

# EXPAND OUR INVESTMENT IN COBRA CASE MANAGEMENT

## COBRA programs provide essential services

COBRA case management programs provide psychosocial case management for low-income people living with AIDS and HIV. COBRA helps clients establish eligibility for public benefits and services, assist with immediate household needs including child and elder care, and facilitate entry into health care and supportive services

## COBRA programs are effective

Academic research and the NYS AIDS Institute oversight have demonstrated the effectiveness of COBRA case management programs in delivering concrete health care results for low-income people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Community Health Advisory & Information Network (CHAIN) Project, an ongoing prospective study of a representative samples of persons living with HIV/AIDS in New York City and the Tri-County region of Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties conducted by researchers from Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, reported late last year that psychosocial case management services were the most effective at ensuring entry into medical care and entry into HIV care that meets clinical standards.

And AIDS Institute oversight ensures COBRA services are resulting in actual medical connections and real, positive health outcomes.

## Most COBRA providers are now in a deficit

Despite their importance, COBRA programs around the state haven't seen a rate increase in a decade, even as COBRA providers are seeing more and more people that are poorer and sicker each year. The intensity of needs of these clients require the services of case managers with a greater skill levels to provide HIV care that meets clinical standards.

## SUPPORT A \$4 MILLION RATE INCREASE FOR COBRA PROVIDERS

There is a solution. The NYSDOH AIDS Institute staff have made internal reform proposals that could pay for the increase. These include:

- elimination of two COBRA programs that have failed to meet quality standards (\$1M/yr savings)
- regulatory streamlining that would allow 2-person COBRA teams rather than 3-person units and concomitant staff redeployment (\$2.5-3M/yr savings)



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