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HEALTH CARE ALERT | NIXON PEABODY LLP

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## **NYS announces additional funding for addiction withdrawal and stabilization services and a new initiative in its multipronged effort to combat addiction**

**By Peter Armstrong Egan, and Barbara Asheld**

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced two new initiatives to help combat addiction in New York State. The first makes a maximum of \$10 million in capital funding available for development and support of up to 75 new, community-based medically supervised withdrawal and stabilization beds across New York State. Each funded program will be required to develop and support 8–25 beds. These detox programs provide around-the-clock care to people who are under the influence of alcohol, opioids or other substances, or suffering from withdrawal, and help stabilize them and connect them to further treatment services. Priority for awards will be given to applications in counties that do not currently offer detox services, and then to applications in counties where there are comparatively fewer services than in others. The funding is being made available through a Request for Applications (RFA) process administered by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). Responses are due December 28, 2017.

The second initiative is intended to help homeless New Yorkers connect with addiction treatment services. Through the initiative, New York State Certified Recovery Peer Advocates will meet people struggling with addiction at homeless shelters in New York City, work to get them engaged in treatment and provide brief interventions and connection to treatment services. The Certified Recovery Peer Advocates will be people in recovery from substance use who have expertise in addiction services and are employed by OASAS certified providers. Providers will be paid with Medicaid funds at the rates set for clinic operators under recent changes in regulation Medicaid billing rules that allow providers to be reimbursed for peer and clinical services delivered outside a clinical setting.

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