

# New York State Coalition for Adult Home Reform

## 2008 Budget Agenda

### Give people living in adult homes the opportunity to move into alternative settings:

- A. Twenty five percent of any new supported housing and single-room occupancy (SRO) apartments should be reserved for people with psychiatric disabilities living in adult homes.** More than 500 people living in adult homes are ready, willing and able to live in supported apartments. Residents with psychiatric disability should have priority access to new mental health housing resources.
- B. Create Supportive Congregate Housing (SCH ) as an alternative to adult homes.** Permit the piloting of new not-for-profit operated SCH models that will provide dignity, respect and choice for people needing this level of housing plus services: **\$2 million.**
- C. Support funding for the conversion of adult homes.** All beds created by these conversions should be retained for adult home residents. Priority should go to residents displaced by the conversion. **\$20 million.**
- D. Any new housing trust fund should include funding to develop housing for adult home residents.**

### Improve the health, safety, welfare and quality of life in adult homes:

- A. Support grant funds included in the Department of Health budget (QUIP, EnAble and Air Conditioning).** Target QUIP and EnAble to address long-standing resident priorities: air conditioning in resident rooms, improved food service and clothing: **\$7.5 million.**
- B. Additional funding for trained independent case managers and peer specialists to help people with psychiatric disabilities living in adult homes.** These services help people with psychiatric disabilities living in adult homes recover, regain independent living skills and move into more independent housing. There are only 3570 slots available for the 12,000 residents living in adult homes. **\$7.3 million.**
- C. Support funding for the creation of demonstration projects to coordinate health and behavioral health needs.** There is a great need to improve the health of people living in adult homes and to ensure they are receiving the best physical and behavioral health care. Demonstrations are a good first step. **\$2.5 million.**

### Protect the rights of people living in adult homes:

Legal and lay advocacy programs provide residents with the information and skills they need to advocate for themselves, protect and promote resident rights, and improve quality of life. This is an effective model with a positive impact but only 12 homes have the services. This program needs to be extended to all the homes.

- A. The Adult Home Advocacy project.** Legal and lay advocacy services are available to a limited number of people living in adult homes in New York City and Long Island. Current funding is less than \$0.2 million and has not been increased for nine years: **\$1 million.**
- B. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP).** Increase funding for the LTCOP: **\$0.6 million.**