



GOVERNOR PATAKI PRESENTS HIS 2005-2006 STATE FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Governor Pataki released his 2005-2006 State Fiscal Year Budget on January 18, 2005. Below are some highlights from areas of interest to CP of NYS Affiliates. As you can see, the Early Intervention, Medicaid and Education cuts are similar if not exactly the same as the Governor proposed last year, which the Legislature rejected. If you have any questions, contact Barbara Crosier in the Affiliate Services Office.

At the January 20th Executive Directors' meeting, OMRDD Commissioner Thomas Maul presented an overview of that Agency's budget. Commissioner Maul reported that there will be full funding for OPTS and the NYS CARES II programs. He also outlined the process for a provider council to advise on the dual certification of the Article 28 clinic system between DOH and OMRDD as well as provider councils to advise on the health insurance adjustment and on the VESID intensive supported employment program, if it moves to OMRDD.

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OMRDD

- 3.33% trend on all programs that were trended last year.
- 1.1% retroactive trend.
- A "health insurance adjustment."
- Enhanced training opportunities in the non-profit sector.
- Reduce state aid to workshops.

DOH

Medicaid

- Elimination of Medicaid reimbursement for adults receiving podiatry, private duty nursing, non-clinic dental services, clinical psychology, and audiology. (Article 16 & Article 31 clinics are exempt from the clinical psychologists and audiologists and possible Article 28 clinics in the CP/DD grouping.)

Early Intervention

- Elimination of the rate for an extended visit.
- Parent monthly fee.
- Ability of the County to negotiate rates.
- Third-party insurance for medical services.

SED

- Transfer VESID programs to Department of Labor and OMRDD will assume responsibility for the intensive phase of supported employment.
- Continuation of the moratorium on segregated 4410 classrooms.
- \$2 million to continue the 853 teacher recruitment and retention grants.
- Reduce private excess cost aid (aid to districts to reimburse for students at 853 schools) to the same funding as public excess cost aid (36% reduction to school districts).
- Use of "uncommitted Federal IDEA funds for teacher certification initiatives in private schools that educate school-age and preschool pupils with disabilities."

CP OF NYS LEGISLATIVE GAZETTE SPECIAL REPORT

Once again we will produce a *CP of NYS Special Report* section to be included in the February 28, 2005 edition of *The Legislative Gazette*. This year's edition will be printed the day prior to our Lobby Day and will be used to highlight the critical services provided by our organization and supported by Medicaid.

We hope that every Affiliate will participate by purchasing advertising space in the publication. We also need Affiliates to submit feature stories and photos about consumers receiving services supported by Medicaid. We would like the stories to show how these services improve the lives of people with disabilities. We hope to have stories and photos that will illustrate how the services provided are more efficient and beneficial for consumers than previous or alternative programs. We are also searching for stories that will show how the current method of providing these services is less expensive and helps to make people more independent than other alternatives. A particular focus for Lobby Day will be on the use and benefits of DME and the problems delays in processing requests for equipment and repairs may cause consumers.

Please take this opportunity to highlight the best of your people and programs. Affiliates who purchase an ad are invited to send along a story and photo. Please send photographs of people with disabilities receiving services, or staff members interacting with consumers.

The more ads purchased by Affiliates, the more editorial space we will have to place your stories. All advertising copy to be typeset by *The Legislative Gazette* must be submitted to their office by January 28, 2005. All photos and stories need to be in to *The Legislative Gazette* editorial office by February 1. Camera-ready advertising copy must be submitted by February 2. Make all checks payable to *The Legislative Gazette*. Please call Tracy Lewis at *The Legislative Gazette* (518) 486-6514 to reserve space or for information about advertising. You may also use e-mail to ask about advertising in the insert or to send your ad. Her e-mail address is tp Lewis@legislativegazette.com.

Photos and editorial copy should be sent to Alan Shibley at the Affiliate Services Office in Albany. If you have any questions, please call him at (518) 436-0178.

OPTS UPDATE

OMRDD HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN 100 OPTS PROPOSALS TO DATE

This is the first in a series of updates about OPTS designed to make Affiliates aware of important information about this initiative.

In 2004 The NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) began Options for People Through Services (NYS OPTS). The goal of the program is to promote increased choice and individualization of services and to expand and create additional opportunities through a unique and flexible funding methodology. This allows OMRDD to offer individuals, the public and nonprofit providers an array of affordable options that promote inclusion and personal choice, while also offering greater flexibility and opportunity for efficient and effective use of program funding.

An OPTS Unit was created by OMRDD to coordinate the receipt, tracking and processing of OPTS proposals. The OPTS Unit is set up to help anyone who wants to know about the status of a specific proposal. It will also oversee OPTS proposals once they are approved and implemented. You may send your questions about OPTS via e-mail to OPTS.Questions@omr.state.ny.us. All OPTS proposals must be submitted electronically through the OMRDD Secure Message Center to Joanne.Howard@omr.state.ny.us. An acknowledgement letter will be sent in response to each OPTS proposal received by OMRDD.

As of December 13, 2004, 102 proposals have been received, 83 are complete and five have been recommended for approval. There are 33 of the 83 completed proposals nearing completion of the review process.

You may also contact the OPTS Unit by phone at (518) 408-2744. Karla Smith is the Director of the OPTS Unit. You may contact her, or members of her staff via e-mail at:

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