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September 19, 2025

Katherine Ceraolo  
New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Program Counsel, Regulatory Affairs Unit  
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Room 2438  
Albany, New York 12237

## Re: HLT-29-25-00001-P – Special Needs Assisted Living Residence Voucher Program

Dear Ms. Ceraolo:

On behalf of the Healthcare Association of New York State's member nonprofit and public hospitals, nursing homes, home care agencies and other healthcare organizations, I write to comment on the above-referenced proposed regulation related to the Special Needs Assisted Living Residence Voucher program for persons with dementia.

HANYS appreciates DOH's effort to create a fair voucher distribution process. A more equitable process will help to ensure that all facilities and eligible residents have an equal opportunity to participate in the SNALR voucher program.

However, HANYS strongly recommends DOH provide flexibility in the distribution of funding in the event that a region underutilizes its funding capacity and another has a waitlist.

To provide clarity and understanding of the process, HANYS requests additional details including the methodologies used to define the following terms: underserved, regional SNALR capacity and regional funding capacity as well as a detailed definition of "promptly" as it pertains to the submission of information.

In addition, HANYS respectfully recommends that DOH add language that allows a facility to submit an application and financial information on behalf of the resident and/or the designated representative

Since facilities may be penalized for a resident or designated representative's failure to provide updated financial information, the ability to provide information on behalf of a resident or designated representative will mitigate future challenges and ensure full compliance with the regulations.

HANYS appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and looks forward to working with DOH on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Karen Roach*

Karen Roach  
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Rural Health