



Money for Broadway, Booze and Buffalo Bills.....but Not Assisted Living?

COVID-19 has hit everyone hard, but few have been hit harder than adult care facilities (ACFs) and assisted living (AL) providers and the 52,000 people they serve. Residents of these settings, many with chronic conditions and an average age of 85, are at highest risk for negative outcomes from COVID. ACF/ALs have been relentless in their mission to keep residents safe from COVID and ensure quality of life for over two years. Yet, they have received **no financial support** from the state, despite bearing crushing costs and onerous mandates.

If the Legislature and Governor can provide COVID relief funding for bar owners, Broadway, and a new football stadium—surely, COVID relief can be provided for ACF and AL providers and the people who live and work in these settings. We need leaders to recognize the need and take these critical steps in the budget:

- **Ensure that the ACF and AL workforce is included in any workforce funding to recognize and reward their dedication and hard work throughout the pandemic.**
- **Provide for an SSI increase for those homes serving the indigent. The state supplement of the SSI rate has not been increased since 2007 and many of the facilities receive no other workforce or COVID funding in the Budget.**
- **Provide the Medicaid Assisted Living Program with a *meaningful* increase in the Medicaid rate.**
- **Provide COVID relief funding to help offset the costs and losses these settings have incurred to date as they continue to address the pandemic.**

ACF and Assisted Living providers have been held to many of the same COVID requirements as nursing homes, incurring:

- More than \$100 million in staff testing costs alone, mandated by the state.
- Exorbitant ongoing costs for PPE and supplies.
- Increases in overtime, sick leave, hazard pay and shift differentials, skyrocketing staffing agency fees, along with reduced census due to staffing shortages and infection prevention efforts.
- Increased administrative expenses, including onerous daily data reporting since March 2020.

Options for Low Income Older Adults are Shrinking

Despite its policy to provide and promote alternatives to nursing home care, the state has done nothing to ensure those options exist for low-income people whose needs or desire for socialization call for ACF or assisted living services.

- An ACF is paid \$43.16 per day to house, feed, and care for SSI eligible residents, and there has not been an increase to the state supplement portion of the rate since 2007. Since that time, there have been a staggering number of voluntary closures, 75 in the last decade along, with more in the planning stages.
- The Medicaid ALP has not had a trend factor increase in 14 years. The state then enacted a **cut** to the ALP Medicaid rate during the pandemic, while other states increased Medicaid rates and passed federal COVID relief dollars on to providers.

Don't Abandon ACF and Assisted Living Settings, Staff and Residents in the State Budget

Budget proposals include COVID relief and investments in workforce in virtually every sector except ACF and AL settings. The staff in these settings, who have been on the front lines every single day of the pandemic, and the residents they serve, are just as deserving.

Is football and entertainment really a higher priority than NY's older adults and those who care for them?

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