



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Communications Manager  
[scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org), (646) 757-7052

## **Amida Care Praises Governor Cuomo and Department of Health on Latest Progress to End the AIDS Epidemic**

New York, NY (December 5, 2018) – Doug Wirth, president and CEO of Amida Care, New York’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs health Plan (SNP), made the following statement in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s and the Department of Health’s release of new data showing that New York State is on track to end the AIDS epidemic in the state by 2020.

“New York has been and remains a national leader in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, thanks to the leadership and dedication of Governor Cuomo and his administration. The state’s latest data continues to show a decline in new HIV diagnoses – making the mission of ending the epidemic by 2020 closer to a reality.

Caring for the HIV and at-risk populations is Amida Care’s mission – and our innovative approaches that have succeeded in New York City will serve as a model for efforts from Long Island to Buffalo to Albany/Rensselaer. Our work has led to a decline in new HIV infections, an uptick in HIV viral suppression and cures of Hepatitis C. With more New Yorkers receiving the necessary treatment to live healthy and long lives, we are confident that the HIV epidemic will end as the Governor’s Blueprint outlines.

Despite this tremendous progress, it is clear that more work remains in at-risk communities. To fully realize our goal of ending HIV/AIDS, we must continue to expand access to essential services to men of color who have sex with men, transgender women, women of color and persons with addictions. These groups have faced stigma and inequity for far too long, but by connecting these populations to life-saving prevention methods like PrEP and PEP, we can help ensure healthier futures for all New Yorkers.”

### **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 chronic 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](http://www.amidacareny.org).

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