

The Resident Voice



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New York State Passes budget 8 weeks Late!

New York State is required to pass its state budget by April 1 each year. This year it was nearing midnight on May 28th when the legislature finally passed the budget. The weeks prior were filled with negotiations

and disagreements over priorities and spending between the Governor's office and Legislative leaders. Building on the successful visits with elected officials made by staff and residents during the Speak Out CIAD staff lobbied tirelessly to ensure that funding cut by the Governor, was fully restored at the same level as 2025 in the 2027 budget. This involved hundreds of letters and emails to Assembly Members and Senators. We had dozens of phone calls with elected representatives or their legislative or budget staff members.

We are grateful for the ongoing efforts of our amazing allies who helped carry the message with us for support for Adult Home Residents. A **BIG** shout out to Kevin Cremin and our colleagues at Mobilization for Justice; Harvey Rosenthal and Luke Sikinyi of Rights and Recovery; Kate Breslin and Bridget Walsh of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy; The Long Term Care Community Coalition. Thank you to the NYS Legislature for ensuring funds were restored to the budget.

CIAD also supported the goals of Rights and Recovery to ensure inclusion of Daniel's Law funding of \$8 million to fund mental health crisis first responders and obtain a 2.7% increase on service contracts for programs providing mental health services. Both of those items were included in the final budget as well!

Here are the wins we achieved this year:

\$6.6 million	EQUAL fully funded for the coming year!
\$230,000	Resident Rights training and follow up through the NY Justice Center!
\$225,000	CIAD funding renewed at \$225,000!

CIAD is a nonprofit advocacy organization run with and by persons with disabilities to support resident rights in Adult Care Homes. CIAD provides: Resident Council training and organizing, Independence Training, and individual advocacy.

EQUAL UPDATES

Castle Senior Living reports that they their EQUAL grant is being put to work. They report that have been able to take back control of the process and control it better by having 30-40 residents sign the proposed use of funds approved by the Resident Council, not just the President. Here is what they are doing:

- Redoing the garden. They looked at what was needed to replace or improve. They provided details on the furniture they wanted to the administrator by giving them internet links to the items.
- They chose to have funds for recreation activities.
- Clothing for residents. They are trying to get some retail stores to bring clothing to the home for a “pop-up” store so residents scan shop on site!

Brooklyn Boulevard ALP reports great success in their EQUAL process. All the residents have received their gift cards.

- They are setting up bus trips to Burlington and TJ Maxx/Marshalls and had one trip on June 16 to go to shopping.
- In August they have a carnival planned with a cultural day where people bring food that reflects different ethnic backgrounds, and is very popular with the residents.
- And they have funds to go to a Broadway show as well as a boat trip to Coney Island! Way to go BBALP!

START PLANNING NOW FOR WHAT YOU WANT THE NEXT ROUND OF EQUAL GRANTS TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR HOME!

REMEMBER - YOU have a voice - be sure to use it to
advocate for yourself and your home.

WE have an even bigger voice when we work together to
advocate for our common needs.

BE sure to participate in YOUR Resident Council and
Food Committee meetings!