

# Inter-County Association of Western New York

*Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.*

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10-IC**

### **URGING FULL RESTORATION OF OMH, OASAS, AND OPWDD STATE AID**

Offered by: the Inter-County Association of Western New York

**WHEREAS**, the Local Governmental Units (LGUs)/Directors of Community Services (DCSs) have specific responsibilities and authority under the Local Services provisions of Article 41 of the NYS Mental Hygiene Law (MHL) for planning, development, implementation, and oversight of services to adults and children in their counties affected by mental illness, addiction, and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD); and

**WHEREAS**, all LGUs provide oversight and statutory responsibility to assure access to not only clinic services but a comprehensive array of mental health, addiction, and developmental disability services to those in need; and

**WHEREAS**, county governments are experiencing financial devastation as a result of the COVID-19 virus, which has severely impacted the ability of LGUs to meet their statutory responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, to offset State fiscal deficits due to the pandemic, the Division of Budget (DOB) initiated 20 percent funding withholds on essential State Aid funding to the Local Governmental Units (LGUs) and the FY 2022 Executive Budget proposal recommends permanent 5 percent cuts, along with hundreds of millions of dollars in additional state funding cuts, while requiring counties to expanded services mandated by the state with no additional fiscal support; and

**WHEREAS**, this reduction in funding has led to severe impacts on access, capacity, and the delivery of behavioral health services in the community at a time when mental health and addiction services needs have never been higher; and

**WHEREAS**, the LGUs/DCSs have reported increases to inpatient/outpatient needs, calls to crisis services lines, homelessness, overdose deaths, addiction relapse, and suicide attempts; and

**WHEREAS**, if these withholds were to become permanent cuts, the local service system will face devastating consequences as adequate State Aid is linked to well-established and vetted needs identified by each county; and

**WHEREAS**, the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors is looking to the State for partnership and financial assistance to sustain the mental health care system in order to meet the growing needs of our communities in response to COVID-19 and the anticipated long-term mental health impact of the pandemic and corresponding stressors; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Inter-County Association of Western New York calls on the Governor to restore the previously withheld State Aid to the LGUs and commit to fully funding State Aid going forward so that they may preserve their statutory responsibility to effectively plan for and facilitate essential safety-net programming that our most vulnerable residents, their families, and the communities rely on each and every day; and
2. The Inter-County Association of Western New York Secretary is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to state representatives and all others deemed necessary and appropriate.

*This is to Certify that I*, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 16th day of April 2021 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated April 16, 2021.



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Jodi Adams, Secretary  
Inter-County Association of Western New York



Sponsored by: Steuben County, Moved by: H. Lando (*Steuben*), Seconded by: C. Ferratella (*Steuben*)