June 2026

Public Policy & Government Relations Update

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Introduction

This June edition of the monthly Public Policy and Government Relations (PPGR) Update provides information about New York State and Federal developments related to Amida Care priorities, including the latest information about federal HIV funding, HR1 implementation (latest guidance), voting and the upcoming Amida Care led advocacy day in Washington DC on July 15.

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Federal HIV Funding

Continued advocacy is required to protect federal HIV funding. As we previously reported, the President proposes to cut up to $2B in funding for critical HIV services and programs in FY 2027. Congress has begun deliberations on this process, and a key committee in the House of Representatives, the House Labor, Health and Human Services (Labor-HHS) Committee, released an Appropriations (funding) bill. The bill proposes unsustainable cuts to HIV programs and services.

If the FY27 House Labor-HHS subcommittee bill was passed by Congress it would:

- Cut $794M in HIV prevention funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including all of the core HIV prevention funding that makes up the vast majority of state and local health department spending on preventing new HIV transmissions.
- Cut $225M in funding from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program at a time when the burden on Ryan White providers is higher than ever due to cuts to Medicaid, the elimination of the Affordable Care Act Enhanced Premium Tax Credits, and medical inflation.
    - These cuts include the elimination of the AIDS Education & Training Centers that are responsible for public health workforce development around HIV and other infectious diseases, as well as the Special Projects of National Significance program.
- Cut $24M funding for viral hepatitis, STI, and opioid related infectious disease prevention at the CDC while also reconstituting funding for these programs as a block grant to states.
- Reduce funding for the Minority HIV/AIDS Fund at Health and Human Services Administration (HHS) by more than half.
- Eliminate all $119M in funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Minority AIDS Initiative programs
- Eliminate all $157M in Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative funding in Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for increasing PrEP uptake at community health centers
- Eliminate all funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program
- Eliminate all funding for the Title X Family Planning Program
- Slash the total budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by $4.5B, a 4 percent cut from FY26

Take Action

Use this AIDS United link to tell Congress to reject the unconscionable cuts to HIV funding that are being proposed in the House Labor-HHS bill. (AIDS United is a national HIV/AIDS advocacy group) Instead, Congress needs to work on a bipartisan spending bill that meaningfully boosts federal HIV spending to meet the needs of our communities.

Gender Affirming Care

Lambda Legal has filed a lawsuit against Health Resources and Services Administration (*HRSA*). (HRSA programs provide health care to people who are geographically isolated and economically or medically vulnerable). The goal of the case is to preserve the ability of providers to use Ryan White to continue to provide gender affirming medical care. The motion was filed for a Preliminary Injunction which, if succeed, will apply to all members of AAHIVM, HIVMA and IAPAC – nearly all HIV medical providers in the country.

Lambda Legal is representing the major HIV medical associations American Academy of HIV Medicine, HIV Medicine Association and the International Association of Providers of AIDS care and two providers Chris Fox, NP and Dr. Jennifer Brody. You can read the press release here.

HR1(One Big Beautiful Bill) Implementation – Latest Guidance

On June 18, New York State Department of Health (DOH) spoke at a United Hospital Fund webinar. During the event, DOH shared the latest information on implementing eligibility, work and community engagement mandates in HR1. Under the new rule, up to 1 million Medicaid recipients would be subject to the new requirements.

The presentation came just two weeks after the federal agency Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released guidance on HR1 implementation. The guidance, called an Interim Final Rule (IFR) clarified many details about how states are expected to implement the new HR1 mandates. The guidance described exemptions from the work requirements. Instead of providing clear exemptions as described under the law, CMS will require that states verify that even people who are eligible for some exemptions, including people living with HIV, must also verify that they are unable to work.

On June 29, State Attorney Generals from New York, California 23 other states and two Governors filed suit against the federal government over the rule. The lawsuit alleges that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, issued a narrower definition of who qualifies for the exemption than the one Congress put forth in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR1). If successful, the lawsuit will allow more Medicaid recipients to be exempt from the Community Engagement (work) Requirements. (*Read here to learn more https://ag.ny.gov/press-release/2026/attorney-general-james-sues-trump-administration-protect-medicaid-coverage*)

During the UHF webinar, New York's Medicaid Director Amir Bassiri spoke about the new CMS IFR. He said that the rule contained good and bad aspects. He stated, "Our (DOH's) primary goals, with respect to implementing HR1 requirements and work and community engagement requirements, is to limit coverage loss amongst eligible individuals and minimize the fiscal and administrative burdens for members, providers and plans."

To mitigate the negative effects of the new mandates the state will implement a new consent-based income verification platform called Truv, to ease the income verification process for those who will be required to meet them. In addition, the department is engaged with Community Based Organizations and Health Centers to increase public education about the changes. Finally, the

state will launch a public information campaign called “Stay Covered” to help inform Medicaid recipients about the changes.

To view the UHF presentation and see the presentation slides use this link (we strongly encourage you to look!): *https://uhfnyc.org/news/article/limiting-health-care-losses/*

Vote Update – June 23 NYS Primary Elections

On June 23, New York State held primary elections for statewide positions, state legislature and Congress. In New York primary elections voters who are affiliated with a political party can choose a candidate from their political party to represent the party in a general election.

This year there were many open seats and many sitting legislators had primary challenges which resulted in some of them losing their primaries. In this primary season the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), a movement within the Democratic party, fielded challenges to the established political network within the party. Notably New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani is aligned with the DSA. The Mayor endorsed several DSA aligned candidates and Congressional candidate Brad Lander, who went on to win primaries. This demonstrated his role as a significant political force in New York City, Albany, NY and Washington, DC. The DSA captured 2 Congressional seats and expanded its membership in the Albany legislature by an additional 6-7 seats including Assembly Seats in Syracuse and Buffalo.

The following table is an overview of New York Congressional election landscape after the June 23 Primary:

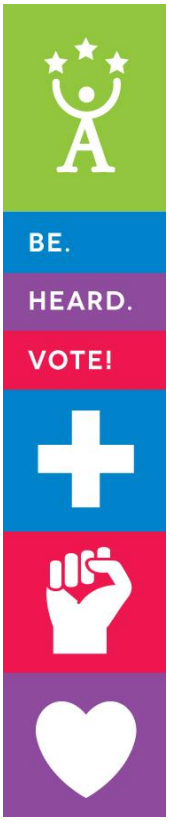
District	Incumbent	Status	Republican Candidate	Democratic Candidate
NY 1	Nick LaLota - R		Nick LaLota	Christopher Gallant
NY 2	Andrew Garbarino - R		Andrew Garbarino	Patrick Halpin
NY 3	Thomas Suozzi – D		Michael LiPetil Jr.	Thomas Suozzi
NY 4	Laura Gillen – D		Jeanine Driscoll	Laura Gillen
NY 5	Greogory Meeks – D		George Marsh	Gregory Meeks
NY 6	Grace Meng – D		Joseph Chou	Grace Meng
NY 7	Nydia Velazquez - D	Retiring	Melvin Rivera	Claire Valdez (endorsed by Mayor Mamdani)
NY 8	Hakeem Jeffries - D		Lewis Mizrahi	Hakeem Jeffries
NY 9	Yvette Clarke - D		Joel Azumah	Yvette Clarke
NY 10	Daniel Goldman - D	Lost Primary	Jennifer Moore	Brad Lander (endorsed by Mayor Mamdani)
NY 11	Nicole Malliotakis - R		Nicole Malliotakis	Mike DeCillis
NY 12	Jerrold Nadler – D	Retiring	Caroline Shinkle	Micah Lasher
NY 13	Adriano Espaillat - D	Lost Primary	Jomo Williams	Drializa Avila Chevalier (Endorsed by Mayor Mamdani)
NY 14	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez - D		Diamant Hysenaj	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
NY 15	Ritchie Torres - D		Stylo Sapaskis	Ritchie Torres
NY 16	George Latimer - D		Joseph Cinquemani	George Latimer
NY 17	Michael Lawler - R		Michael Lawler	Cait Conoley
NY 18	Pat Ryan - D		Jackie Auringer	Pat Ryan
NY 19	Josh Riley - D		Peter Oberacker	Josh Riley
NY 20	Paul Tonko - D		Ralph Ambrosio	Paul Tonko
NY 21	Elis Stefanik – R	Retiring	Anthony Constantino	Blake Gendebien
NY 22	John Mannion – D		Kailee Buller	John Mannion
NY 23	Nicholas A. Langworthy - R		Nicholas Langworthy	Aaron Gies
NY 24	Claudia Tenney - R		Claudia Tenney	Alissa Ellman
NY 25	Joseph Morelle - D		Virginia McIntyre	Joseph Morelle
NY 26	Thimothy M. Kennedy - D		Dennis Hannon	Timothy Kennedy

Amida Care Get Out the Vote Campaign

https://www.amidacareny.org/about-us/advocacy-and-research/vote/



As the U.S celebrates 250 Years of independence, we must preserve our right to choose our own future. This election, our health care, education systems, bodily autonomy, and more hangs in the balance. In our democracy, voting is your chance to have a say in who is making decisions for you and your community.



Vote like your life depends on it!

The first step is to register. Take Action!

- Register to vote in New York State by October 24, 2026. You can register online, in person or by mail.
  - For more information,
    - New York City residents can visit https://vote.nyc/page/register-vote.
    - New York State residents living outside of the city, visit https://elections.ny.gov/voter-registration-process.
- If you've voted before, confirm that you are still registered https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/ or call *1-866-868-3692*.
- If you live in another state in the U.S., visit https://vote.gov/register.

Then Vote!

- Vote Early or Vote In-Person on Nov 3!
  - New York State allows voting in person, early voting or voting by mail. See below for helpful links.
  - Check out this guide for more about voting options in other states in the U.S. https://vote.gov/guide-to-voting.

        - Vote early during the two weeks before election day (Saturday October 26 through Sunday November 1, 2026) https://elections.ny.gov/early-voting
    - Or vote at your polling station on Tuesday November 3, 2026 https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/ or call 311 to find your polling site
    - Any registered voter can apply for an early mail ballot. Either go to your local board of elections or apply online New York City residents can visit https://vote.nyc/RequestBallot
    - New York State residents living outside of the city, visit https://ballotapplication.elections.ny.gov/home/absentee

Washington DC Advocacy Day - Get on The Bus!

As you know, we would love you all to join us in Washington D.C for an advocacy day on July 15th. We are reaching out to the entire New York State Congressional Delegation to set up meetings. This advocacy is critically important to protect Medicaid, HIV services and Community Health Center funding.

It's not too late to register to participate. By participating, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences, perspectives, and stories that can help demonstrate why protecting Medicaid, FQHCs and HIV services matters and why continued investment in these programs is so important.

Together, we can help ensure that policymakers will hear, firsthand, from those affected by their decisions. If you would like to join us in D.C., then please **RSVP** via this Google Form by **July 2**: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSnhyJn3U5EUSYYwhcTlyFAmF1vHHnsE8iKOLO4eB3VQpF2w/viewform?usp=header

Please make sure you speak to your supervisor and get their clearance to go to Washington D.C. with us.

Details about the bus and travels.
Amida Care will provide bus transportation on July 15th for travel to and from Washington D.C for the advocacy day.
The bus will depart from Amida Care offices at **5AM** on July 15th and return the same day around 9PM. We will provide a light breakfast on board, as well as snacks and water! Additionally, we will be making 1 stop in each direction to give folks time to purchase some food and drinks. There will be 2 wheelchair accessible seats onboard.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission and to the people that we serve every day. We hope you will consider joining us on July 15th as we advocate for protecting Medicaid, HIV services, and FQHC funding! Register today! Please contact anyone in PPGR for more information.

Events / Activities

Governor Hochul Pride Brunch Reception



Joe Pressley with Commissioner James McDonald of NYSDOH

On Friday June 5, Joe Pressley joined Governor Kathy Hochul's Pride Brunch Reception in Albany. At the reception Joe had the opportunity to represent Amida Care and show our presence. The Governor highlighted funding for the Tras Wellness and Equity Fund and a LGBTQIA+ crisis hotline.

Other organizations present at the brunch included New Pride Agenda, Ali Forney, Gay Center, Sage, Equality NY and New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU).

Stonewall Community Foundation Vision Awards 2026



Amida Care had the distinct honor of being one of the honorees at this year's Stonewall Community Foundation's Vision Awards and on top of that, receive an award. Amida Care's Doug Wirth, Kevin Steffen's, Jona Tanguay, Michelle Pedretti-Moussally, Carlos Molina, Joe Pressley and Casper Christiansen were present at the event.



Amida Care is beyond honored to receive this award which also shows the support from the LGBTQIA+ community and the importance of what we all do every day. At the end of the night, Executive Director of Stonewall Community Foundation Elisa Crespo got on stage and made an impromptu speech about the importance Amida Care has for the community and how positively people speak of us.

PPGR Round Up

Thank you for reading our June Policy Update. We hope that it was informative and that you are inspired to join us in action to protect HIV funding and Medicaid.

Additional Reading

Respecting Gender Diversity

Transgender patients file class action against NYU Langone to stop health system from turning over medical records to Trump administration. [Read the full article here]

- Transgender patients and their families are suing NYU Langone Hospital and the Department of Justice to halt a federal subpoena filed last month demanding patient records from all minors the health system has provided gender affirming care to since 2020 be turned over to the Trump administration.
- The suit demands Manhattan's federal court block the hospital from turning over the records, which would include the names of trans minors, their doctors and the medical care they received, arguing the subpoena violates patients' civil rights, state law prohibiting breaches of physician-patient privilege and is a "gross overreach of governmental power, founded on an improper purpose to 'end' gender-affirming medical care and cast transgender persons into the shadows.".
- On June 11, the New York State Attorney General's office co-led a coalition of 20 states and the District of Columbia in filing an amicus brief in this case. The coalition of Attorney Generals argues that the federal government's actions infringe on state sovereignty by seeking to regulate the practice of medicine in our states. The also and that the states' laws and policies that protect patient privacy**,** protect trans people from discrimination, and protect trans healthcare access.

NYC plans transgender care clinic in Queens amid fed crackdown [Read the full article here]

- The city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is opening a gender-affirming care clinic in Queens but is stopping short of offering services to children and adolescents as the federal government targets such providers that treat minors.
- The city Health Department is planning to offer gender-affirming hormone therapy to adults at a clinic in Corona, City Health Commissioner Dr. Alister Martin testified during a City Council budget hearing on Friday. While the city offers gender-affirming services at public hospitals, it does not typically offer such care at clinics operated by the Health Department.

Q & A: Trump's Attempt to Seize Private Medical Records from New York Hospitals
The Trump administration is attempting to seize the private medical records of transgender New Yorkers - and the ACLU, NYCLU, and Lambda Legal are suing to stop him. Here's what our class action case means for patients and families. Read the full ACLU article with frequently asked questions here.

Medicaid

Medicaid Spend Nears Record $135B as New York State Ducks Cuts Until 2029

- State budget officials aren't projecting a drop in federal Medicaid spending until at least 2029, thanks in part to an $9.3B trust fund unlocked after federal cuts threatened the program.
- Gov. Kathy Hochul's budget deal evades immediate losses in Medicaid funding using a series of waivers and accounting maneuvers that have allowed it to tap additional resources in the near term.
- New York's total Medicaid budget grew roughly 8% to $134.8B, the result of a 12% increase in state spending and a 6% bump in federal spending on the program. Overall Medicaid spending has grown by 50% over the last five years, according to the financial plan released last week, and now accounts for close to half of New York's $277B budget. The state trails only California in total Medicaid spending and leads the nation in spending per resident. Read the full article here.

Medicaid work requirements will raise NY's enrollment admin costs 20%

- New York's administrative costs for Medicaid enrollment are expected to increase roughly 20% over the coming yearsdue to changes laid out in President Donald Trump's spending mega bill, HR1 last year.
- **State Medicaid Director Amir Bassiri discussed the need for increased spending at a House oversight hearing in Washington, D.C.** The state must implement new eligibility and enrollment systems to account for changes H.R. 1 made to Medicaid employment requirements, he said. New York's Medicaid office is also spending more on marketing to keep residents informed of the changes and hiring additional county-level staff to implement them. Read the full article here.

Other Federal

HHS bets on Artificial Intelligence (AI) agents that diagnose and prescribe on their own

- For years, AI has mostly played a supporting role in clinical care — flagging a suspicious scan, drafting a note, summarizing a chart. Federal health officials are now reaching for something far more autonomous: AI agents that can take clinical action on their own, including diagnosing patients and adjusting their medications.
- That ambition surfaced June 25, when leaders from across HHS gathered online to share what they had heard from a December request for information on accelerating the adoption of AI in clinical care, which drew more than 7,000 public comments. The event was organized around a coordinated, cross-agency approach the department calls "one HHS," building on an AI strategy it released late last year. Read the full article here.

Healthcare

Uncontrollable stress in healthcare workers may be a legal hazard, researchers argue

- Hospital leaders have a legal and moral duty to reduce uncontrollable occupational stress among healthcare workers, and failure to act may expose health systems to mounting regulatory and litigation risk, according to an analysis published June 25 in Health.
- The analysis was conducted by a team of physicians, attorneys and healthcare economists from various institutions, including the University of Rochester (N.Y.) Medical Center and Harvard Law School. Drawing on neuroimaging research, existing OSHA policy and occupational health literature, the authors examined whether chronic, uncontrollable workplace stress may qualify as a recognized workplace hazard under federal law.
- Their review suggests that uncontrollable stress — defined as stress from which employees can neither escape nor influence — may cause physical brain injury, with supporting evidence from functional MRI and SPECT scan studies conducted in both animal and human subjects. Burnout prevalence data from a national sample of more than 40,000 healthcare workers found that 49.9% met burnout criteria, with nurses reporting the highest rate at 56%. Burned-out clinicians are twice as likely to leave their roles. In addition, estimated annual productivity losses in a health system with 1,000 physicians and advanced practice providers approach $37 million. Read the full article here.

New York City Government

City deploys Board of Health to fight federal Medicaid cuts

- New York City is deploying its Board of Health in a new way to fight federal Medicaid cuts, with the 11-member panel that traditionally handles rules regarding lead paint and salt now weighing in on access to insurance.
- On Tuesday May 19, the board, the policymaking body of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, passed a resolution condemning looming federal cuts to public health insurance programs. The action also urges city and state officials to take steps to preserve coverage for thousands of New Yorkers. The city Health Department has little, if any, actual authority to regulate Medicaid and other public insurance programs, which is largely left to the state and federal governments. And its new resolution does not directly preserve coverage for New Yorkers set to be affected by the cuts. But it signals the agency's attempt to use what limited power it does have as changes to insurance coverage loom. Read the full article here.

City proposes $3M to hire insurance navigators ahead of federal Medicaid changes

- Ahead of federal work requirements that threaten to reduce Medicaid access for at least 500,000 New Yorkers, city officials are proposing $3 million to hire community health workers to help individuals stay enrolled.
- The new funds, included in the mayor's executive budget for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, will support 46 community health worker positions, the agency said. The workers will help New Yorkers access benefits, enroll in health insurance and connect to low-cost or no-cost medical care, according to officials. Read the full article here.

NYC Rent Guidelines Board approves 2-year rent freeze, fulfilling Mamdani campaign pledge

- Tenants in about 1 million rent-stabilized apartments will not see their rents increase for the next two years after New York City's Rent Guidelines Board approved a first-of-its-kind freeze at an annual hearing Thursday night.
- The 7-1 vote marks the first two-year rent freeze in the board's history and fulfills a key campaign pledge from Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who named six of the board's nine members.
- The decision applies to rent-stabilized apartments in buildings with six or more units built before 1974, as well as apartments in buildings that receive certain tax breaks or government subsidies. The freeze applies to new one- and two-year leases beginning between October 1, 2026, and September 30, 2027. Read the full article here.