

Members:

This afternoon Governor Cuomo presented his State of the State and offered some initial details on his 2019-2020 Executive Budget, reporting that the State is starting with a \$3 billion budget gap, largely because of federal policies. He is recommending a \$175.8 billion budget, an increase of 2 percent over prior year funding, and including \$1.3 billion in “revenue actions,” which are generally funding cuts or “savings.”

Cuomo also reviewed his [First 100 Days Justice Agenda](#), which he rolled out in December, that outlines his social, economic and racial justice reform initiatives.

While there are no budget bills available at this time, the governor did outline his top budget initiatives during his speech, including the following:

- Codify the Affordable Care Act
- \$150 billion in infrastructure investments, including \$9 billion for affordable housing and \$13 billion for SUNY/CUNY and health facilities
- \$175 Million Workforce Initiative
- Congestion Pricing
- 5 year extension of millionaires tax

#### **Legalize Recreational Marijuana: Create Office of Cannabis Management**

Governor Cuomo is proposing the establishment of a regulated cannabis program for adults 21 and over in the FY 2019 budget that protects public health, provides consumer protection, ensures public safety, addresses social justice concerns, and invests tax revenue. Specifically, the program will:

- Reduce impacts of criminalization affecting communities of color.
- Automatically seal certain cannabis-related criminal records.
- Implement quality control and consumer protections to safeguard public health.
- Counties and large cities can opt out.
- Restrict access to anyone under 21.
- Generate approximately \$300 million in tax revenue and create jobs.

#### **Health Care and Aging Services Highlights**

Medicaid will grow by 3.6% to \$19.6 billion. Cuomo highlighted two long term care initiatives including investments in community based supports and addressing the increases in allegations of nursing home resident abuse.

##### ***Invest in Community Based Supports for Aging New Yorkers.***

Governor Cuomo proposes investing \$15 million in community-based supports for aging New Yorkers. This targeted investment in NYSOFA’s programs and services will help serve more older adults and will help them maintain their autonomy, support family and friends in their caregiving roles, and delay future Medicaid costs. Working with the Department of Health, NYSOFA will develop specific metrics to evaluate the success of this investment.

##### ***Enhance Safety and Quality of Care of Nursing Homes – and Adult Care Facilities***

Citing a 93 percent increase in the number of allegations of nursing home resident abuse, 36 percent increase in complaints received about nursing home care and the 31 percent increase in the number of citations issued by the DOH that were repeats of citations issued within the previous year, Cuomo will

propose legislation to enhance the quality and safety of nursing homes and protect nursing home residents.

The proposal will give the Department of Health the authority to place an independent quality monitor in poorly performing nursing homes, will enhance transparency and strengthen oversight over nursing homes and adult care facilities, and will impose more stringent penalties for violations.

LeadingAge NY policy staff will be reviewing the budget bills as they become available and we will provide members with highlights and a comprehensive budget memo as we know more.

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