



Public Policy & Government Relations Update

March 2025

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Summary

The Public Policy and Government Relations department remains focused on advocating to protect access to Medicaid and the HIV care delivery system. This summary outlines our efforts during ongoing New York State budget negotiations and Amida Care's responses to Federal actions that undermine the care delivery system that supports our members.

Priorities

Our overriding priority is to protect access to care for our members. This includes ensuring that our provider network has the funding and policy environment to continue providing access to care. Federal attacks on Gender-Affirming care and Medicaid are ongoing. President Trump issued Executive Order on "Protecting children from chemical and surgical mutilation" on January 28. Additionally, the US House of Representatives passed a budget outline that proposes up to \$880 billion in cuts, over ten years, that could affect Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other public assistance programs.

Priorities include but not limited to:

- Oppose cuts to Medicaid
- Ensure adequate funding and access to gender affirming care
- Expand support for under resourced trans health and serving organizations
- Invest in Federally Qualified Health centers
- Facilitate access through Medicaid for longer-acting products to prevent HIV

Advocacy Actions

The Public Policy team participated in a series of meetings and advocacy days at the state and federal level to discuss our policy priorities.

We attended the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) and AIDS United Public Policy Council (PPC) meetings in Washington DC. While in Washington DC we met with members of the NYS congressional delegation from both political parties to express the importance of protecting Medicaid.

Here in NYS, PPGR continues to meet with state legislators. In addition to our meetings, we joined a series of advocacy days including, AIDS Advisory Committee, Ending the Epidemic Coalition, Callen-Lorde, Housing Works, New York State Harm Reduction Alliance, CHN, NYS Public Health Plan association and the New York State Hispanic/Latine Health Advocacy Network. Since the beginning of the state budget session, we met with over 50 NYS Senators and Assemblymembers.

Presentations, Rallies and Other Engagements

Below you will find information about the PPGR presentations, rallies and other engagements during the months of February and March.

Callen-Lorde Albany Legislative Education Day

The week of February 24th Amida Care joined advocates in the NYS Capitol to call for the protection of trans health. At least 100 participants from across the state. Senators Hoylman-Sigal, Gustavo Rivera and John Liu, Assembly Members Bronson, Jessica Gonzalez Rojas and Tony Simone, as well as representation from the AG's Office.



SOMOS Albany Workshop

We participated in a workshop panel that included a focus on HIV and longer acting products for HIV prevention and treatment. The workshop was facilitated by Assembly Member Johnatan Rivera.



Assembly Member Tony Simone sponsored Amida Care's participation and spoke about us at the panel. PPGR outlined the game changing potential of LA products for HIV to ensure that Black and Latine New Yorkers receive access to the treatments.

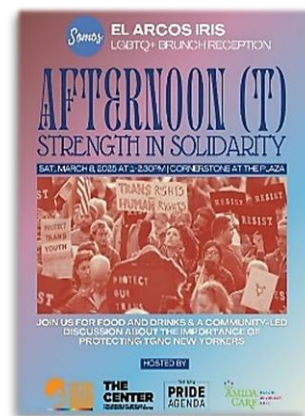
This will advance efforts to end the HIV epidemic by ensuring that communities most impacted by HIV are not neglected as these products come to market. We discussed the need for Medicaid to negotiate better pricing for the medications and provide adequate rates to cover expenses incurred by providers.



SOMOS Albany Reception

Amida Care joined the Ali Forney Center, The Center, New Pride Agenda and a series of other LGBTQ serving organizations to host a reception at the recent SOMOS event in Albany. The event was well attended by legislators and SOMOS participants. The event featured a call to action to protect access to care for trans New Yorkers.

Assembly Members Tony Simone, Catalina Cruz and Jessica Gonzalez Rojas made strong calls to action to protect LGBTQ New Yorkers. Amida Care Board member and Latino Commission of AIDS CEO Guillermo Chacon spoke at the reception and gave a moving call to advocates and policymakers at the event.



Upcoming Actions

PPGR is continuing to meet with New York State legislators as they negotiated the final state budget.

AIDS Watch

The team will also attend AIDS Watch 2025 from March 31 – April 2. This is event in Washington DC pulls together organizations and individuals from across the United States who have a shared interest in ending the HIV epidemic. They attend a series of trainings, a rally and meet with federal legislators.



Amida Care led HIV Medicaid Coalition



Amida Care is funded by New York State Department of Health's AIDS Institute to convene a HIV Medicaid Coalition. The meeting brings together concerned organizations from across New York State to hear from them. The last meeting was held on **Monday, 3/17 from 2-4pm**. Presenters provide updates on the federal and state actions related to Medicaid and HIV, reconciliation process and impacts to Medicaid and CMS's rescission of HRSN guidance.

Take Action: Tell Congress to Oppose Medicaid Cuts

It is critical that we continue to communicate with our federal elected officials to ensure that they understand why Medicaid and access to care for TGNB New Yorkers is important. Visit **Community Service Society's** [webpage](#) for additional actions.

Call Tell Congress to Oppose Medicaid Cuts by continuing to call your Members of Congress and ask them to protect Medicaid at (866) 426-2631. **Please remember to use your personal accounts and devices to make the call on your own behalf.**

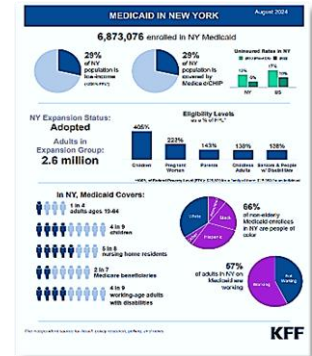
Write **FAMILIESUSA:** Access a sign-on letter to Senate leadership in defense of Medicaid [here](#). Opportunity closes at COB on **March 20th**

Visit **Find your Representatives:**
State and Federal List of Elected Officials:
US House of Representatives: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>
US Senate: <https://www.senate.gov/senators>
NYS Senate: <https://www.nysenate.gov/senators-committees>
NYS Assembly: <https://nyassembly.gov/mem>

Helpful Information About Medicaid

Use the links below to find out more about how Medicaid impacts each state and congressional district in the United States. The [interactive map](#) and state fact sheets will help your congress person understand how Medicaid affects constituents in the congressional district where you live.

- [Congressional District Interactive Map & Fact Sheets: Medicaid Enrollment by Eligibility Group](#)
- [State Fact Sheets on Medicaid](#)
- [New York State Fact Sheet](#)



In addition, the following are links to fact sheets from [Community Services Society](#). The fact sheets describe how cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care could affect the six districts that are led by the majority party in Congress.

- [Rep. Nick LaLota \(R-NY\) \(Long Island, District 1\)](#)
- [Rep. Andrew Garbarino \(R-NY\) \(Long Island, District 2\)](#)
- [Rep. Nicole Malliotakis \(R-NY\) \(Staten Island, District 11\)](#)
- [Rep. Mike Lawler \(R-NY\) \(Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley, District 17\)](#)
- [Rep. Nick Langworthy \(R-NY\) \(Western New York, District 23\)](#)
- [Rep. Claudia Tenney \(R-NY\) \(Central New York, District 24\)](#)

Round Up

The Amida Care PPGR team continues to monitor challenges and progress related to our priorities concerning Medicaid funding and Gender-Affirming care, being directly involved in talks with legislative offices, engaging in advocacy efforts and meeting with both State and Federal partners, keep reminding them of the importance of protecting trans health and access to healthcare.

