



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State recognizes mental health as a vital component of our overall health, contributing to our emotional, psychological, and social well-being; we understand the importance of quality mental health services in helping New Yorkers live fulfilling and productive lives in an increasingly complex world; and

**Whereas**, the month of May is nationally observed as Mental Health Awareness Month, and New York State joins in support of the goals to raise awareness of 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 – including many of our own family, friends, and co-workers – and the best way to reassure those living with mental illness that they are not alone is to promote understanding and compassion by starting a conversation on mental health; and

**Whereas**, early intervention is effective and can positively redirect the life trajectory for those living with mental illness; and

**Whereas**, the New York State Office of Mental Health is implementing a comprehensive one billion dollar multi-year plan that is significantly expanding access to supports and services, reducing the number of New Yorkers with unmet mental health needs, and ensuring appropriate levels of care systemwide; these investments will be used to create 3,500 specialized units of housing to serve individuals with mental illness and have added 150 new beds at state psychiatric centers; and

**Whereas**, this initiative is also providing the resources to establish school-based mental health clinic satellites, triple the number of certified community behavioral health clinics, expand effective evidence-based programs like HealthySteps and Home-Based Crisis Intervention; and to build outpatient supports, such as Critical Time Intervention teams, Safe Options Supports teams, and Assertive Community Treatment teams; and

**Whereas**, New Yorkers recognize the critical contributions of the state's dedicated workforce in helping those with mental illness through times of crisis and providing the support they need to live and thrive in their community; we applaud the courageous individuals who have been compelled by their lived experience with mental illness to enter the field and provide guidance, peer support, and other services to others along their path to recovery; and

**Whereas**, this month-long observance highlights the importance of mental health and asks all of us to show understanding for those impacted by mental illness, and calls upon our communities, government agencies, public and private institutions, schools, and businesses to support efforts across the state that improve the lives of individuals with mental health and their loved ones;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2024 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 thirtieth day of April in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh