
IAC News - 2016-17 NYS Budget Agreement

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Thanks to Barbara Crosier of CP of NYS for the framework below, here is a more complete update on the budget agreements from yesterday. We will provide you with further details as they become available.

MINIMUM WAGE

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The budget agreement provides \$4.1 million (state share only) for OPWDD minimum wage increases. The minimum wage phase-in (below) will cost approximately \$4.1 in the last quarter of the 2016-2017 state fiscal year – to bring OPWDD voluntaries up to the minimum wage. The appropriation, all shares will total \$8.2million but we don't yet know if we will be able to use any of that for compression. Additionally, the budget language states that it is only for OPWDD agencies filing a CFR and there has to be an attestation that the funding was used for minimum wage salary and benefit increases. There also appears to be \$1.1 M for SED programs.

Beginning 12-31-16:

- NYC will increase the minimum wage to \$11 at the end of 2016, then another \$2 each year after, reaching \$15 on 12/31/2018. Except small businesses (those with 10 employees or fewer), will have a minimum wage increase to \$10.50 by the end of 2016, then another \$1.50 each year after, reaching \$15 on 12/31/2019.
- For Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester Counties, the minimum wage will increase to \$10 at the end of 2016, then \$1 each year after, reaching \$15 on 12/31/2021.
- The rest of the state's minimum wage will increase to \$9.70 at the end of 2016, then another \$.70 each year after until reaching \$12.50 on 12/31/2020 – after that the minimum wage will continue to increase to \$15 on an indexed schedule to be set by the Director of the Division of Budget in consultation with the Department of Labor.

Similar to California, there is a "safety valve" for the increases. Beginning in 2019, the state DOB Director will conduct an annual analysis of the economy in each region and the effect of the minimum wage increases, statewide, to determine whether a temporary suspension of the scheduled increases is necessary. That analysis is submitted to the Department of Labor by the Division of Budget.

OPWDD

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Work Centers

Provides language for individuals who are transitioning from sheltered workshops to ensure

options other than integrated employment settings including retirement activities.

State-Operated Services

Provides prior notification to Legislature and the unions on transfer, or limit the census of State-operated IRAs.

Mental Health Licensure

Extends the social work and psychology licensure exemption for two years.

Temporary Operator

Accepts the Governor's proposal on temporary operators in OPWDD.

COLA/Trend

Accepts the Governor's proposal to provide a \$0.2% COLA/Trend.

OPWDD Reports

Requires the following reports from OPWDD to the Legislature on 10-1-16:

- progress the office has made in meeting the housing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, including through:
 - its ongoing review of the residential registration list
 - increasing access to rental housing, supportive housing, and other independent living options;
 - building understanding and awareness of housing options for independent living among people with developmental disabilities, families, public and private organizations, developers and DSPs and
 - assisting with the creation of a sustainable living environment through funding for home modifications, down payment assistance and home repairs;
- An update on the implementation of the report and recommendations of the transformation panel, including implementation of the panel's recommendations to:
 - increase and support access to self-directed models of care;
 - enhance opportunities for individuals to access community integrated housing;
 - increase integrated employment opportunities; and
 - examine the program design and fiscal model for managed care to appropriately address the needs of individuals with developmental

disabilities.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Early Intervention

Rejects the Governor's Early Intervention proposals including for increased commercial insurance reimbursement, mandatory prescreening and the 1% reimbursement increase for increased administrative costs due to the fiscal agent.

Prescriber Prevails

Rejects the Governor's proposal to eliminate prescriber prevails in fee-for-service Medicaid except for anti-psychotic and anti-depressant medications.

Traumatic Brain Injury

Delays the TBI and NHTD Waiver programs move to Medicaid Managed Care until 1-1-2018.

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Accepts the Governor's proposal for 853 and 4410 funding which is based on old claims from two years ago. We are beginning to work with SED, DOB, the Legislature and the regents to ensure that adequate growth is provided for the 2016-2017 school year to cover these minimum wage increases.