struggling to attract and/or retain.

Further, **mental health and addiction service agencies are experiencing a statewide 20% - 30% vacancy rate, depending on provider type, and a 35% annual turnover rate**, based on an August 2024 survey that sampled 43% of the total workforce in community OMH and OASAS programs. The survey showed on average onboarding costs for new employees at \$4,792 per new hire, resulting in approximately \$75 million annually to onboard new mental health and substance use disorder staff.

Meaningful investments must be included in the SFY 2025-26 Executive Budget Proposal to allow us to address significant treatment gaps and disparities and ongoing inflationary increases in the cost of utilities, insurance, transportation, food and benefits.

**We, the undersigned, request the following: A 7.8% investment in funding is essential to help address these alarming challenges. The 7.8% represents the total of the current inflationary increase of 2.9% (CPI July, 2024) and the difference between the human services COLAs over the past three years (12.2%) and the CPI increases (17.1%) over that same period.**

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers in need and the thousands of agencies whose services are essential to their health and recoveries are counting on you to respond to our request. In doing so, we stand ready to collaborate with your administration to address New York's ongoing mental health and substance use disorder crisis.

Sincerely,

**Harvey Rosenthal**, Alliance for Rights and Recovery  
**Sebrina Barrett**, Executive Director, Association for Community Living  
**Allegra Schorr**, President, Coalition of Medication-Assisted Treatment Providers and Advocates of New York State (COMPACT)  
**Paige Pierce**, Chief Executive Officer, Families Together in NYS  
**Sarah DuVall**, Policy Center Director, InUnity Alliance  
**Glenn Liebman**, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS)  
**Sharon Horton**, Executive Director, NAMI-NYS  
**Jackie Negri**, Executive Director, New York State Care Management Coalition  
**Kayleigh Zaloga**, President and CEO, New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health  
**Lauri Cole**, Executive Director, New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
**Pascale Leone**, Executive Director, The Supporting Housing Network of New York