

Human Service



FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT WELFARE AGENCIES

Statement Prepared for the

**Assembly Ways and Means Committee
&
Senate Finance Committee**

on the

2015 – 2016 Executive Budget Proposal for Health and Medicaid

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FPWA also supports the following recommendations of the EtE to be included in final FY 2015-2016 budget of DOH AIDS Institute:

- Allocate a one time investment of \$650,000 to develop a NYS Department of Health certification process for peer health navigators over a 1-2 year period.
- Make the 30% rent cap affordable housing protection a statewide policy. The EtE task force is recommending making the rent cap available statewide.
- Allocate \$12 million for nPEP and PrEP assistance program to include funding for drugs, labs, medical provider visits, as well as funding for patient navigators and outreach workers in clinics and community-based organizations.
- Scale up funding for effective syringe exchange and other harm reduction programs in the next 3 years.

In addition, FPWA hopes the Legislature will continue allocating enhancement funds to core infrastructure programs including Community Service Providers (CSPs), Multi Service Agencies (MSAs) and Community Development Initiatives (CDIs). We are pleased to learn about the Governor's plan to use \$27 million of the \$183 million of Chase settlement funds to support the implementation of the 30% affordable housing protection. We support the proposal to update and expand access of the HIV Enhanced Rental Assistance Program to people living with HIV regardless of HIV status and in local social services districts outside of New York City which opt-in to the program.

III. State Office for the Aging (SOFA)

FPWA is pleased that the Governor's Executive Budget includes a \$5 million increase for the Community Services Elderly Grant Program (CSE), making the total funding for this program at \$25 million. The CSE funding provides additional resources to local area aging agencies. In New York City, this funding helps reduce the wait list and caseload of senior case management service providers. We also appreciate the inclusion of funding for a cost of living adjustment in the budget.

We are concerned that the Executive Budget flat funds \$1.07 million for Social Model Adult Day Service (SADS) programs, which is the same amount as in the final budget for FY 2013-14. Funding for SADS needs to be increased to accommodate the growing elderly population. SADS programs are designed to provide a variety of long term care services to older New Yorkers with functional impairments in a congregate setting and according to an individualized service plan. Transportation remains a high need for SADS programs and transportation allocations should include funds to support these programs on a consistent basis. We support additional funding for SADS programs in order to respond to the needs of the growing population of older New Yorkers who wish to remain at home for as long as possible. **We urge the Governor and Legislature to increase funding for the SADS programs to \$1.5 million.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.