



OVERVIEW

The Mental Hygiene agencies and associated community-based programs provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and addictions. These agencies include the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Addiction Services And Supports, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), and the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center). The Mental Hygiene agencies support services for more than 1 million individuals, including more than 800,000 people with mental illness, 680,000 individuals with substance use disorders or problem gambling, and nearly 128,000 people with developmental disabilities.

RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

To support people who routinely face significant challenges meeting basic needs, the system addressed a myriad of challenges presented by the global pandemic to ensure vulnerable New Yorkers continued to receive services for their everyday needs. The Mental Hygiene agencies quickly modified service delivery requirements and provided extensive guidance to ensure vulnerable individuals continued to receive essential care and services in accordance with current infection control standards.

- **OPWDD** - Prioritized vaccination for people with developmental disabilities and their staff and is encouraging boosters for those already vaccinated. By incorporating innovations such as the use of teleservices and provision of day habilitation services within the home, OPWDD was able to continue to provide services to the greatest number of people. As infection levels across the state fluctuated, OPWDD also regularly updated visitation measures and infection control guidance and training as needed. With these measures in place, OPWDD has been able to minimize the effect of COVID on people with developmental disabilities.
- **OMH** - Launched a wide range of initiatives to ensure the safety of employees and those receiving services in the New York State public mental health system during the pandemic. OMH continues to issue and update guidance regarding COVID-19 screening, quarantine, and isolation procedures for OMH-operated hospitals, community mental health providers, and housing agencies. Emergency regulations authorized broad

use of telehealth, allowing the public mental health system to maintain capacity and also meet emerging new mental health needs related to the pandemic. OMH operated a program offering vaccinations to staff and service providers, and continues to support efforts to ensure booster doses are available to vulnerable New Yorkers.

- **OASAS** - Adapted its system of care by implementing innovative methods to ensure that critical services remained available to New Yorkers with substance use disorder, such as employing telehealth, take-home dosing and various methods for rapid access to care. OASAS worked to support these adaptations through technical assistance, evolving infection control guidelines and vaccine support, and working to expand services to incarcerated individuals. The OASAS State-operated programs, and voluntary-operated crisis, inpatient, residential and other providers have remained open and are providing safe spaces and services to treat patients with substance use disorder while navigating the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive Budget makes investments amid the continuing global pandemic to help ensure that individuals are served safely in the most integrated and cost-effective setting possible, support the expansion of community-based care and continue the oversight of services for vulnerable persons. The Executive Budget also expands efforts to combat the opioid epidemic through prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

Continuing efforts to counter the effects of the global pandemic include:

- **Telehealth** - The use of telehealth was rapidly expanded and continues to be an important tool to ensure access to care. The lessons learned during the first year of the pandemic, which will be used to continually improve the effectiveness of treatment and delivery of services for vulnerable populations throughout New York State, are supported by the Executive Budget. Additionally, an investment in telehealth equipment is included in the Executive Budget to support the mobile treatment services for opioid addiction.
- **OPWDD** - Targeted Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) 10 percent enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

(eFMAP) to address critical needs by supporting the OPWDD workforce; improving service delivery and IT infrastructure; piloting opportunities to enhance residential and day services; expanding crisis services; and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in accessing and providing services. Workforce-related initiatives include a 20 percent Longevity Bonus, 20 percent Retention Bonus, and Frontline Healthcare Worker Bonuses and Vaccination Incentive bonuses all aimed at rewarding direct care workers and relieving providers of the longstanding recruitment and retention issues that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

- **OMH** - Enhanced funding will support and strengthen the OMH workforce, implement rate adjustments for rehabilitative services including clinics, expand community-based services for children and families, enhance and expand Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams for children and adults, support the redesign of Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), expand peer and family support capacity, and invest in the development of a comprehensive crisis system.
- **OASAS** - Enhanced funding will support and strengthen the OASAS workforce, implement a 10 percent rate adjustment to residential addiction treatment services, and invest in outpatient addiction rehabilitation treatment services.

CARING FOR NEW YORK'S VULNERABLE CITIZENS

The State's Mental Hygiene system provides or oversees care and services for individuals in State-operated and voluntary-operated programs that help individuals live in the most integrated setting possible and lead full and productive lives. These programs and services include residential, outpatient, clinic, habilitative, treatment and recovery programs; and institutional and research facilities.

The Executive Budget reflects the Governor's priority to fundamentally improve the quality of care, services, and protection of vulnerable individuals. Proposed actions for the Mental Hygiene agencies include enhanced efforts to combat the opioid crisis, continued support for community-based services -including residential programs, a 5.4 percent Cost of Living Adjustment for voluntary operated providers, - and bonuses for direct care workers delivering services to the mental hygiene community. Other proposals reflect ongoing efforts by these agencies to safely

respond to the needs of vulnerable populations during the pandemic. The Executive Budget proposals result in Mental Hygiene system spending of \$7.9 billion in FY 2023, reflecting annual spending growth of \$101 million (1.3 percent).

PROPOSED FY 2023 BUDGET ACTIONS

The Executive Budget continues to support agencies' responses to the pandemic, combat the opioid epidemic through innovations in treatment and recovery programs, and fund initiatives to ensure access to care during the pandemic. The Executive Budget expands community-based care, strengthens the oversight of services for vulnerable people, and invests in the direct care workforce to ensure that individuals receiving mental hygiene services are in the most integrated, appropriate, and cost-effective setting possible.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Governor Hochul's commitment to improving the overall quality, availability and cost-effectiveness of community-based, person-centered services for individuals with developmental disabilities is demonstrated by targeted investments in OPWDD to address critical needs and support important policy reforms.

The Executive Budget honors the State's pledge to support individuals with developmental disabilities in the most appropriate community-based settings. Specifically, the Executive Budget will:

Continue Investments in New Service Opportunities. The Executive Budget continues to invest State resources that have increased by 30 percent over five years to support OPWDD priority program reforms that ensure individuals receive the support they need. This includes individuals who are entering the system for the first time and seeking access to services, and individuals already receiving services, but whose needs have changed.

Commit an Additional \$15 Million to Develop Housing. The Executive Budget continues to expand independent living opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since FY 2016, the State has invested \$95 million in capital resources to develop safe and accessible residential opportunities, and the Executive Budget raises this investment to a total of \$110 million.



These funds are distinct from, and in addition to, resources that are available from the five-year, \$20 billion affordable and supportive housing plan, which is also helping support the development of residential opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Housing Subsidy Enhancements. OPWDD provides housing subsidies through the Individual Supports and Services (ISS) and Self-Direction (SD) programs supporting over 7,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who choose to live independently in their communities. Continued investments in these subsidies are essential and OPWDD will invest \$13 million in ISS/SD housing subsidies in FY 2023 to increase payment standards and align reimbursement for administration of these subsidies with changing policies.

Restore Room & Board Supplement. OPWDD provides a supplement to Supervised and Supportive Residential Habilitation providers whose room and board costs exceed projected revenues. The agency will spend \$9.5 million in FY 2023 to align room and board supplemental payments with actual costs and reimburse providers for the full amount of OPWDD-approved costs incurred.

Expand Crisis Services. OPWDD has continued to expand its crisis intervention and behavioral health services over the years, implementing Crisis Services for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (CSIDD) and establishing regional crisis networks. The Executive Budget provides \$4.5 million to continue rate enhancements for Intensive Behavioral Services (IBS) and improve connections to county-based mobile crisis services. These investments will allow more individuals to remain in independent settings or with their family, and can also reduce unnecessary emergency room visits.

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Investment. CANS is an assessment designed for children and youth up to age 17 that are eligible for OPWDD services. The information gathered helps Care Managers create an individualized, person-centered plan of services and supports. The FY 2023 Executive Budget includes a \$10 million investment to increase the number of assessments and reassessments being conducted with the goal to better align the needs of individuals and the services provided.

OPWDD Transition to Managed Care. The State continues to assess the potential effectiveness and sustainability of the proposed delivery system to ensure individuals continue receiving appropriate services in the most cost-effective manner.

PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH

The Executive Budget demonstrates Governor Hochul's commitment to enhancing and expanding OMH community services to ensure people have access to the most appropriate and cost-effective community setting. OMH has continued to strengthen its service offerings in recent years by expanding supported housing units throughout the State, providing additional peer support services, and developing new services such as mobile crisis teams. Since FY 2015, the expansion in community-based services has resulted in nearly 106,000 previously unserved individuals receiving services, including over 2,100 individuals served in reinvestment-funded supported housing beds. The success of these community investments has resulted in the reduction of nearly 800 unnecessary, vacant inpatient beds over the same period. The Budget advances efforts that improve quality and expand capacity of services in the community. Specifically, the Budget will:

Support the Federal Creation of a 988 Crisis Hotline. The Executive Budget includes \$35 million in FY2023, increasing to 60 million in FY2024, to support the implementation of the 988 Crisis Hotline in New York State; and legislation to authorize expanded supports and services and ensure the continuation of current suicide prevention call center resources.

Strengthen Suicide Prevention to Combat Increased Mental Health Challenges due to the Pandemic. The Executive Budget will enhance mental health and suicide prevention programs available for youth and families experiencing a mental health crisis. This includes an investment of \$10 million to fund the expansion of the Home-Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI) program and the establishment of a Mental Wellness Community Workforce.

Establish Safe Options Support Teams. OMH will partner with NYC to reach homeless individuals living on the streets by establishing 20 new teams of mental health professionals performing Critical Time Intervention, an evidence-based practice to help connect people to housing and services.

Increase Support for Existing Residential Programs. The Executive Budget makes a two-year commitment of an additional \$104 million – \$65 million in FY 2023 and \$39 million in FY 2024 – for existing community-based residential programs and includes legislation to extend property pass-through provisions to include OMH’s supported housing. This investment helps preserve access to housing, a critical component of recovery.

Expand the Joseph P. Dwyer Program Statewide. The Executive Budget includes \$7.7 million to expand the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veterans’ Support Program statewide, providing vital peer support and counseling services to veterans who are transitioning from military service to civilian life.

Enhance Children’s Mental Health Programs. The Executive Budget will bolster mental health services for children and families by continuing to integrate behavioral health services into pediatric primary care visits through the HealthySteps program, investing an additional \$7.5 million in Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) for children, and continuing expansion of other children’s community mental health services.

ADDRESSING ADDICTION AND THE OPIOID CRISIS

Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, OASAS will take significant steps to address the opioid crisis by improving access to addiction treatment services, removing barriers to treatment, developing new and innovative treatment models, and expanding the number of treatment facilities in communities around New York State.

The Executive Budget provides an increase of \$402 million (56 percent) in operating and capital support for OASAS to enhance prevention, treatment and recovery programs targeted toward addiction services, residential service opportunities, and primary prevention activities consistent with state opioid settlement agreements; and invests more than \$100 million in new resources from the Opioid Stewardship Tax and litigation settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors.

The Executive Budget increases New York State’s commitment to critical initiatives, including:

Expand Mobile Treatment Services for Opioid Addiction. The Executive Budget will expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) by investing in mobile methadone services, including additional mobile treatment vehicles and telehealth equipment, to provide increased access to these life-saving services.

Combat the Opioid Epidemic Using a Public Health Approach. OASAS will collaborate with the Department of Health to enhance harm-reduction services, health monitoring, and evidence-based community interventions to fight the opioid epidemic. The State’s efforts will be bolstered by the creation of a Division of Harm Reduction within OASAS.

Opioid Stewardship Investments. The Opioid Stewardship Act, which imposed the nation’s first monetary charges on opioid distributors and manufacturers, withstood a legal challenge and a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the State’s favor will allow New York to collect monies owed retroactive to 2017 and 2018. The Executive Budget appropriates \$200 million to invest these funds in new initiatives to combat the opioid crisis. This includes the harm reduction initiatives by both OASAS and DOH, expanding access to naloxone and buprenorphine, creating a public awareness campaign, and implementing a program to help uninsured and underinsured individuals receive treatment and medication. Separately and consistent with statewide opioid settlement agreements, the Budget appropriates and allocates monies which are anticipated to be deposited to the Opioid Settlement Fund as the result of litigation filed by the State against opioid manufacturers and distributors.

Establish a Certification for Recovery Residences. The Executive Budget will create a voluntary certification process for recovery-supportive housing to help ensure that safe housing is available for individuals who have completed their substance use disorder treatment. This certification would incorporate inspection, record keeping and operational standards for recovery home; increase the availability of recovery housing units; and ensure a high quality of housing and services.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

To protect the health and safety of vulnerable people under the State’s care or oversight, the Justice Center has primary responsibility for receiving, investigating and/or reviewing abuse and neglect allegations at certain facilities and programs that are

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS MENTAL HYGIENE STATE SPENDING

CATEGORY	FY 2022 (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)	FY 2023 (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)	DOLLAR CHANGE (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)	PERCENT CHANGE (%)
OPWDD	4,065.71	4,548.49	482.78	11.9
OMH	3,356.64	3,933.85	577.21	17.2
OASAS	718.73	1,120.33	401.61	55.9
JUSTICE CENTER ¹	49.06	47.65	-1.41	-2.9
DDPC	4.20	4.20	-	0.0
SUBTOTAL	8,194.33	9,654.52	1,460.19	17.8
Adjustments – OPWDD²	306.88	1,382.75	1,075.87	N/A
TOTAL	8,501.21	11,037.26	2,536.06	29.8

¹ Reflects shifting fringe benefits from federal funds to General State Charges, not a spending reduction.

² Adjustments reflect OPWDD-related local share expenses that will be funded outside of the DOH Global Cap through use of additional Financial Plan resources. This shift has no impact on OPWDD service delivery or operations.