



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 17, 2025

**CONTACT:**

[Leslie S. Moran](#)

(518) 462-2293

(518) 588-6655 (cell)

### **MEDICAID QUALITY INCENTIVE (QI) PROGRAM KEY TO NEW YORK EXCEEDING NATIONAL BENCHMARKS**

*Increased State Investments Needed to Continue Quality Improvement, Eliminate Barriers to Care*

Following a new state report showing Medicaid Managed Care meeting or exceeding the national average on nearly 90% of quality measures, the New York Health Plan Association (HPA) called on policymakers to fully fund the Medicaid Quality Incentive (QI) Program in the FY26 state budget at \$300 million in state funds.

“The QI Program has been instrumental in the state’s ability to provide a high level of care for individuals enrolled in Medicaid. It supports innovative partnerships among health plans, providers and community organizations that advance the quality and equity of care for the state’s most vulnerable residents,” said Eric Linzer, HPA President and CEO. “New York has been a national leader on quality. Maintaining that standard requires ongoing investment.”

The Department of Health’s recently released *2023 Statewide Executive Summary of Managed Care in New York State* showed that Medicaid managed care plans met or exceeded the national average on 89% of quality measures, noting that plans “continue to surpass national benchmarks, especially Behavioral Health, Women’s Health, and Child and Adolescent Health domains.” The QI Program helps to support a broad range of programs across the state. This includes efforts to connect high-risk pregnant women with registered nurses and community health workers, initiatives that ensure that children and adults receive appropriate preventive care and screenings, in-home wellness visits, vaccination efforts, and other programs that are at the core of addressing health disparities in underserved communities. A more detailed overview of initiatives the QI Program supports is available [here](#).

The FY26 Executive Budget and both chambers’ one-house budgets propose roughly \$50 million for the QI Program. In the face of federal efforts to cut Medicaid and eliminate funding on health-related social needs programs, HPA is urging full funding for the program.

“It is more important than ever to protect the programs that improve the health of underserved populations, and we appreciate the Governor’s, the Senate’s and Assembly’s commitment to the QI Program. Fully funding the program at \$300 million will maintain and enhance New York’s high level of quality and continue the work of eliminating barriers to equitable care,” said Linzer.

-30-

*The New York Health Plan Association represents 20 managed care health plans that provide comprehensive health care services to more than 8 million New Yorkers.*

# QI = Better Care

For more than two decades, the Medicaid Quality Incentive (QI) Program has been a vital resource in improving health outcomes for more than 5 million New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid.

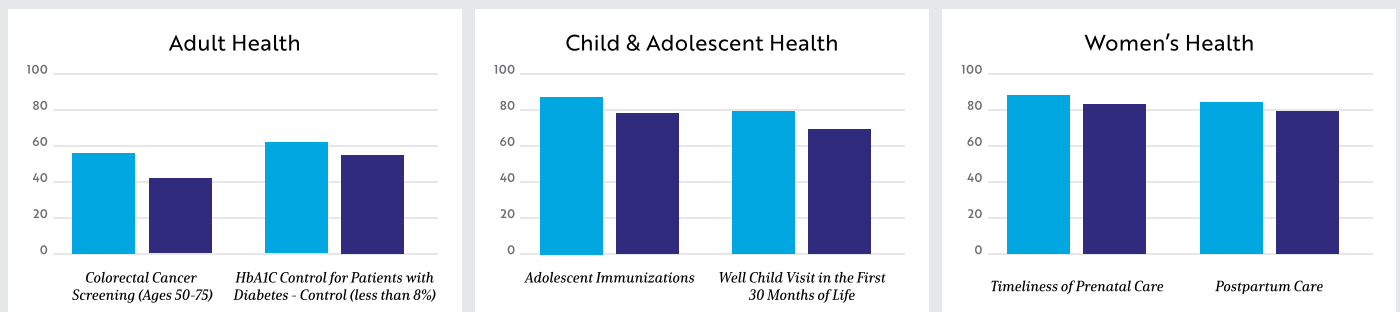
## Fully Fund the QI Program at \$300 Million

The QI Program supports innovative partnerships among health plans, providers and community organizations to advance the quality – and equity – of care to the state’s most vulnerable residents. This includes programs that provide timely prenatal services and postpartum checkups to women and newborns, ensuring children and adults receive appropriate preventive care and screenings, and support for individuals with behavioral health and substance use needs.

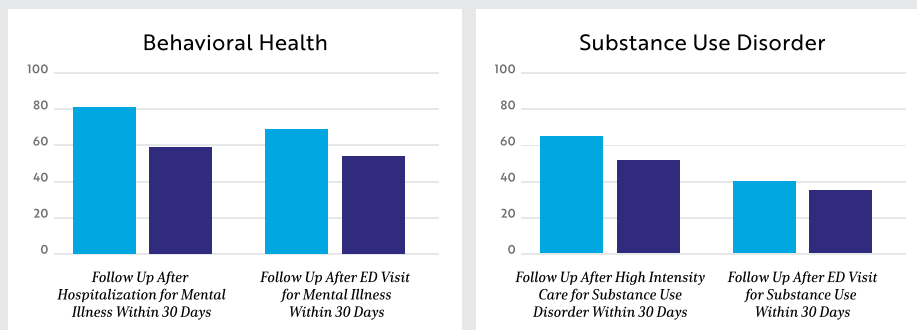
New York’s Medicaid Managed Care program consistently exceeds the national benchmark for key quality health measures, especially in **Child and Adolescent Health**, **Women’s Health**, and **Behavioral Health**. The QI Program’s emphasis on evidence-based, proactive care has been a critical component in the state’s demonstrated high level of care, with Medicaid Managed Care performing the same or better than the national average on 89% of quality measures.

### Preventive Care

NY US



### Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders



Source: Department of Health 2023 Statewide Executive Summary of Managed Care in New York State; Medicaid Managed Care Statewide Rates – 2023 NY v. National Rates

The FY26 Executive Budget and both chambers’ one-house budgets propose roughly \$50 million for the QI Program. In the face of Federal efforts to cut Medicaid and eliminate funding for health-related social needs programs, it is vital that the FY26 state budget allocates \$300 million in state funds for the QI Program to maintain and enhance New York’s high level of quality and remove barriers to equitable care.