



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.  
*Commissioner of Health*

Dennis P. Whalen  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

July 5, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

In 2003, the Health Care Reform Working Group was commissioned by the Governor to review the Medicaid program and propose health care reform in New York State. The recommendations of the Working Group, issued in January 2004, led to the development of listening forums, and previously released Requests for Information (RFI) to gather as much stakeholder input as possible regarding the long term care system.

As a result of the information gathered and the expected increase in the size and associated needs of the aged and disabled populations, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), in conjunction with the New York State Office for Aging (NYSOFA), will pursue a statewide 1115 waiver to restructure the long term care system. The proposed waiver will allow Medicaid eligible persons of all ages and disabilities to access long term care services, whether or not they are eligible for nursing home care. In order to ensure that this waiver contains the components necessary to effectively rebalance and restructure New York State's long term care system, your input is needed.

The enclosed RFI has been designed to elicit your ideas regarding community resources, service coordination and management, long term care service programs, system oversight, infrastructure, cost neutrality and implementation. The Department is aware that many of you have been asked previously to discuss the issues surrounding long term care. This RFI is not asking for the same information that you may have provided in earlier RFIs. The questions you are being asked to address are specific to the proposed 1115 waiver.

For local Area Agencies on Aging and Departments of Health and Social Services currently involved in the planning and implementation of the Point of Entry, your response to this RFI is a continuation of the successful collaborative process underway to establish the Point of Entry System. Information obtained from this Restructuring RFI will be used in the ongoing planning of a newly restructured and rebalanced New York State long term care system.

You are encouraged to answer all questions, elaborating on those that are of most interest to your region and/or constituents. It is recognized that respondents may have different areas of expertise and interest and may not be able to answer each item. Additional comments on any area not discussed in this RFI are welcomed and encouraged.

This RFI has been mailed to potential respondents known to the NYSDOH. Please feel free to share this RFI with any other interested parties. Detailed instructions for the submission of responses are included in section V of the RFI. Please submit all responses by September 8, 2006. If you have questions regarding this RFI please contact Steve Fisher at 518-486-4599 or via e-mail at [sxf09@health.state.ny.us](mailto:sxf09@health.state.ny.us).

Thank you for your input on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Wing  
Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management

Enclosure