



Office of Addiction Services and Supports

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

CHINAZO CUNNINGHAM, MD
Commissioner

July 5, 2024

Dear Director:

The New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) is pleased to announce the inclusion of a 2.84% cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the 2024-25 Enacted Budget (Legislation), effective April 1, 2024. The COLA shall apply to State Aid on certain addiction treatment, prevention, and recovery programs, within available appropriation.

OASAS State Aid funding for the COLA is limited to certain State Aid-funded crisis, inpatient, residential, outpatient, gambling, prevention, recovery, and treatment and program support services. The following programs are not eligible for the COLA:

- Non-funded/non-operational programs as of April 1, 2024.
- New initiatives funded after April 1, 2024.
- Time-limited, specific project funding, such as those awarded under Supplemental and Settlement funds and legislative initiatives, including demonstration programs.
- Programs funded from other State agencies' appropriations, such as Permanent Supported Housing for High-Frequency Medicaid Consumers, which is funded from Department of Health appropriations, and Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI), which is funded from Division of Housing and Community Renewal appropriations.
- Capital project funding.
- Project initiatives not directly supporting treatment, prevention, or recovery program activities.

The Legislation also requires local governmental units (LGUs) to submit an attestation stating how they spent, or plan to spend, the COLA funds. This COLA increase may be used to address any reasonable, necessary, and allowable program expenses as long as those funds are first directed to direct care staff and critical non-personal services costs prior to increasing compensation for executive level job titles. In addition, each local government unit or direct contract provider receiving the COLA shall use such funding to provide a targeted salary increase of at least 1.7% to individuals employed in Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR) position title codes:

- 100-199 support staff;
- 200-299 direct care staff;
- 300-399 clinical staff; and
- 400, 500-599, 605-699, and 703-799 non-executive administrative staff.

Funds may not be used to support the 1.7% targeted salary increase for individuals employed in CFR position title codes 601 to 604, 701, and 702.

Attached is an attestation form to certify your LGU and provider agencies will comply with the Legislation's intent and ensure the COLA is expended in the prescribed manner. This attestation must be returned to OASAS prior to the addition of any related funding. Please note that this attestation must be returned to OASAS, even if you have submitted a similar attestation to another State agency.

Please return the completed form **no later than August 15, 2024**, to:

OASASBudget@oasas.ny.gov
Subject: 2024-25 COLA Attestation – LGU Name

To assist you in complying with the Legislation, we have also enclosed a sample COLA attestation form for you to use with your allocated providers. You are only required to submit the LGU attestation to OASAS. **OASAS does not require the LGU to submit to us each provider's attestation.**

Also attached is a summary of the increases for your County. It is presumed that you will advise your allocated provider agencies of the applicable increases as part of your attestation process. OASAS will not formally notify allocated provider agencies separately itself.

Final calculations were based on each provider's base State aid as of April 1, 2024. For the eligible programs in your county, three quarters of the calculated increase will be added to the 2024 base budgets. The remaining quarter will be annualized in the 2025 base budget.

Pending timely receipt of the attestation, revised State Aid Funding Authorizations including the calculated increases will be issued shortly thereafter. Failure to return the attestation will result in your LGU and allocated providers' ineligibility for the COLA funds.

Agencies should retain documentation of expenditures under this initiative and provide this documentation to appropriate OASAS staff (e.g., auditors, Regional Office staff, etc.) upon request. Please work with the OASAS Regional Office to submit budget changes to make any necessary adjustments between funded programs and expense lines.

If you have any questions regarding allowable uses for the COLA funds or the completion of the COLA attestation, please email OASASBudget@oasas.ny.gov, copying your OASAS Regional Office representative. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kären E. Telfeyan
Director of Budget Management

Enclosures

cc: OASAS Division of Fiscal Administration
OASAS Regional Office

NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports

2024-25 Cost of Living Adjustment effective April 1, 2024

County	Agency Code	Provider Name	2024 State Aid Increase	2025 State Aid Increase	Total Increase
Montgomery	12340	Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties	7,459	2,487	9,946
	24020	Mental Health Association in Fulton and Montgomery Counties, Inc.	7,291	2,430	9,721
	35360	Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council of Hamilton, Fulton, and Montgomery Counties, Inc. d/b/a HFM Prevention Council	13,649	4,550	18,199
	70110	Montgomery Co Community Services Board	1,776	593	2,369
	85350	St. Mary's Healthcare	6,382	2,127	8,509
Montgomery Total			36,557	12,187	48,744