



This year, **GOPA** is teaming up with the STRONG NONPROFITS FOR A BETTER NEW YORK campaign to help make it known that

the Human Services COLA must not be deferred!

Only STRONG NONPROFITS provide quality services!

Year after year, costs increase - it's a fact we all know.....

- ✓ pension plans
- ✓ health insurance
- ✓ liability insurance
- ✓ workers compensation
- ✓ rent
- ✓ utilities
- ✓ salaries
- ✓ the list is endless

- The last meaningful Human Services COLA was given in 2010
- Since then, OPWDD funded providers have had to absorb cuts and rate restructuring measures which made keeping up with rising expenses impossible
- Our staff salaries have stagnated and every penny derived from efficiencies was squeezed out of our budgets to pay for unavoidable, unreimbursed rising expenses
- In fact, the lack of a COLA created the dire staffing emergency that the **#bFair2DirectCare** Campaign seeks to address!
- A yearly COLA would prevent a future workforce crisis from occurring and allow our nonprofit providers to ensure quality supports and services to those who count on us every day
- Federal and State laws require that all payments to providers be based upon the reasonable cost of services
- We strongly advocate for the statutory COLA to be included in *this and future budgets*