

MEDIA ADVISORY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northern Rivers Reaction to NYS Budget

Northern Rivers Family of Services CEO William T. Gettman, Jr., issued the following in response to the New York State Budget:

“The news of a 4% Human Services COLA in the final New York State budget leaves us disappointed, but not shocked. We join other Human Services providers throughout New York state in expressing our extraordinary frustration with and overwhelming sadness over another New York State budget that underfunds vital staff and programming. We do so while remaining completely aware that our passion, along with our advocacy, all too often are met with platitudes rather than action by too many of those with the power to effect real change.

“The 8.5% Human Services COLA featured in both the Senate and Assembly budget proposals gave us hope, and we truly appreciate the work of those elected officials who fought for this necessary and long-deserved measure of support. Sadly, in the final budget, funding that would simply have sustained critical mental health, substance abuse, senior-supporting, child welfare. Hunger-fighting, abuse-preventing programs at a level commensurate with inflation in today’s economy was traded away.

“To be fair, the 4% COLA in the final budget is an increase for some programs and better than zero. We appreciate some measure of acknowledgement from our elected officials. We also appreciate the collective efforts of the many voices throughout the state who advocated for the clients we serve and the need to be present across NYS. We truly do not know what else we can do to convey the severity of our situation; that said, our sector will continue to give our all each day. The New Yorkers who depend on us deserve no less.”

About Northern Rivers Family of Services

Northern Rivers is a family of human services agencies that work together and are committed to helping children, adults, and families. Formed in 2012, Northern Rivers is the parent organization to Northeast Parent & Child Society (founded in 1888 in Schenectady), Parsons Child & Family Center (founded in 1829 in Albany), and Unlimited Potential (founded in Saratoga Springs in 1979). Together we serve more than 18,000 children, adults, and families in more than 40 counties in New York state who struggle with abuse, neglect, trauma, mental health challenges, educational difficulties, career training and employment, and service navigation through an innovative continuum of home-, clinic-, school-, and community-based services, vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, and senior-supporting programs that provide person-centered, trauma-informed innovative solutions to ensure clients live their best lives. With a 1,400-strong workforce and informed by our nearly 200-year heritage, our quality of care, depth of programs, combined size, and passion for the mission make us a leading human services provider.

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