



New York Association of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Providers, Inc.

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2004-2005 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

RESTORE \$8.754 MILLION TO REVERSE CUTS TO LOCAL PROGRAMS

Local prevention and treatment programs need the Senate and Assembly to allocate \$8.754 million to restore cuts to local treatment and prevention programming. \$2.554 million was cut in the Governor's proposed 04-05 budget and \$6.2 million was cut in last year's budget.

For the last 10 years, state funding for the chemical dependency field has remained stagnant while almost every human service area has benefited from increases in funding. In 2003, cuts forced the closure of treatment and prevention programs. More programs will be closed in 2004 if \$8.754 million is not restored to the OASAS local assistance budget. Treatment and prevention programs are responding to a resurgence in the use of heroin, continued widespread problems related to underage drinking, and an increasing demand for treatment and prevention services. With this demand and the fact that treatment and prevention are cost effective public health strategies, *ASAP advocates for the restoration of the \$8.754 million to offset cuts to local treatment and prevention programs.*

RESTORE \$28 MILLION TANF FUNDING FOR OASAS AND OCFS INITIATIVES

ASAP advocates for the continuation of the \$18 million TANF allocation to the Office of Children and Family Services for innovative projects partnering child welfare and chemical dependency services. Invaluable projects developed with these funds, including co-location of chemical dependency assessment services at Child Protective Services field offices, intensive case management services for families on preventive and foster care caseloads, assessment and case management in Family Drug Courts, treatment services for adolescents in foster care settings, and aftercare and post adoption services should all be continued. ASAP also advocates for restoration of the \$10 million TANF allocation to OASAS for programs that have helped individuals with drug and alcohol problems move from welfare to full time employment.

CONTINUE \$5 MILLION FUNDING TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF ADOLESCENT TREATMENT

Adolescent treatment programs were in jeopardy of closing during the 02-03 fiscal year and temporarily rescued with an infusion of close to \$5 million in TANF funds. ASAP advocates for a permanent fix to the base budgets of adolescent programs using local assistance.

PROVIDE \$5 MILLION TO HELP ADDRESS THE CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY WORKFORCE CRISIS

The inability of chemical dependency treatment and prevention programs to recruit and retain personnel is creating a workforce crisis. Additionally, soaring health insurance premiums are disproportionately affecting our field, which has a rich tradition of hiring persons in recovery, many of whom are high risk for health problems. ASAP requests a special \$5 million fund in the aid to localities budget to help programs address the fiscal crisis being caused by precipitous increases in health insurance premiums.

Coalition Members Addiction Treatment Centers of OASAS • Association of Alcohol Recovery Care Homes • Association of New York City Addiction Programs • Central New York Alcohol & Drug Association • Coalition for Community Services • Coalition of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Programs of Northeastern New York • Committee of Methadone Program Administrators of New York State • Consortium of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services • Council on Addictions of New York State • Hudson Valley-Catskill Coalition • Nassau Coalition of Chemical Dependency Providers • North Manhattan Service Providers • Northern Tier Providers Coalition • RecoveryNet • Statewide Black & Puerto Rican/Latino Substance Abuse Task Force • Quality Consortium of Suffolk County • Therapeutic Communities Association of New York • Westchester Putnam Coalition of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Programs • Western New York Chemical Dependency Consortium