



For Immediate Release:

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ATTENTION NEWS ROOMS:

LEADINGAGE NEW YORK'S VIDEO PACKAGE (3min, 5 Sec.) FEATURING VISUALS AND SOT IS AVAILABLE FOR REBROADCAST AND REPORTING PURPOSES BY [VISITING THIS DEDICATED LINK.](#)

**IN ADVANCE OF GOVERNOR HOCHULS EXECUTIVE BUDGET:
LEADINGAGE NY RELEASES VIDEO ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN URGING FOR
NURSING HOME MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT THAT MATCHES THE COST OF CARE**

As the State Legislative session and state budget process gets underway, LeadingAge New York and its members have launched an advocacy campaign calling on Governor Hochul and policy makers to reform and invest in nursing home reimbursement and provide funding that better matches the cost of providing care.

Approximately 97,000 New Yorkers receive care in the State's nursing homes every day, and Medicaid is the primary payer for the vast majority of older adults receiving these critical services. However, today there is an \$810 million (State-share) Medicaid gap between reimbursement and the costs of providing skilled nursing care.

Today, [LeadingAge New York is releasing a video](#) featuring advocates and providers from across the state, sharing in their own voice the challenges and consequences stemming from providing high quality care while some providers absorb millions of dollars in Medicaid funding losses annually.

This phase of the campaign follows [a letter to Governor Hochul](#) released in November urging for the reform of New York's nursing home Medicaid reimbursement methodology. The video also follows a recent announcement from the State regarding the [Medicaid 1115 waiver](#) amendment, which boasts an investment of \$7.5 billion in health and social care over three years, but neglects to make any targeted investment in services for older adults and people with disabilities in need of long-term care.

LeadingAge New York and a coalition of long-term care advocates are seeking a \$510 million investment as part of the Executive Budget proposal for the 2024-25 State Fiscal Year and a commitment to reform the system's reimbursement methodology by 2025. The coalition urges the State to align Medicaid reimbursement with the costs of providing care and ensure that future funding keeps pace with inflation in the years to come.

Among those featured and participating in the video campaign are LeadingAge New York members from Western New York (Weinburg Campus), Central New York (Loretto), Rochester (Jewish Senior Life), Long Island (Gurwin Health Care), New York City (Methodist Home for Nursing and Rehabilitation & The New Jewish Home) and the Capital Region (Fort Hudson Health System).

The video identifies New York as defaulting on its promise to older adults by failing to provide reimbursement that meets the costs of providing care.

Among the specific comments by those appearing in the advocacy video are:

Jim Clyne, Jr.; President Leading Age New York:

"The Medicaid Program promises to pay for our most vulnerable, but right now New York is defaulting on its promise....Older New Yorkers and anyone in need of around the clock nursing care deserve access to quality care close to home and their loved ones. It's time for New York's policy makers to reform and rationalize the nursing home Medicaid System. Please fulfill your promise to older adults and ensure that Medicaid reimbursement matches the real costs of providing care for all New Yorkers."

Bob Mayer, Weinburg Campus (Buffalo, Western New York)

“Every day we see more people enter their senior years. We are taking care of people that are much more frail. Have multiple chronic conditions that require much more care than they used to in the past.

“The main increase in costs we have seen is in staffing. Ever since the pandemic it’s been very challenging to attract and retain staff.”

Stuart Almer, Gurwin Health Care System (Commack, NY, Suffolk County)

“Medicaid funding is key and now it has caught up with us. Residents are being held up in hospitals longer because there isn’t a suitable place, quality facilities to help care for individuals. A day doesn’t go by that we are not talking about the need to increase salaries or benefits. We all have empty beds; we all have empty beds because we do not have enough staffing. Increasing costs of labor. Empty beds. It’s not good math.”

Maria Perez, Methodist Home for Nursing and Rehabilitation (The Bronx),

“We have had to limit admissions at times. It is very alarming to kind of think of what the future is going to be like for us in five to ten years with not having the appropriate Medicaid funding.” It is really, really difficult for healthcare facilities like us to maintain the level of care we want to provide and keep up with the increasing costs. Our workforce is our most important asset.”

Andy Cruikshank, Fort Hudson Health System (Fort Edward, Warren County)

“The Medicaid system has not been properly funded and certainly has not been restructured for more than 15 years. We are not able to even open the beds we have available. Fort Hudson provides services across 10,000 square miles across all of its programs. Without nursing homes in the community, they don’t get those services or worse yet, they have to travel many, many miles away from their home communities to receive the care they need.”

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ABOUT LEADINGAGE NEW YORK -- For more than 60 years, LeadingAge New York has set an advocacy agenda for not-for-profit, and government sponsored aging services, including nursing homes, senior housing, adult care facilities, retirement communities, home care and more.