



DISABILITY RIGHTS COMMUNITY 2019 BUDGET REPORT CARD

According to the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision, people with disabilities have a civil right to live in the most integrated setting. Sadly, last year's budget included regressive changes to the Medicaid program that undid policies from the State's own Olmstead Plan, making it much harder for people with disabilities to get out of institutions and live in their homes. Then in 2018, the Governor announced the ABLE Initiative, which is supposed to promote the independence and integration of people with disabilities across NYS. Yet, we have seen little come out of the ABLE Initiative to date, and little commitment to Olmstead. This year is a chance to ensure that key programs are funded to ensure New Yorkers with disabilities can live and thrive in the community.



The following recommendations are low cost, common sense investments that would help ensure people can get home and community-based supports, affordable, accessible housing, and the advocacy they need to achieve true community integration.

The New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) represents Independent Living Centers (ILCs) and the more than 100,000 New Yorkers with disabilities they serve. NYAIL will be grading the State on whether the following proposals are addressed in the 2019 Budget:

INDEPENDENT LIVING

FINAL GRADE: _____

Increase base funding for Independent Living Centers (ILCs) to \$18 million. Due to chronic underfunding, ILCs have had to cut back in core services and are unable to pay their staff a living wage, many of whom are people with disabilities.	
NYS Board of Regents:	For the third year in a row, the NYS Board of Regents and State Education Department recommended a \$5 million increase to ILCs in their budget recommendations.
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

Reinstate the State Office for the Advocate for People with Disabilities. The disability community has no state office advocating on their behalf. Reactivating the duties of this office, initially created by Governor Mario Cuomo, would be a first step in providing representation for people with disabilities in state government.	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

EMPLOYMENT

FINAL GRADE: _____

Establish a small business tax credit for employing people with disabilities, as proposed in A.1369 (Cusick)/S.3688 (Addabbo) of 2018. This would provide a real incentive for small businesses to hire people with disabilities.	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

HEALTH/MEDICAID

FINAL GRADE: _____

Establish a funding mechanism to ensure Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC) plans receive adequate funding to serve those with the greatest needs. New York must ensure people with the most significant disabilities are able to get the care they require to live at home.	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

Address the home care crisis by ensuring funding to provide homecare workers with a living wage. People who require home care are having a hard time finding workers willing to provide attendant care services due to the extremely low pay.	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

Increase the State's share of funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program by \$3 million. New York must increase its share of funding to adequately serve the State's population of people in long-term care facilities.	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

HOUSING

FINAL GRADE: _____

<p>Increase Access to Home funding to \$10 million. Access to Home provides home modifications for low income individuals to help keep people in their homes and out of nursing facilities.</p>	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

<p>Make a person's lawful source of income a protected class in NYS Human Rights Law. People with disabilities who are on fixed incomes are unable to afford rent without a subsidy, yet even when a subsidy is available, it is difficult to find housing because landlords turn down prospective tenants who have rental subsidies.</p>	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	

<p>Create a Visitability tax credit to help homeowners retrofit their homes to make them more accessible. This tax credit would help to ensure that people with disabilities and older New Yorkers are able to afford these modifications and remain in their homes.</p>	
Proposed Executive Budget:	
Assembly Budget:	
Senate Budget:	
FINAL BUDGET:	