



For Immediate Release

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**Amida Care Applauds New York City Budget for Prioritizing
Trans Equity Programs and Initiatives to End the HIV Epidemic**

New York (July 2, 2021) – **Amida Care**, New York State’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers affected by HIV, has issued the following statement from President and CEO **Doug Wirth** in response to New York City’s Fiscal Year 2022 budget. The budget includes a \$3.3 million allocation to fund a range of services that support the transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) community, and \$7.735 million to support efforts to end the HIV epidemic:

“Amida Care applauds New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Council Finance Chair Daniel Dromm, Council Health Chair Mark Levine, and the entire New York City Council for passing a budget that prioritizes the health and well-being of LGBTQ communities—particularly transgender and gender non-conforming New Yorkers—and efforts to end the HIV epidemic in New York once and for all.

“TGNC New Yorkers face discrimination at every turn—in housing, employment, education, and in health care settings. Trans equity programs will provide critical employment services, health care navigation, legal guidance, education programs, and other vital services to support TGNC New Yorkers in living full, authentic lives. We also appreciate the New York City Council’s support of The NEW Pride Agenda’s initiatives to implement New York’s Gender Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) and to activate anti-bullying training in schools as promised with Dignity for All Students (DASA) legislation, as well as supporting Amida Care’s workforce development initiatives.

“Transgender individuals represent more than 20% of Amida Care’s total membership, and we are proud to have a long history of breaking down barriers and supporting the TGNC community in accessing high-quality, gender-affirming care, which has led to better health outcomes overall. Of Amida Care’s transgender members living with HIV, 93% are virally suppressed. Amida Care also assists transgender members who are HIV negative with accessing highly effective HIV prevention tools like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

“New York was once the epicenter of the HIV epidemic, but now we are on the verge of becoming the first state in the nation to end the epidemic. As outlined in Amida Care’s recent [policy brief](#), COVID-19 presented great challenges to the health of New Yorkers and set back efforts to end the HIV epidemic. New York City must maintain the momentum towards an HIV-free future by working to address the needs of communities facing health and socio-economic

disparities, particularly in LGBTQ communities and communities of color. The New York City Council's investment in End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic efforts is critical to this progress.”

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.