



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes that mental health is a critical component of our overall health and contributes to our emotional, psychological, and social well-being; we understand the importance of quality mental health services in helping people live a fulfilling and productive life in an increasingly complex world; and

Whereas, May is nationally observed as Mental Health Awareness Month and New Yorkers join to support the goals to raise awareness about mental health, fight stigma, educate the public, provide support, advocate for policies, and celebrate those on the path to recovery; and

Whereas, nearly one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition, and the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the mental health of many more, increasing the need for mental health services; and

Whereas, opening up the conversation about mental health promotes understanding and compassion for those with mental health issues and reassures them that they are not alone and that help is available; and

Whereas, New York is developing a comprehensive multi-year plan to significantly expand access to mental health care, reduce the number of individuals with unmet mental health needs throughout the state, reduce wait times, and ensure appropriate levels of care for our mental health care system; and

Whereas, anyone affected by mental illness deserves appropriate support and quality of care, and New York State and its Office of Mental Health have increased access to mental health services by expanding telehealth services and implementing the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline to provide people with guidance in managing and coping mental health issues and;

Whereas, mental health conditions are not only common, they are treatable, and early, effective intervention can save lives and change the trajectories of people living with mental illness; and

Whereas, New York State takes this opportunity to highlight the importance of mental health and calls upon its residents, communities, government agencies, public and private institutions, schools, and businesses to recognize and discuss its importance, show understanding for those impacted by mental illness, and support resources that help people take the necessary steps to protect their mental health and that of their loved ones;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-eighth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh