SUPPORT IMMEDIATE FUNDING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families across the state are disappointed with the Governor’s proposed 2023-24 budget. While last year’s budget included a much appreciated 5.4% COLA and federal bonuses, advocates consistently emphasized the need for long term, continued investment in New York’s IDD service system. Due to years of chronic underfunding, budget cuts and diverted resources, the nonprofit system, which serves 85% of the disabled population, continues to collapse. New York’s service system is jeopardized by workforce shortages that make it impossible for the state to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and federal regulations governing New York’s Home and Community Based Services.

EMERGENCY DISABILITY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE
Dangerously high staff vacancy rates and work force gaps within service delivery systems continue, creating burnout, instability, insecurity and high risk for our loved ones. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) continue to leave nonprofit providers, as their wages remain just above minimum wage despite a substantial investment of state and federal dollars in 2022-23. Nearly 20,000 vacancies remain statewide. Providers have spent over $100 million on training annually. Programs have closed. Many families across the state without critically needed services still live in fear and isolation. New York has a unique opportunity to reverse this dangerous and destructive trend by investing heavily in the future of IDD services and rebuilding a strong workforce.

LONG TERM INVESTMENT IN THE DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE
Policy makers must commit to ongoing, nonprofit IDD workforce investment. New York State needs to invest in resources for a growing unmet need. People with IDD include the newly diagnosed as well as aging individuals and their aging caregivers. Many New Yorkers with IDD require residential services, some having waited more than a decade, yet their needs are still unmet. It is imperative that we ensure fair access to a wide range of inclusive services to meet a wide range of need. Quality care and community integration cannot be accomplished without compensation commensurate with the enormous responsibility the direct care workforce bears.

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY
The intention of the IDD service system is based on the principles of Person Centered Planning and Outcome Measures; however current rate-setting methodologies for reimbursement are not. Individualized, “needs based” funding through OPWDD is needed to make it possible for nonprofit providers to serve a broad, more complex and ever-changing range of need efficiently. We support OPWDD efforts to restructure the rate reimbursement system to be more equitable and sustainable. Improved direct care coordination through Care Coordination Organizations (CCO’s) is needed to ensure access to appropriate services. We oppose mandated Managed Care for IDD Long Term Supports and Services.

WE ARE ASKING FOR:

- $4,000 Direct Support Professional Wage Enhancement
- 8.5% Cost of Living Adjustment for Nonprofit Disability Service Providers
- Discontinue Exploration of Managed Care for IDD Long Term Supports and Services