



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, prevention, treatment and recovery improve our society and allows individuals struggling with a substance use disorder, gambling addiction or concurrent mental health disorders to pursue a healthy and productive lifestyle; and

Whereas, 2.5 million, or, one out of seven New Yorkers suffer from substance or gambling addiction and, nationally, substance use disorders impact 22.6 million people, which is more than the number of people living with coronary heart disease, cancer, or Alzheimer's disease combined; and

Whereas, addiction is a medical condition that should be treated like any other illness, and people should seek assistance for these conditions, with the same urgency as they would any other health condition; and

Whereas, individuals begin their journey of recovery with multiple pathways including: treatment, faith institutions, criminal justice interventions, and support from individuals, family, mutual assistance groups and recovery community centers; and

Whereas, recovery is a lifelong process of improved health and wellness – an intensely personal and unique experience that goes beyond abstinence to include a full re-engagement based on hope, resilience, health and wellness, and reintegration with family friends and community; and

Whereas, this year's theme for New York Recovery Month activities is *Recovery Benefits Everyone* recognizing an individual's renewed full participation in community life and finding positive opportunities to benefit from and contribute to cultural and social progress; and

Whereas, New York State has one of the largest, most comprehensive prevention, treatment and recovery systems in the nation, led by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), which funds or certifies over 1500 programs throughout the state, that benefit 110,000 New York residents daily; and

Whereas, OASAS continues the "Your Story Matters" campaign which highlights personal stories of recovery by individuals who wish to share their experience at www.iamrecovery.com anticipating that, by sharing the stories of dedication to breaking the cycle of addiction we can together instill hope in those who continue to suffer and extend gratitude to those who are champions of lifelong recovery; and

Whereas, OASAS is partnering with national, state and local organizations to enlist the hope, help and promise of all New Yorkers in a rally for recovery designed to raise awareness of the chronic disease of addiction, and is also supporting the 8th Annual New York State Recovery Fine Arts Festival and Addictions Professionals Day; and calls upon the people in the Empire State to become involved in the New York State Recovery Movement and help inform the public that people can and do recover from addiction and, through recovery, enrich and contribute to our society in multiple ways;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize September 2011 as

RECOVERY MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-second day of August in the year two thousand eleven.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor