



For Immediate Release

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Amida Care Applauds Governor Andrew Cuomo on Commitment to End Hepatitis C and Expand Rental Assistance for People Living with HIV in New York State

New York, NY (March 20, 2018) –[Amida Care](http://AmidaCare.org), New York’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP), commends Governor Cuomo for plans to end Hepatitis C in New York State and expand rental assistance statewide for people living with HIV.

On Friday, Governor Cuomo announced a commitment to end Hepatitis C (HCV) in New York State, including the allocation of additional funding—the first increase in a decade—making New York the first state in the nation to create and implement a plan to eliminate HCV. The Governor also committed to advancing a statewide expansion of HIV rental assistance and the 30% rent cap affordable housing protection in upstate New York and Long Island to help End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic.

“We want to thank Governor Cuomo for his unwavering commitment to the health of New Yorkers living with chronic conditions and for once again putting New York at the vanguard of progress to improve public health,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “By investing in increased access to medications that can cure Hepatitis C and expanding programs that connect vulnerable New Yorkers with prevention, screening, and treatment services, Governor Cuomo has put New York State on track to be the first state in the U.S. to eliminate HCV. This has the potential to preserve the health and well-being of more than 200,000 New Yorkers living with HCV and countless more who are at risk of acquiring the virus, which leads to life-threatening liver disease if left untreated.

We further applaud Governor Cuomo for taking the important step of expanding rental assistance to all New Yorkers living with HIV, as part of his ongoing commitment to End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New York State by the year 2020. Housing is health care. Safe, stable housing is crucial for a person with HIV to receive and adhere to effective antiretroviral treatment, which helps them get their viral load to undetectable levels and makes it virtually impossible for them to transmit HIV to others. We can End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New York and serve as a model for the nation.

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Governor and our partner advocates on this issue to make HIV and HCV history.”

Amida Care joined 147 hospitals, community health centers, and local departments of health to endorse the NYS Hepatitis C Elimination Consensus Statement and participated on the Steering

Committee last year, calling on Governor Cuomo, the NYS Legislature, and industry partners to make a joint commitment to HCV elimination, with a formal Task Force to establish a statewide elimination plan.

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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 homeless or of transgender experience (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.