



Office of Mental Health

2014-2015 Budget Implementation Update by the OMH Office of Financial Management

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) has and will continue to implement new investments in the 2014/15 budget to preserve and significantly expand community-based services and support the overall transformation of the mental health system. The latest update on these implementation efforts is as follows:

- **Funding increases to provide a two percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for salary and salary-related fringe benefit costs for direct support and direct care staff effective January 1, 2015.** OMH issued [guidance](#) to all providers on the calculations for the funding increases as well as instructions for submitting the attestations required by the legislation. Additionally, OMH is in the process of releasing the funding increases on the County State Aid letters and direct contracts and rates will be updated accordingly.
- **\$25M in reinvestment - fully annualizing to \$44M - for the expansion of State and voluntary operated community based services to reduce the need for OMH State inpatient services.** OMH is working with the counties and providers to develop a wide range of new services including but not limited to crisis/respite beds, home and community based waiver slots, supported housing, mobile integration teams, first episode psychosis teams, peer-operated recovery centers, family resource centers, evidence-based family support services, suicide prevention services.

The OMH website includes the latest information on the regional plans for reinvestment (<http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/transformation/>) providing more detailed information on the expansion of services underway throughout New York State.

- **\$13M in reinvestment associated with the closure of Article 28 and 31 inpatient psychiatric services in DOH's budget.** OMH is working closely with the counties and providers in the impacted counties to develop alternative community based services with an emphasis on crisis and diversion services.

The OMH website includes the latest information on the regional plans for Reinvestment (<http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/transformation/>) providing more

detailed information on the expansion of services underway throughout New York State.

- **\$110M in Medicaid investments for the Behavioral Health transformation initiatives including:** managed care start-up grants, integration of behavioral and physical health, health home plus expansion, OASAS residential restructuring, home and community based waiver services expansion and targeted funds to preserve critical access to behavioral health services.

The OMH website includes the latest [Behavioral Health Transformation Initiatives – Implementation Update December 2014](#)  including the [OMH VAP program for freestanding Article 31 clinics](#).