



Advisory Council

JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION
OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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Euphemia Strauchn-Adams —
Parent, Families on the Move
(**New York County**)

Honorable Governor Hochul

NYS Capitol

Albany NY

Dear Governor Hochul:

The NYS Justice Center Advisory Board is writing you to urge a 30-day amendment to your proposed 26/27 state budget.

We are profoundly surprised and disappointed that the Executive Budget eliminates funding for adult home resident advocacy and the EQUAL quality of life program. We urge restoration of this funding in the 30-day amendments.

New York State licenses and regulates adult care facilities and has an obligation to protect the wellbeing of adult home residents. This year's Executive Budget zeroes out that commitment.

We recommend:

Addition of Adult Home Advocacy and Resident Council Programs

The budget includes a \$230,000 cut to Adult Home Advocacy and Adult Home Resident Council Programs that provide essential rights education, legal advocacy, leadership development, and collective organizing support for adult home residents, many of whom live with major mental and physical healthcare challenges and rely on state support to succeed in their local communities.

The Legal Advocacy Services have been critical to ensuring that residents' basic rights to receive appropriate services from adult home operators are upheld and the Resident Councils empower individuals to raise concerns, address unsafe conditions, and advocate for quality-of-life improvements.

Without this modest but critical funding, residents would lose one of the only avenues for independent advocacy and collective voice, increasing the risk of isolation, neglect, and rights violations in adult home facilities. Up until now, the residents have been able to count on their support and that of the Justice Center to advocate for their human rights, basic needs and social justice.

This is not the place or time for the state to make cuts to these essential and hugely cost-effective initiatives that give encouragement and trusted and reliable support to people who, in the wake of new federal policies, are very frightened that they will not have the support and advocacy they need to maintain their mental and physical health and success in living in the community.

Sincerely


William T. Gettman Jr

Chair