



Restore & Fully Fund the *Quality Incentive Program*

The Executive Budget would completely eliminate funding for the Medicaid Quality Incentive (QI) Program, totaling more than \$223 million. The QI Program supports a broad range of initiatives to improve the quality of care for low-income New Yorkers and address the barriers to equitable care. We urge the Legislature to reject this cut and fully fund the program.

The QI Program Supports Efforts to Improve Health Outcomes & Eliminate Disparities

The QI Program incentivizes efforts aimed at improving health outcomes for underserved populations. Health plans are measured on their ability to achieve performance metrics that the state sets, including whether pregnant individuals receive timely pre- and post-natal care, that children and adults receive appropriate preventive care and screenings, and home-bound individuals receive care to keep them healthy and out of the hospital.

Health plans only receive incentive funding for achieving results that meet or exceed State metrics, and partner with providers and community organizations on programs that benefit low-income New Yorkers. Programs include:

- Connecting high-risk pregnant women with registered nurses and community health workers in Brooklyn;
- Diabetes management efforts that have helped patients lower their A1C levels in the Bronx;
- Extending office hours at a pediatric practice on Long Island to expand access and improve compliance with well-care visits, mental health screenings and vaccinations;
- Housing and food support to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence in the Capital Region, and
- Identifying Medicaid members in Buffalo who are not accessing health care services and providing in-home visits to ensure they get the care they need.

“Managed care quality dollars have a tremendous impact on our operations. These funds are used to support and fund programs, spur innovation to further improve quality outcomes, and to create a continuous learning environment for patients and staff.”

“These dollars fund existing successful programs and help put new ideas into action... and allow us to do more for our members.”

– Lois J. Bookhardt-Murray, MD; Morris Heights Health Center, Chief Medical Officer

The Executive Budget Eliminates Funding for the QI Program

In a Medicaid budget that totals nearly \$100 billion, the program accounts for less than 0.3% of spending but improves the quality and equity of care. The investments health plans, providers and community organizations are making to improve the health of the state’s most vulnerable individuals as a result of the QI Program more than pays for itself.

We appreciate that the Legislature has consistently restored funding in the final budget to sustain these vital services.

To preserve and enhance critical programs that eliminate disparities and deliver high-quality, equitable care to the state’s most vulnerable residents, we urge the Legislature to restore the cuts and fully fund the Quality Incentive Program, allocating \$268 million in the final FY25 state budget.