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Amida Care to Be Honored with Corporate Partner of the Year Award by Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF)

(New York, NY, June 5, 2019) - Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid Special Needs Plan (SNP) for people living with or at elevated risk for HIV, will be honored by Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) as **Corporate Partner of the Year at the 2019 Trans Advocacy Awards** on Tuesday, June 11, at the Manhattan Penthouse in New York City. Other honorees include New York State Senator Brad Hoylman, Skyler Jay, Tracey Africa Norman, and Lowenstein Sandler LLP.

"Amida Care is incredibly honored to be recognized by TLDEF," said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. "TLDEF's advocacy work on behalf of the transgender community is critical, especially as we continue to see unprecedented efforts to roll back the rights of transgender individuals. We are proud to work alongside TLDEF to continue to fight for policies that create a more equitable and just world for us all. We're lucky that New York State has leaders like Gov. Andrew Cuomo and our fellow TLDEF honoree Senator Hoylman, who support social justice for the trans community. Health care is a right, not a privilege, and people of transgender experience need and deserve access to comprehensive, culturally competent, gender-affirming health care. We have to break down the barriers that keep health care out of reach for so many in the transgender community—barriers like discrimination, transphobia, lack of employment opportunities, and housing instability. Amida Care is committed to being an innovator in advancing access to care and services for transgender individuals."

In 2017, Amida Care expanded to serve individuals of transgender experience regardless of HIV status to support HIV prevention and provide greater access to gender-affirming services. Today, 65% of Amida Care's more than 1,000 transgender members have received gender-affirming services; 25% of Amida Care's HIV negative transgender members are accessing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); and an estimated 80% of HIV-positive transgender members are virally suppressed, meaning they cannot sexually transmit HIV to others.

"At Amida Care, we are working hard to create an environment where individuals of transgender experience have access to the high quality, culturally competent health care they deserve," said Kevin Steffens, Vice President of Clinical Services and Programs at Amida Care. "For years, TLDEF has been on the ground, educating people and providing invaluable support to the transgender community through their legal services and policy advocacy. It is truly an honor to work alongside them."

Earlier this year, Amida Care released a new report, [*Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care*](#), which highlights the ongoing struggles individuals of transgender experience face when accessing health care and outlines potential policy recommendations to improve the landscape.

About Amida Care

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 who are 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.