



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC034 Upstate and New York City
Date:	May 9, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, Employment Coordinators, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, Staff Development Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental Healthcare Project (CHAMP)
Effective Date:	Immediately
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Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social services districts (districts) about a statewide ombuds program, Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental Healthcare Project (CHAMP) to help patients with health insurance coverage for Substance Use Disorder (SUD), Mental Health (MH), and/or a co-occurring disorder. CHAMP is a joint project between the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH).

CHAMP can assist individuals in understanding what services and/or benefits are covered by their health insurance plan and how to access them. Additionally, CHAMP can help with finding providers within their insurance network, assisting with prior authorization and out of network referrals, identifying legal violations and filing complaints when needed, among many other things. CHAMP services are free, confidential, and available for all types of insurance throughout the State.

To learn more about the services offered by CHAMP please visit www.champny.org. You can also reach out by email at ombuds@oasas.ny.gov or by calling at 888-614-5400.