

## Governor's State of the State Health Care Initiatives

### OVERVIEW

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his 2018 State of the State speech in Albany. The Governor reaffirmed the State's commitments to preserving Medicaid and the CHIP program in the face of \$2 billion in federal aid cuts. Additionally, the Governor outlined a broad social and economic agenda which included several health care proposals, as described below.

A video and transcript of the speech are [here](#), and additional proposal details are [here](#).

### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The State plans to address the roots of the opioid epidemic by taking legal action against pharmaceutical opioid distributors. This new "follow the supply chain" strategy is part of the Governor's five-point plan to reverse the persistent opioid crisis. In addition to holding pharmaceutical companies accountable, the State will strengthen protections against addiction to prescription opioids, eliminate insurance barriers to addiction treatment and recovery services, implement policy and regulatory reforms that increase access to substance use disorder services, and support legislation to add 11 fentanyl analogs to Schedule I of the controlled substance schedules of the New York State Public Health Law.

### HOMELESSNESS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Governor has proposed a new comprehensive plan that will build upon the five-year-plan that was launched in 2016 to address rising rates of homelessness in New York. In order to receive state funding for homelessness services, local governments as well as agencies such as the MTA and the Port Authority will be required to have effective outreach programs that address street homelessness.

The Governor will direct the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to work together in ensuring that shelters are connected to Assertive Community Treatment teams that can provide treatment to individuals with mental illness. The Governor also promised to work to modify any laws that present a barrier to the treatment of mentally ill individuals.

The Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) will be directed to make on-site peer delivered substance abuse treatment services available in 14 existing shelters across the state in areas that have seen the greatest increases in substance use. These services will assist approximately 200 homeless individuals with substance use disorders.

### WORKFORCE

To address changing workforce needs, the Governor proposed to create a new Office of Workforce Development, a One-Stop Shop for workers and businesses to find employment support programs and services, and a consolidated funding application (CFA) for workforce investments. The CFA would work through Regional Economic Development Councils to improve regional talent pipelines—with a particular focus on emerging fields like clean energy, health technology, and computer science. The funding for the workforce CFA will consist both of \$150 million in new, flexible resources and \$25 million in existing streams of workforce funding.