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## **Nonprofit Westchester Responds to New York State Budget Agreement**

Westchester County – April 21, 2022 (NPW) Nonprofit Westchester responded to the State budget agreement, which includes a 2.84 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 800,000 nonprofit workers across New York. The agreement requires 1.7% of this total figure to be allocated directly toward eligible workers' salaries.

The nonprofit sector advocated for a 3.2% COLA, which would not have fully, but more significantly, addressed the needs of the workforce, the majority of whom are women and people of color. Nonprofit organizations providing government mandated and other essential services are already underfunded by New York State. While this year's COLA is noteworthy, too many nonprofit essential workers in Westchester County and throughout New York State continue to be part of the working poor, living close to or at the federal poverty level or part of the [ALICE](#) population.

Jan Fisher, Executive Director of Nonprofit Westchester stressed: "NPW will continue to collaborate to ensure that nonprofit workers are not a bargaining chip in budget negotiations, and we will continue to advocate for a contracting process that is fair, timely and equitable, and where government is accountable.

The services that the nonprofit organizations provide – for people with disabilities, those experiencing trauma and mental health issues, child care, child welfare and after school programs, residential services for older adults and so much more – benefit all people. Those delivering these critical programs deserve better and they deserve to live with financial security."

Michelle Jackson, Executive Director of the Human Services Council stated: "Nonprofits continue to strain under enormous demand for their services, and their employees often struggle to get ahead on government-sanctioned, poverty-level wages. This investment, while significant, falls short of the Just Pay essential workers deserve. It also complicates an already overly confusing and burdensome process that will delay money getting into the pockets of workers. "

[Nonprofit Westchester](#) is the county's only membership organization solely dedicated to advancing the needs of the nonprofit sector, the people and communities served, and the nonprofit workforce.