

## **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 It should be repealed altogether.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.