



# **ACTION ALERT**

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A non-profit tax-exempt organization representing New York City's community-based mental health sector.

April 6, 1999

## **Don't leave out the non-contracts!!**

The last time non-contract clinics received a rate adjustment was in 1990, and some have not had an adjustment to their reimbursement rate since 1985. Furthermore, these clinics were excluded from the 2.5% cost of living adjustment allocated to community-based providers in 1998. The Assembly has included a modest \$2 per visit rate adjustment for the non-contracts in their budget resolution. We should encourage the legislature to make this adjustment a priority in the budget negotiations.

### **Action Requested:**

Have all of your clients/members/consumers call/fax/write/email/visit the key politicians listed below as well as your own representatives. It is crucial that we keep the pressure on.

If you need help identifying your representatives, please contact Joshua Rubin at (212) 586-4555x17 or [jfrubin@cvmha.org](mailto:jfrubin@cvmha.org).

A sample letter is attached.

Hon. George E. Pataki  
Governor  
State of New York  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224  
(212) 681-4580  
Fax: (212) 681-4643  
[gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us)

Hon. Joseph L. Bruno  
Majority Leader  
New York State Senate  
909 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3191  
Fax: (518) 455-2448  
[bruno@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:bruno@senate.state.ny.us)

Hon. Sheldon Silver  
Speaker  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building # 932  
Albany, NY 11248  
(518) 455-3791  
Fax: (518) 455-5459  
[speaker@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:speaker@assembly.state.ny.us)

Hon. William F. Boyland  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #654  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4466  
Fax: (518) 455-3894

Hon. William L. Parment  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #828  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4511  
Fax: (518) 455-4328

Hon. Ivan C. Lafayette  
Member  
NY State Assembly  
Legislative Office Building #824  
Albany, NY 12248  
(518) 455-4545  
Fax: (518) 455-4547  
[lafayei@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:lafayei@assembly.state.ny.us)

Hon. Thomas W. Libous  
Chair, Mental Health Committee  
New York State Senate  
512 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-2677  
Fax: (518) 455-2065

Hon. Patricia McGee  
Chair, Cmte. on Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
New York State Senate  
814 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3563  
Fax: (518) 426-6905  
[mcgee@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:mcgee@senate.state.ny.us)

Hon. William J. Larkin, Jr.  
Member  
New York State Senate  
947 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
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Hon. Frank Padavan  
Member  
New York State Senate  
505 State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12247  
(518) 455-3381  
Fax: (518) 455-2008  
[padavan@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:padavan@senate.state.ny.us)

**And your own legislators**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

I am writing to you today to express my concern that the some community-based behavioral healthcare providers have not had an inflation pacing rate adjustment in a decade and a half. Last year, thanks in part to your efforts, a 2.5% cost of living adjustment was passed for some of the employees of some voluntary agencies. This welcome relief was very long overdue for the agencies that were eligible for it.

Unfortunately, the COLA allocated last year **did not apply to community-based providers that operate without a contract**. Non-contract agencies are a crucial piece of the mental healthcare safety net. We cannot continue to exclude them from rate adjustments or they will be forced to close their doors and thousands of their clients would be forced to go without the services they need.

For these reasons I encourage you to ensure that the two dollar per visit rate adjustment for non-contract agencies that was included in the Assembly's budget resolution remains a high priority during the budget negotiations.

Sincerely,