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Letter: Direct-care workers need salary adjustments

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Northern Rivers Family of Services is proud to serve Broome, Tioga, Chenango and Delaware counties through the Endwell office of our member agency Northeast Parent & Child Society. You've seen us out in the community, recruiting foster homes for local kids through our Give Hope a Home foster care program, one of more than 60 programs and services our organization provides. Unfortunately, it keeps getting harder for our team to do their vitally important jobs because of a lack of support from the state.

Did you know there are more than 200,000 human-services nonprofit workers in New York providing services like universal prekindergarten, mental health care, employment training and community centers, serving everyone from infants to senior citizens? Human-services nonprofits make New York work.

We ask that the state provide salary adjustments for those not covered by the prior year state budget for direct care workers. Nonprofits cannot continue to subsidize the state. The time to act is now—it cannot wait.

Today, we face unprecedented workforce crisis. Turnover rate for direct-care staff, clinicians and support personnel at organizations like ours exceeds 30 percent. High turnover results in increased overtime and training costs, stress and burnout, safety risks and poor quality of service.

You deserve better. You deserve to have dedicated, caring, top-quality staff providing these services. We ask that the state provide salary adjustments for those not covered by the prior year state budget for direct-care workers.

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