



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, behavioral health is an essential part of one's overall wellness, and prevention, treatment, and recovery for substance use disorders improve our society, with significant benefits to individuals, families, and the community at large; and

Whereas, 2.5 million New Yorkers – one out of every seven – suffer from a substance use disorder or problem gambling; 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 they would for any other health condition; and

Whereas, individuals begin their journey of recovery via multiple pathways, including: treatment, criminal justice interventions, and support from individuals, family, mutual assistance groups, faith institutions, 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 "*Join the Voices for Recovery, It's Worth It*," which recognizes individuals' renewed participation in community life and the positive effects they can produce by contributing to society; 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 more than 1,500 programs throughout the state, serving 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; sharing these stories of commitment to breaking the cycle of addiction can instill hope in those who continue to suffer; and

Whereas, OASAS is partnering with national, state, and local organizations to enlist the help of New Yorkers in a rally for recovery designed to raise awareness of the chronic disease of addiction, and is also supporting the 9th Annual New York State Recovery Fine Arts Festival, the 5th Annual New York Celebrates Recovery Rally, and Addictions Professionals Day; these initiatives call upon 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;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2012 as

RECOVERY MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day of August in the year two thousand twelve.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor