



For Immediate Release

The Human Services Equity Coalition Calls on the NJ Legislature to Pass A508/S2668

The Human Services Equity Coalition calls on the New Jersey Legislature to pass bill A508/ S2668 into law outside of this year's budget process. This bill is critical to ensuring that community-based disability and behavioral health services that hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans rely upon would remain sustainable in the face of rising inflationary costs. A508/S2668 establishes an annual increase to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) state fee-for-service and Medicaid rates and contracts, which would allow providers to absorb increasing costs from one year to the next.

This common-sense bill has solid bipartisan sponsorship across the State Legislature. It would not force the State to provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment automatically, but it would mean the budget process would start with one in the proposal.

Our system of community social services programs is under immense duress:

- 31.4% of frontline clinical staff positions are vacant at community mental health clinics.¹
- 63% of intellectual and developmental disability providers are discontinuing programs and services.²
- Transportation costs have risen 11% year over year nationally.³

The current uncertainty of year-to-year funding leaves providers unable to plan for the future, often leading to service cuts for program participants.

¹ November 2022 survey by the New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA)

² The State of America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis 2022 - American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

³ US Department of Labor Statistics - April 2023 Report

The Human Services Equity Coalition (HUSEC) is a group of leading disability, mental health, and substance abuse treatment organizations across New Jersey working to sustain community services.

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