



**December 2025**  
**Public Policy & Government Relations Update**  
**Volume 1: Issue 10**

**Introduction**

As we move into the Holiday season, Public Policy and Government Relations (PPGR) is focused on taking sustained action. In this December issue we will focus on our ongoing actions to channel our concerns about Medicaid, healthcare and HIV funding access into action.

Since our Thanksgiving update, PPGR has engaged in a series of actions and continues to work in coalition to lead efforts to protect Medicaid. We invite you all to read about our actions, and join us in taking direct action during this month of December.

We have two upcoming holiday themed actions on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> that we invite you to participate in. Read on for more details and join us in acting.

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## Launch of Medicaid For US – New York Campaign

The **Medicaid For US- New York** campaign has officially launched and the attached ads ran as planned in El Diario on Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>, and in AmNY on Monday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. To recap, the **Medicaid For US -New York** campaign is a collaborative campaign spearheaded by Amida Care in partnership with 19 other organizations. The campaign is directed at NY’s Congressional and Senate delegation, with special focus on the seven members of the Congressional delegation who voted for the July cuts to Medicaid and healthcare funding.

**MEDICAID for US • New York**

En julio, el Congreso aprobó por estrecho margen un proyecto de ley terrible que provoca una crisis de salud pública y **ECONÓMICA EN TODO EL PAÍS.** ¡Siete miembros del Congreso de Nueva York permitieron que esto ocurriera! **El Estado de Nueva York perderá:**

- 13.5 mil millones de dólares en financiación de salud
- Cobertura para 1.5 millones de neoyorquinos
- 14.4 mil millones de dólares en actividad económica generada por hospitales, resultado de 8 mil millones en recortes
- Al menos 300 millones de dólares en recortes a centros de salud
- 65,000 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

Estos recortes perjudicarán a todos los neoyorquinos al debilitar todo el sistema de salud del que dependemos. Nueva York permitieron que esto ocurriera!

**Congreso, Derogue, Reemplace, Reduzca el Daño. Restaura la financiación de Medicaid y renueve los ATPCs.**

No importa dónde viva, llame a su miembro del Congreso en sus oficinas de distrito, especialmente si votaron por estos recortes desastrosos. Dígame que usted está indignado por estos recortes a su atención médica.

**IMPACTO POR DISTRITO**

**LONG ISLAND (NY1)**

- 47,515 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 411,868,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 1,811 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**LONG ISLAND (NY2)**

- 47,935 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 255,206,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 1,122 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**STATEN ISLAND (NY11)**

- 51,984 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 275,762,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 1,213 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**MID-HUDSON VALLEY (NY17)**

- 31,189 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 416,822,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 2,713 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**NORESTE DE NY Y REGION ADIRONDACK (NY21)**

- 44,082 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 367,481,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 1,616 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**WESTERN NY (NY23)**

- 34,672 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 320,347,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 1,409 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**WESTERN NY (NY24)**

- 31,388 neoyorquinos perderán la cobertura de salud
- 425,748,000 dólares en pérdida de actividad económica generada por hospitales
- 1,873 empleos perdidos debido a recortes a hospitales y centros de salud comunitarios

**MEDICAID for US • New York**

In July, Congress narrowly passed a terrible bill that triggers a **PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISIS** across the country. Seven New York State members of Congress permitted this to happen! **New York State will lose:**

- \$13.5 billion in health care funding
- Coverage for 1.5 million New Yorkers
- \$14.4 billion in hospital-generated economic activity, resulting from \$8 billion in cuts
- At least \$300 million in cuts to health centers
- 65,000 jobs due to cuts to hospitals and community health centers

**These cuts will hurt all New Yorkers by weakening the entire healthcare system we all rely on.**

**Congress, Repeat, Replace, Reduce Harm. Restore Medicaid funding and renew ATPCs.**

Regardless of where you live, call your member of Congress in their district offices, especially if your Congressional member voted for these disastrous cuts. Tell them you are outraged by these cuts to your healthcare.

[Medicaid for US – New York ads in El Diario & AmNY]

## World AIDS Day Rally and March

**END HIV/AIDS.**

**PROTECT MEDICAID.**

**PROTECT US.**

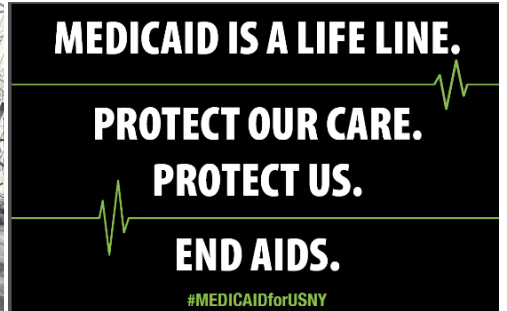
**REVERSE THE CUTS.**

**#MEDICAIDforUSNY**

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Amida Care joined our New York community partners to organize a rally and march at the New York City AIDS Memorial for World AIDS Day. The event centered on reading of the names of those who have passed from AIDS and a march to Stonewall Inn where a “Die-In” was performed.

The community recognized the progress made on addressing HIV, while at the same time reminding participants of the need for sustained action to fight back against the current defunding of HIV, Medicaid and health care funding. These threats threaten to roll back years of progress.

We thank all the Amida Care staff who joined us at the rally and march! We effectively brought the message that the community calls on Congress to reverse the cuts.



[Pictures from the World AIDS Day rally]

## **New York State Ending the HIV Epidemic (ETE) Summit**

On December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Amida Care participated in the New York State Ending the HIV Epidemic (ETE) summit.

The ETE Summit is an annual gathering of hundreds of HIV advocates, providers, caregivers and people impacted by HIV/AIDS from across New York State. At the summit, the New York State Department of Health shared the most recent HIV surveillance data, and panelists discussed action that is still needed to maintain the progress and momentum New York State has built towards ending the HIV epidemic.

In the most recent NYC Health Department report on HIV rates, it shows us that HIV diagnoses jumped 5.4% from 2023 to 2024, with an estimated new infection rate which is up 17%, a worrying reversal after years of progress. These surging HIV and STI rates don't happen in a vacuum. It is caused by reductions in ACA, Medicaid, and CDC funding from the passing of the HR1 bill. These cuts will make it even harder to reverse this trend.

There was a sober recognition that continued progress is challenged by persistent inequity, and actions taken by President Trump's administration. These actions include dramatic cuts to domestic and international HIV funding as well as the President's failure to recognize World AIDS Day.

During the opening session on Tuesday, speakers and panelists explored the impacts of housing instability, food insecurity, HIV stigma, homophobia and transphobia, as well as other health related social needs that drive the epidemic and contribute to new HIV transmissions. Advocates called on the Governor and Legislature to address the lack of safe and affordable housing for people living with HIV outside the five boroughs of NYC.

A key conversation emerged around the dramatic impacts of HR1, the bill passed by Congress back in July, that was signed into law by President Trump. HR1 will cut over \$1B in federal healthcare funding for New York State, including over \$3B for Medicaid. This cut is estimated to cause over 1.5 million New Yorkers to become uninsured. Advocate who attended the summit highlighted that these federal actions would contribute to an increase in new HIV infections across the country - not only in states like New York, but also in states like Florida, Texas and Arizona that have growing

HIV epidemics. Participants from across the state called on NY's Congressional delegation, including the seven Republicans who voted for the HR1 cuts to take immediate action to reverse the harm caused by HRI's passage. They demanded that congress act before December 31<sup>st</sup> to reduce harm to New York.



[Medicaid for US – New York post card station at the ETE summit in Albany, NY]

Members of the original NYS Task Force that crafted the Blueprint to ETE were in attendance and rose up when the crowd chanted, “Medicaid is under attack, and Congress must act!” This included Guillermo Chacon, President/CEO of LCOA, Charles King, President/CEO of Housing Works, Jacqui Kilmer, President/CEO of Harlem United, Majorie Hill, President/CEO of JP Addabbo Family Health Center, Dr. Freddy Molano of Community Healthcare Network, and Doug Wirth, President/CEO of Amida Care HIV Special Needs Plan.



[Amida Care leading Action to protect Medicaid and Health Care funding]

## **Come Carol for Health Justice – Raise Your Voice for Care!**

Please join PPGR for two Amida Care led Medicaid for US – New York actions. The goal is to mobilize and take action to stop Medicaid and healthcare cuts. The events occur on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Staten Island Ferry terminal @ 3PM on the Manhattan side, and December 23<sup>rd</sup> at Penn Station near the Amida Care office @ 9AM. We are working with Housing Works and other partners of the Medicaid For US – New York campaign on these actions. Details have been shared with all staff in calendar invitations.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Event December 15 @ Staten Island Ferry Terminal**

Monday, December 15, 2025 @ 03:00 PM (Expected timing is from 3-5PM)

**Location:** Staten Island Ferry Whitehall Terminal at South Ferry • 4 Whitehall Street , New York, NY 10004 US

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Event – December 23 @ Penn Station**

Wednesday, December 23, 2025 @ 9:00 AM  
(Coffee and snacks will be provided in the Board room)

**Location:** Meet at the office and walk over to Penn Station

**RSVP with:** Lyndel Urbano [lurbano@amidacareny.org](mailto:lurbano@amidacareny.org) & Casper Christiansen [cchristiansen@amidacareny.org](mailto:cchristiansen@amidacareny.org).

*(Be sure to confirm your participation with your supervisors)*

### **Why we're doing this (From Lyndel's All Staff message):**

In July, seven members of New York's Congressional delegation voted to cut Medicaid and healthcare funding. Now, Congress is debating federal HIV funding—and both domestic and international HIV programs are on the chopping block.

Congress must act now to reverse this crisis. That's why we're taking our message to the streets with Caroling for Health Justice!

Amida Care is engaged with our community partners on a Medicaid For Us-NY campaign to call attention to the cuts, engage with the public, and above all call on the entire NY Congressional Delegation to act to reverse the cuts to Medicaid and other health care programs.

The two upcoming holiday themed events are designed to engage with the public in Staten Island (ferry commuters), Long Island (LIRR commuters) and the mid-Hudson Valley (Amtrak commuters) about HR1 cuts to Medicaid and Health.

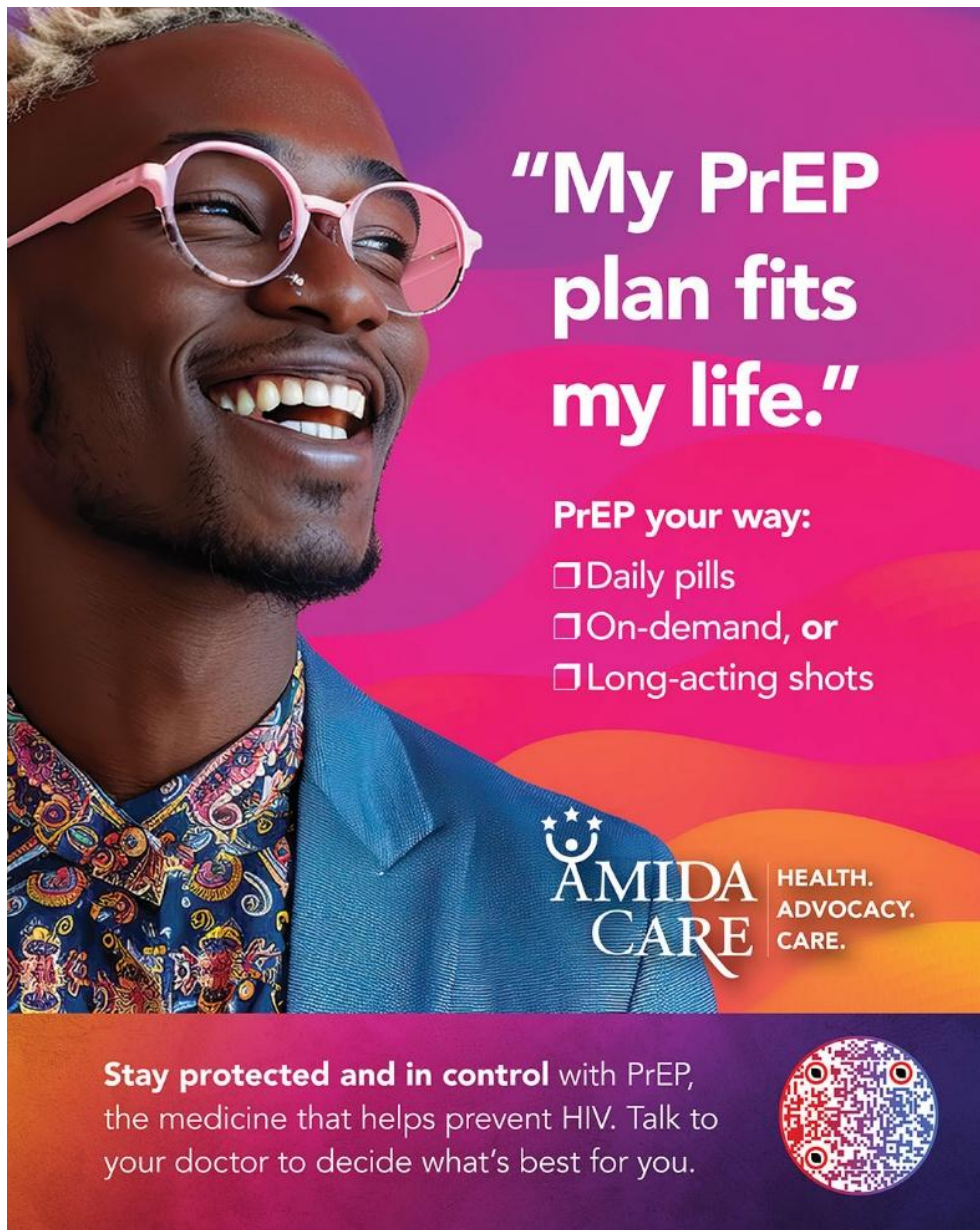
## PPGR Round Up

As we celebrate the holidays, we ask you to join us as we persist in taking action. Together we can make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Joe Pressley, Lyndel Urbano & Casper Christiansen

## Additional Reading

PPGR and Communications have been working to raise awareness about HIV prevention. Below is the published ad.




**"My PrEP plan fits my life."**

PrEP your way:

- Daily pills
- On-demand, or
- Long-acting shots

**AMIDA CARE** HEALTH. ADVOCACY. CARE.

**Stay protected and in control** with PrEP, the medicine that helps prevent HIV. Talk to your doctor to decide what's best for you.



### HIV Rates in New York City Have Increased

In response to news that HIV rates have risen in New York City, the [Save HIV Funding Campaign](#) today released a statement calling on New Yorkers to [contact their federal representatives](#) and let them know that cutting vital federal investment in HIV infrastructure would be devastating to their communities. According to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's [HIV SURVEILLANCE ANNUAL REPORT, 2024](#), New York City saw a 5.4% increase in 2024 (or 1,791 new HIV diagnoses). As reported in [The Gothamist](#), this follows a 6.9% increase from 2022 to 2023. While these increases happened before recent disruptions to domestic HIV funding, current threats to funding and infrastructure will only further increase HIV rates, as well as racial and gender disparities. For us in PPGR, these developments reiterate the pressing need for the Medicaid for US – New York campaign.

### Medicaid Work Requirement Guidance Issued by CMS

On December 3, 2025 The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing additional [guidance](#) outlining how states should implement community engagement requirements created by the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) legislation (Public Law 119-21).

PPGR is reviewing the guidance and is actively engaged in Federal and NYC workgroups on this subject. Notably the guidance restated information outlined in the law with little guidance to states. Read the press release [here](#).