



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 have significant benefits for individuals, families, and the community at large; and

Whereas, 2.5 million New Yorkers – one out of seven – suffer from substance or gambling addiction and, nationally, substance use disorders impact 22.6 million people; 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, 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 – both physical and emotional – and is 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: Together on Pathways to Wellness*" which recognizes that recovery can lead to an individual's renewed participation in community life and give them opportunities to benefit from and contribute 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 1,600 programs throughout the state which benefit 100,000 New York residents daily; and

Whereas, OASAS continues the "Your Story Matters" campaign, which highlights personal stories of recovery by individuals who wish to tell others about 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 10th Annual New York State Recovery Fine Arts Festival, the 6th Annual New York Celebrates Recovery Rally, and Addictions Professionals Day; these events provide an opportunity for the public to become involved in the New York State Recovery Movement and informed of its beneficial role in helping people overcome addiction;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize September 2013 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 twenty-seventh day of August in the year two thousand thirteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor