September 8, 2020

Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Executive Chamber
NYS Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write first to thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 global pandemic. We are grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of the Executive office and all of New York State’s workforce to help keep our communities safe during this unprecedented time.

Secondly, we write to express our concern regarding financial challenges facing vital human services programs, and the availability of resources from the Corona Virus Relief Fund (CRF). According to the Executive’s update to the financial plan, as of July 31st $4 billion of federal funding remains in the fund.

This funding was appropriated through the CARES Act, the largest economic relief package in American history. The CARES Act established the Corona Virus Relief Fund (CRF) designed to assist states and local governments in funding COVID-19 related expenses.

New York State received $5.1 billion from the CRF. As of this writing, $4 billion from the CRF remains at the state’s disposal. At the same time, many of New York State’s most vital services are rapidly deteriorating. **We urge you to consider allocating resources from the CRF to support these services. Otherwise, many of the service providers will not survive or will suffer irreparable damage, doing serious harm to the children and adults who depend on them.**

New York’s childcare services have experienced 25% of its childcare programs and 70% of its school-aged childcare centers close. As a member of the Governor’s Childcare Availability Task Force, stated at a press conference in July, "Pre-COVID, childcare was in a crisis situation, preventing people from going to work. We cannot re-open New York
without childcare because there is nowhere for children to go and that includes children from infants all the way up through the teenage years.”

Nonprofit organizations that are contracted by the state to provide health care, afterschool programming, senior services, housing, food delivery, and food pantries, and services for people with disabilities are being forced to cut vital programs, lay off staff and close their doors. In many cases, the funding being withheld is for contracted services that have already been provided.

The Executive Director of the Human Services Council recently noted, “When the state isn’t paying their bills, but wants providers to still do those services, that’s going to result in layoffs.”

The Coalition of Behavioral Health Analysts, fearing the collapse of community-based behavioral health services for New Yorkers with mental illnesses and substance use disorders recently stated that “withholding state funding has pushed the service delivery system to the brink of insolvency.”

Many providers of substance use disorder treatment, which historically have been underfunded, are expressing concern that any additional cuts to their budget or withholding of their funding will force them to furlough or lay off staff as well as cut vital services. At the same time, the majority of these service providers have reported an increase in demand for services as overdose rates have risen around the State during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These services, along with several others, are in danger of collapse without urgently needed assistance. These services employ and serve large numbers of New Yorkers from communities of color. These communities are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. We must not allow New York State to actively withhold financial support from them.

To facilitate a full economic recovery, these services must remain viable. Reduced childcare options means fewer parents returning to work. Reduced nonprofit services means thousands of workers out of jobs and clients with greater subsequent needs that will require more expensive services. Reduced behavioral health services means the most vulnerable New Yorkers left to fend for themselves.

Whether or not the federal government reaches an agreement on the next stimulus package, New York has a moral and fiscal obligation to pay for services that have already been provided to sustain these services during the pandemic. We rely on these services to provide aid, care and support for the needy, as Article XVII of the New York State Constitution requires. We need to assist them as they assist all of us.
We therefore respectfully request that your administration immediately intervene to support these programs.

Sincerely,

[Signatures and names of various assembly and senate chairs]

Co-signed:

[Signatures and names of additional senators]
Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, 16th SD
Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, 92nd AD
Assemblyman Jacob Ashby, 106th AD
Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30th AD
Assemblyman Michael Blake, 79th AD
Assemblyman David Buchwald, 93rd AD
Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes, 133rd AD
Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz, 39th AD
Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, 53rd AD
Assemblywoman Inez Dickens, 70th AD
Assemblyman Steve Englebright, 4th AD
Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez, 80th AD
Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus, 46th AD
Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, 66th AD
Assemblywoman Judy Griffin, 21st AD
Assemblywoman Alicia Hyndman, 29th AD
Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre, 11th AD
Assemblyman Ron Kim, 40th AD
Assemblyman Brian Manketlow, 130th AD
Assemblywoman Karen McMahon, 146th AD
Assemblyman Walter Mosley, 57th AD
Assemblyman Steven Otis, 91st AD
Assemblyman N. Nick Perry, 58th AD
Assemblyman Phillip Ramos, 6th AD
Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez, 68th AD
Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, 25th AD
Assemblyman John Salka, 121st AD
Assemblyman Robin Schimminger, 140th AD
Assemblywoman Jo Ann Simon, 52nd AD
Assemblywoman Michellele Solages, 22nd AD
Assemblyman Al Stirpe, 127th AD
Assemblyman Al Taylor, 71st AD
Assemblyman Peter Abbate, 49th AD
Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo, 84th AD
Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, 35th AD
Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, 105th AD
Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, 26th AD
Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon 119th AD
Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, 102nd AD
Assemblyman Anthony D’Urso, 16th AD
Assemblyman Michael DenDekker, 34th AD
Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, 48th AD
Assemblyman Harvey Epstein, 74th AD
Assemblyman Christopher Friend, 124th AD
Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, 148th AD
Assemblyman Andy Goodell, 150th AD
Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter, 128th AD
Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson, 104th AD
Assemblyman Billy Jones, 115th AD
Assemblyman Brian Kolb, 131st AD
Assemblyman John T. McDonald III, 108th AD
Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, 145th AD
Assistant Speaker Félix Ortiz, 51st AD
Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, 88th AD
Assemblyman Ed Ra, 10th AD
Assemblywoman Karines Reyes, 87th AD
Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal, 27th AD
Assemblyman Sean Ryan, 149th AD
Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, 111th AD
Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright, 76th AD
Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, 36th AD
Assemblyman Steve Stern, 10th AD
Assemblyman Christopher Tague, 102nd AD
Assemblyman Fred Thiele, 1st AD
Assemblywoman Latrice Walker, 55th AD
Assemblywoman Jaimie Williams, 56th AD
Councilwoman, Adrienne Adams, 28th CD
Councilman Robert Cornegy Jr., 36th CD
Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, 16th CD
Councilman Peter Koo, 20th CD
Councilman Stephen Levin, 33rd CD
Councilman Francisco Moya, 21st AD
Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal, 6th CD
Senate-elect Jabari Brisport
Assembly-elect Anna Kelles
Ali Forney Center
Care for the Homeless
Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
Coalition for the Homeless
Community Access for Social Justice (CASJ)
Crossroads Unlimited Inc.
Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY)
Families for Sensible Drug Policy
Friends Shelter
Greater Syracuse Tenants Network
Hour Children
Housing Works
Hunger Free America
Inter-Agency Council of Developmental Disability Agencies
National Harm Reduction Coalition
New York Communities for Change
Assemblyman David Weprin, 24th AD
Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, 96th AD
Councilwoman Margaret Chin, 1st CD
Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, 35th CD
Councilman Ben Kallos, 5th CD
Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz, 29th CD
Councilman Alan Maisel, 45th CD
Councilwoman Carlina Rivera, 2nd CD
Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, 26th CD
Assembly-elect Jessica González-Rojas
ACR Health
Barrier Free Living Family of Companies
Catholic Family Center
Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS
Citywide Tenant of Roc Union
Coalition for Homeless Youth (CHY)
Community Housing Innovations
Daughters of Charity Innovations
Empire State Indivisible
Fortune Society
Greater NYC for Change
Homeless Alliance of Western NY
Housing Rights Initiative
Human Services Council (HSC)
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
Long Island Coalition for the Homeless
New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation
New York Disability Advocates (NYDA)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYS Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Organized for Our Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center for Accessible Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakhi for South Asian Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCO Family of Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Tier AIDS Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Economy for All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arab-American Family Support Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Coalition for Behavioral Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reverend Elizabeth G. Maxwell Church of the Ascension, NYC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Neighborhood Houses (UNH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity House of Troy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Justice Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOCAL-NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YWCA Binghamton and Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Council of Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYS Legal Services Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent Child Abuse NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shalom Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Tier Independence Center Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supportive Housing Network of NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arc New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier, Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truth Pharm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniting Disabled Individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uptown Progressive Action, a NYPAN chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Independent Democrats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western NY Law Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>