

# Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled, Inc.

## Adult Home Resident “Speak Out” PRIORITIES AND AGENDA 2018

### Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Adult Home Residents

**Issue:** Adult home operators would have received a substantial increase in the Congregate Care Level 3 rate under legislation passed last year by the NYS Legislature (S.6732/A.6715). That legislation was vetoed and taken up as part of this year’s budget process. Residents seek fair and equitable treatment by requesting a increase in their monthly PNA proportionate to what the operators would receive in their rate.

**Justification:** Residents are spending a substantial amount of their PNA on food, as many find the meals offered by the facilities inedible or not meeting their nutritional needs. Other necessities, such as clothing and personal hygiene items, are also major expenses for residents, leaving very little for entertainment, transportation and other activities that bring meaning to one’s life.

**Our Ask:**

- **Fund a PNA increase in the amount of \$2.9 million for the 13,000 SSI recipients living in adult homes. The PNA increase is a small financial commitment but would have a great impact on thousands of residents across the state. It is the fair and equitable thing to do given the rate increase operators would receive.**

### Fund Advocacy for Adult Home Residents

**Issue:** For many years the adult home residents were ignored by public policy and the agencies charged with protecting them. The Coalition of Institutionalized Aged & Disabled (CIAD) helps residents assert their rights through organizing, training and advocacy and gives them a voice in the public policy debates that impact their lives.

**Justification:** It is important that the voices of residents are heard and respected as decisions are made, especially at this time, when the Department of Health continues to implement the housing settlement and expands the Assisted Living Program in Adult Homes to care for sicker and frailer residents. Without this funding, residents lose their most vocal advocates as they struggle to gain the independence they deserve.

**Our Ask:**

- **Support CIAD’s \$75,000 appropriation in the 2018-19 Executive Budget and support the \$75,000 that it now receives in a NYS Senate initiative.**
- **Support the Adult Home Advocacy Project funding of \$170,000 in the 2018-19 Executive Budget to continue essential lay and legal advocacy for residents provided by Mobilization for Justice in New York City and Nassau-Suffolk Legal Services on Long Island.**

## Fund Peer Specialist Support for Adult Home Residents

**Issue:** Although up to 4,500 adult home residents were promised an opportunity to move out of the institutional environments they live in and into integrated and independent community apartments with supports, only a small percentage have done so after 5 years.

**Justification:** Funding is needed to help the state take steps to improve a bureaucratic process that has not served residents. This funding provides residents with more individualized, concentrated, hands-on help from the beginning of in-reach to residents' move-in date and beyond.

**Our Ask: Support the \$5 million allocation in the 2018-19 Executive Budget to provide residents with Peer Bridgers to help them consider and negotiate a move to the community with supports.**

## Establish a Cap on Assisted Living Program Administrative Expenses

**Issue:** According to the approved budgets for 20 adult home Assisted Living Program (ALP) applications, the large majority spend between 25 and 50% on administrative expenses. Food, one of residents' major complaints, is a minor expense.

**Justification:** While Licenced Home Care Service Agencies's (LHCSA) are subject to a 15% ceiling on administrative expenses elsewhere, that is not the case for LHCSAs that provide ALP services in adult homes. This cap will ensure that the state's Medicaid funds will go to resident services.

**Our ask:**

- **Establish a 15% cap on Assisted Living Program Administrative and General Expenses**

## Support the Adult Home EQUAL Program

**Issue:** EQUAL funding is vital to supporting residents' needs and improving the quality of their life and care. EQUAL is a non-competitive grants program for adult homes that serve an SSI population.

**Justification:** This funding has been used to pay for air conditioners in resident rooms, resident clothing, non-Medicaid transportation, facility repairs, staff training, and recovery & rehabilitative services to help residents become more independent.

**Our Ask:**

- **Support the Adult Home EQUAL Program funding of \$6.5 million in the 2018-19 Executive Budget.**

**For more information please contact:**  
Geoff Lieberman, Executive Director, CIAD  
(917) 648-4067, [glieberman@ciadny.org](mailto:glieberman@ciadny.org)