



# New York State

## 2015 Legislative Action Agenda

### Continued Reinvestment in Community Services

**The methods for delivering mental health services are changing in New York State. The number of hospital beds dedicated to treating psychiatric disorders is shrinking. Though NAMI-NYS does not want to see beds reduced, we strongly believe that the savings from this reduction be reinvested into services that would afford those living with a mental health disorder the best opportunity to advance their recovery in a community setting.**

The FY 2015-16 Executive Budget proposes the reduction of an additional 136 psychiatric facility beds which translates into \$15 million dollars for community investment. This investment builds upon the \$44 million annualized last year's bed reduction. While NAMI-NYS has always opposed bed reductions we are encouraged that the full savings from these reductions will be invested to create community based recovery services. While we hope the legislature reduces the amount of beds to be lost, if you do agree to the proposed reduction we also urge that you support the full reinvestment of those savings.

**NAMI-NYS believes that it is the responsibility of government at all levels to develop and maintain comprehensive community support systems that include treatment and services to guide people's recovery from mental illness and maximize their mental health.**

NAMI-NYS wants to see a dollar-for-dollar reinvestment to create community support services that are aligned with our belief **that all publicly funded community service providers must offer practices and services that have proven effective results.**

**NAMI-NYS wants to see community support services in New York State which ensure:**

- Practices and services that are recovery, resiliency and wellness oriented, culturally competent and readily accessible
- Safe and affordable housing
- Residential support services with transportation services and intensive case management
- The availability of all appropriate and effective medications
- Access to both inpatient and outpatient treatment options
- Vocational Training
- Wellness
- Round-the-clock services that are available seven days a week
- That no one would have to travel more than an hour to get to a psychiatric emergency room or crisis service unit.

**While reinvesting in community services we must also ensure that proper services are in place for those with the most serious and persistent mental illnesses. We urge that you support recovery services that provide everyone the opportunity to be mentally healthy.**