

## HCA's Post-Budget Legislative Priorities for Home & Community-Based Care

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The Home Care Association of New York State is comprised of home and community based organizations who serve hundreds of thousands of patients. On their behalf, we ask **the Legislature's support for the following priorities prior to June adjournment.**

### Post-Budget Action for Home Care Workforce

The new state budget appropriates \$1.6 billion for the community based workforce, with distribution details TBD.

- **Ensure a principal role for HCA in the design and implementation of this distribution** to support home care and hospice workforce.
- **Adopt HCA's legislative proposal to secure future rates and funding** for enhanced worker compensation, key occupational supports, and targeted shortage regions and disciplines.

### Repeal the LHCSA RFO and Amend the FI RFO

A "Request-for-Offers" (RFO) process used by NYS DOH to decide who can operate as a consumer-directed home care program fiscal intermediary (FI) was legislatively amended in the Budget to address RFO concerns; but more changes are immediately needed to prevent the RFO from excluding quality FIs effectively serving cases. A similar, about to be issued RFO for LHCSAs, follows a similarly dysfunctional path, heedless of the state's worsening crisis in home care accessibility and COVID-pandemic needs. It should be repealed altogether.

- **Repeal the RFO for LHCSA contracting;** restudy the objectives and options to avoid systemic upheaval.
- **Adopt HCA's language allowing these qualified FIs to be continued under a supplemental RFO, with legislative accountability.**

### Telehealth Equity for Home Care & Quality Safeguards

As the state pursues telehealth expansion, similar flexibility is needed for home telehealth. Also important are guardrails to preventing conflicts, duplication, and fragmentation of services across the various telehealth settings.

- **Adopt HCA's legislative amendments to address home telehealth flexibility and guardrails across multiple telehealth services.**

### Adopt a 'Home Care First' policy for NY

Home and community-based care should be the principal option over facility care, whenever appropriate. It's also overwhelmingly preferred by patients and families, especially amid safety concerns in the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Adopt HCA legislative language for a 'Home Care First' policy** strengthening consumers' option to choose home care, and aligning the statutes, regulations, and appropriate state supports, to ensure that a Home Care First option transcends formality, and stands as a practical reality.

### Additional Legislative Items Strongly Supported by HCA

To leverage home care solutions and support providers, workers and patients:

- Extend/maintain COVID-era regulatory relief.
- Support home care rate stability (S.2117 /A.293).
- Support mental health/home health collaboration for integrated physical/mental health services (A.3657/S.4534 with amendments).
- Incentivize collaborative models to address health disparities (S.1374 /A.1155).
- Support hospice access for Assisted Living patients.
- Provide parking placards to support home care worker safety and access to patients.