

## Medicaid program will pay parents for care

Changes effective April 1st

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Parents who serve as family caregivers to their adult children with special needs will be able to receive payment under legislation signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The bill, sponsored by Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Morelle, DIrondequoit, expands language to include parents among those who qualify to provide personal care to a person eligible for the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program.

“Expanding CDPAP to provide compensation to parents who serve as caregivers will give families the resources and peace of mind they need to care for an adult child without risk to their financial wellbeing,” Morelle said in a news release issued Tuesday.

The bill takes effect April 1 and is not expected to add costs to the program, according to the news release from Morelle's office. Rather, the bill is expected to shift compensation from third-party providers to parents. The Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program is run by the state and allows eligible participants the option of managing their care alone or with the assistance of a designated responsible adult representative. The program is designed to provide the eligible individuals with the opportunity to have quality care in their home rather than have to go to a more expensive residential facility.

The current rules prohibit a spouse, parent, or designated representative from providing care paid for under CDPAP.

The new bill opens up caregiving to all family members but still comes with restrictions. A parent, spouse or other family member cannot have legal responsibility for the individual and receive payment under the CDPAP system.

To learn about eligibility for the CDPAP program, individuals who are eligible for Medicaid should contact the Department of Social Services in the county where they reside.

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**Assembly Majority Leader Joe Morelle**