

Creating a healthier tomorrow for all requires investing in healthcare today

It's time for Medicaid to improve its payment rates.

New York's Medicaid program is a lifeline for the more than seven million residents who rely on it to access healthcare services. Medicaid's importance to patients and providers cannot be overstated. Over one-third of all New Yorkers depend on Medicaid for healthcare coverage, making it the predominant insurer, payer and safety net.

At 61 cents on the dollar, Medicaid pays far below what it costs to provide patient care. This underpayment, in part, is because New York has not provided a Medicaid payment rate increase (or trend factor) to hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare providers in over 12 years.

The governor's proposed rate increase is welcome but does not go far enough. If a trend factor is not applied, Medicaid rates will become increasingly diluted as the cost to provide care continues to rise — this could ultimately threaten access to care for all patients.

HANYS urges the governor and Legislature to reinstate a meaningful and sustained trend factor to Medicaid payment rates.

