



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, 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, build resilience, 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 family members, 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, the New York State Office of Mental Health is continuing to strengthen the supports and services, reducing the number of New Yorkers with unmet mental health needs, and ensuring appropriate levels of care system-wide; and

Whereas, the state has prioritized this need by providing resources to greatly expand children and youth mental health services, including start-up funding for school-based mental health clinics, adding more Youth Assertive Community Treatment Teams, expanding teen Mental Health First Aid training statewide, and establishing a Youth Mental Health Advisory Board; and

Whereas, to help New Yorkers in need of inpatient care, New York has added 875 psychiatric beds at community-based hospitals and at state psychiatric centers; the state has also adopted stronger regulations that will help these hospitals better evaluate psychiatric patients on admission and then ensure these individuals are connected with critical supports once discharged; and

Whereas, state investments have dramatically expanded outpatient supports over the past three years, doubling and soon tripling the number of certified community behavioral health clinics; funding 43 new Assertive Community Treatment teams to provide services to those most in need within their community; establishing 31 new Critical Time Intervention teams to provide care management services and support during transitions in care; and ramping up the 'Safe Options Support' program, which now supports 28 teams statewide and has helped more than 1,000 chronically homeless individuals into permanent housing; and

Whereas, the state has also allocated funding for 3,500 new units of specialized housing to serve individuals living with mental illness, including 1,276 units now in service and an additional 2,224 units being developed; and

Whereas, New York has also expanded insurance coverage for behavioral health treatment by requiring commercial insurers increase their rates of reimbursement, while strengthening mental health and substance use parity enforcement; and

Whereas, New Yorkers recognize the critical contributions of its 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 New Yorkers 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 2025 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-five.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor