



**Department
of Health**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model Grant Award

Announcement of Award

The Commissioner of Health is pleased to announce the receipt of the Innovation in Behavioral Health (IBH) Model grant award, from the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), on Dec. 17, 2024. The CMS approval authorizes the Department to receive federal grant funding totaling \$7.5 million between calendar years 2025 and 2032 for the purpose of designing and implementing innovative models of care to most effectively support individuals served in the state's behavioral health care delivery system.

The IBH Model is focused on improving the quality of care and behavioral and physical health outcomes for adults enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare with moderate to severe mental health conditions and substance use disorder (SUD). The IBH model seeks to bridge the gap between behavioral and physical health. Specialty behavioral health practices under the IBH model will screen and assess patients for priority health conditions, as well as mental health conditions or SUD, or both. The IBH model is a state-based model, led by state Medicaid agencies, with a goal of aligning payment between Medicaid and Medicare for integrated services.

For calendar year 2025, the department has received \$1.25 million grant award, which will be administered in collaboration with the Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS). Additional amounts will be awarded on an annual basis. The IBH model will be implemented in Western New York, which includes Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming counties.

Accessibility and Nondiscrimination Notice

The IBH model will provide free auxiliary aids and services including information in accessible formats like braille, large print, data and audio files, relay services and TTY communications. If you request information in an accessible format, you won't be disadvantaged by any additional time necessary to provide it. This means you will get extra time to take any action if there's a delay in fulfilling your request.