

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

**Strengthening Our
Organization.
Expanding Our
Impact.**

STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION. EXPANDING OUR IMPACT.

The first half of 2026 reflects an important period of growth for the Alliance for Rights and Recovery. Building on more than four decades of advocacy, peer leadership, education, peer leadership and innovations, technical assistance and education to promote personal rights and recovery and transformational systems change, the Alliance continues to deepen its impact across New York while increasingly bringing our experience and expertise to communities, organizations, and systems across the country.

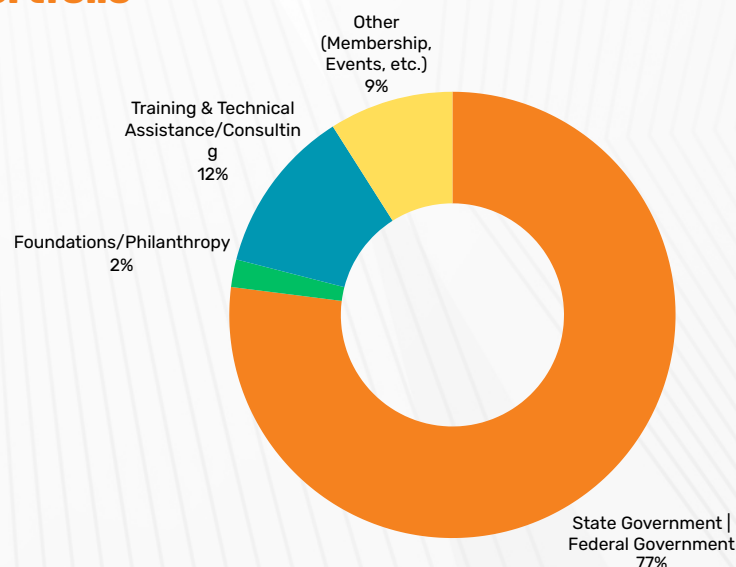
The Alliance has navigated many of the same fiscal pressures facing our members and partners, giving us firsthand understanding of the challenges confronting community-based organizations across New York. Even within this difficult environment, we have continued to grow, diversify our funding, strengthen our infrastructure, and expand our impact while advocating for the investments our members and communities need to thrive.

That growth can be seen throughout our work from major advocacy victories and an expanding education and workforce-development portfolio to new research partnerships, national technical assistance, and growing demand for the Alliance's expertise in peer support and recovery-oriented systems change. At the same time, we remain firmly rooted in the community that has always defined the Alliance: people with lived experience, our members and partners, and the individuals and communities whose rights, recovery, and opportunities remain at the center of our mission.

As we have grown organizationally, we have also had the opportunity to expand the infrastructure needed to better support our organization, our members, and the communities we serve. Investments in finance, human resources, technology, communications, and compliance are helping ensure that our internal capacity keeps pace with our expanding work and positions the Alliance for responsible, sustainable growth.

Our operating budget has grown to **\$4.94 million** reflecting both the increasing scale of our work and a more diversified portfolio of funding and partnerships. State funding remains an important part of the Alliance's foundation, while a growing mix of federal, philanthropic, research, training, technical assistance, and consulting support is allowing us to broaden our reach, develop new partnerships, and reduce reliance on any single source of funding.

2026 Funding Portfolio



The Alliance at a Glance

\$ 4.9 million Annual Operating Budget

\$ 1.9 million Growth in Operating Budget over 3 Years

1,498 People Trained through the Training Collective from 89 Agencies

1,173 People Served/Supported through Peer Bridging in 2026

872 Conference Attendees in the Last 12 Months

207 NYPRTA Learners from 70 Agencies

91 Leadership Institute Participants

68 Members / Member Organizations

Our growth is ultimately meaningful because of what it allows us to do. Across each part of our mission (**Advocate, Educate, Innovate, and Celebrate**) the first half of 2026 demonstrates an Alliance reaching and supporting more people, strengthening more communities, building new partnerships, and creating new opportunities to advance rights and recovery.

ADVOCATE

Advancing Rights, Recovery & Choice

Advocacy remains at the heart of the Alliance's mission. The Alliance's advocacy continues to be guided by a simple principle: people should have access to the services and supports they need while maintaining their dignity, rights, choice, and full participation in community life.

Advancing Policy & Protecting Rights

During the first half of 2026, we won a number of expansions of voluntary, recovery-oriented services including INSET, Peer Bridger, Clubhouse and First Responder services while seeing restorations in funding for adult home residential advocacy supports while protecting the civil and human rights of New Yorkers and the nation.

Building a National Voice for Rights & Recovery

At the national level, the Alliance has taken an increasingly active leadership role in responding to threats to Medicaid, SNAP, housing, peer support, harm reduction, and civil rights. Rather than responding to these issues alone, we helped convene a Rights and Recovery Summit in January, which brought together approximately 40 national leaders to explore how our organizations can join together to have a major impact on policy related threats and opportunities to promote wellness and recovery, community inclusion, social justice and equity and to protect human rights and dignity.

We also brought these priorities directly to Washington through a Congressional briefing and national media coverage.

Legislative Day: Advocacy in Action

Alliance Legislative Day brings people from across New York to Albany to make their voices heard and advocate directly for the mental health, substance use, housing, and recovery services and policies our communities need.

More than a day of advocacy, it is an opportunity for people with lived experience, providers, families, and advocates to build their own power and networks, learn about the state legislative process, meet directly with lawmakers and their staff, and see firsthand how their stories and advocacy can influence public policy.

This year on February 10th, participants brought a broad agenda to the Capitol, including strengthening our workforce, expanding non-police crisis response, investing in supportive housing, protecting community-based and peer supports, and advancing rights, diversion, and recovery-oriented reforms.



Turning Advocacy into Policy Change

That advocacy contributed to significant victories in the final state budget. The Governor and Legislature enacted the 2.7% targeted inflationary increase for human services providers that we fought for, representing approximately \$100 million; provided \$8 million for additional Daniel's Law crisis-response pilots; invested \$71 million in existing supportive housing programs; and restored Adult Home Resident Advocacy and Resident Council funding. Additional review confirmed restoration of Coalition for Institutionalized, Aged, and Disabled (CIAD) funding and continued support for EQUAL as well.

These victories demonstrate why Legislative Day matters: when people come together, learn how to use their voices, and bring their experiences directly to policymakers, we can turn individual empowerment into collective action and real policy change.

Advocacy by the Numbers

12

Regional advocacy events, forums, or community conversations held across New York

40

National leaders convened at the Rights & Recovery Summit to strengthen coordination around rights and recovery

400+

Advocates participating in the Alliance's 2026 Legislative Day

600+

People engaged through regional advocacy events and forums

\$8M

Invested in additional Daniel's Law crisis-response pilots

\$71M

Invested in existing supportive housing programs

\$100M

Approximate value of the 2.7% targeted inflationary increase secured for human services providers

EDUCATE

Building the Workforce, Developing Leaders, Expanding Our Reach

Education and workforce development continue to represent one of the Alliance's largest areas of impact.

Building a Recovery-Oriented Workforce

Through the Training Collective, the Alliance provided training to 1,498 people from 89 provider agencies, in addition to offering statewide educational programming.

The New York Psychiatric Rehabilitation Training Academy (NYPRTA) continues to build the state's psychiatric rehabilitation workforce. Cohort Three includes 207 learners from 70 agencies, with 89 participating virtually and 118 in person.

1,498

people trained

89

provider agencies

207

NYPRTA learners

70

NYPRTA agencies

Developing Leaders & the Next Generation of the Workforce

The Alliance Leadership Institute successfully completed its latest cohort in June with 91 participants, including 13 people who took advantage of individualized coaching. Planning is already underway for the next cohort beginning in January 2027.

In 2026, the Alliance also established a new internship program in partnership with Hudson Valley Community College, creating opportunities for students and emerging professionals to gain practical experience while learning from the Alliance's work in advocacy, peer support, workforce development, training, and systems change.

Expanding Educational Reach

Our educational reach is also growing through partnerships. We continue our work with MCTAC on psychiatric rehabilitation and community-based services, are developing rehabilitation curricula with CRR/InUnity and CPI, and have partnered with the American Occupational Therapy Association to create a six-session rehabilitation and recovery micro-credential scheduled to launch in fall 2026.

Increasingly, organizations outside New York are also seeking the Alliance's expertise, allowing us to take what we have learned over decades of recovery and rehabilitation work and share it nationally and internationally.

Through our continuing partnership with the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, the Alliance led a national CCBHC Learning Collaborative combining structured training with individualized coaching to help clinics strengthen peer workforce development, role clarity and fidelity, supervision, team integration, sustainable financing, and expansion of peer support.

Our second year of work with the Center of Excellence for Integrated Health Solutions (CoE-IHS) built on the peer workforce development foundation established in Year One, with webinars, blogs, micro-trainings, and a NatCon workshop focused on effectively integrating peer support into whole-person and primary care approaches while maintaining the values and distinct role of peer support.



INNOVATE

Advancing Peer Leadership, Research & Systems Change

Peer support has always been one of the Alliance's defining strengths, and 2026 continues that tradition of innovation.

Peer Bridger™: A Model with Lasting Impact

Our NYAPRS Peer Bridger™ Program, created in 1994, continues to demonstrate the power of relationships and lived experience in helping people successfully transition from state psychiatric hospitals back into their communities.

90

new referrals

600+

facilitated groups

30+

successful community transitions

More than three decades after its creation, Peer Bridger has also become a foundation for the Alliance's growing work in supporting the adaptation of the model in community hospital and adult homes and in helping other organizations and systems develop, strengthen, and sustain authentic peer support.

Expanding Lived-Experience Research

Research is an emerging area of growth for the Alliance. Through partnerships with RAND, the University of Pittsburgh, and the New York City Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, we are bringing lived-experience and peer expertise into research and quality improvement.

Current projects include a New York City initiative in partnership with Rand that engages program participants and alumni as paid peer researchers to help identify and test program improvements, as well as a five-year NIMH-funded study in partnership with Rand and the University of Pittsburgh examining CCBHC implementation across New York State. Across this work, the Alliance is helping ensure that people with lived experience help shape the research that ultimately shapes services and systems. Both initiatives explicitly place paid peer researchers in the process of conducting research, developing recommendations, and informing program improvement.

Taking Alliance Expertise Across the Country

Increasingly, organizations and systems are turning to the Alliance for technical assistance grounded in decades of experience with peer support, recovery, workforce development, and systems change.

New York: Peer Bridger TA • CCBHCs • organizational leadership development • peer workforce • research • systems transformation

Hawai'i: Peer supervision • workforce development • peer certification

Louisiana: Crisis continuum development • peer integration

Kentucky: Peer Bridger™ • peer workforce development

Mariana Islands: Peer support • workforce development

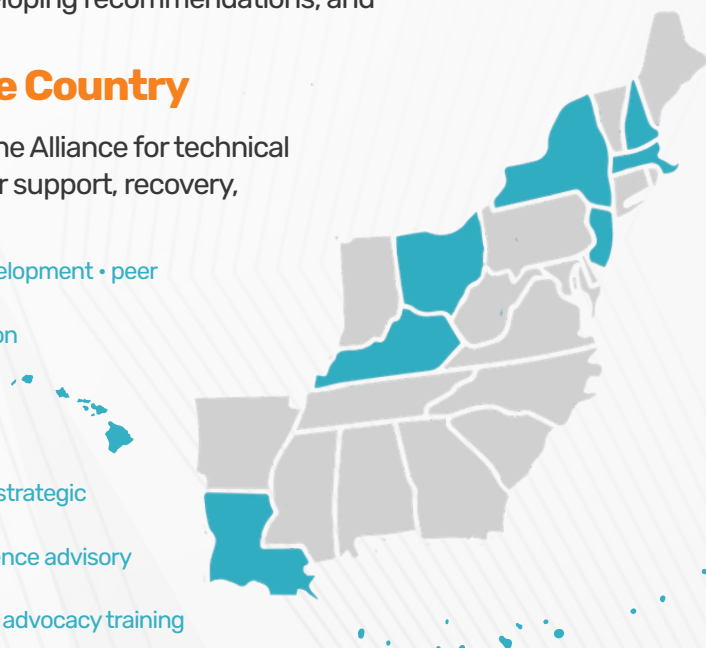
Ohio: Peer workforce development • peer support implementation • strategic and capacity planning

New Hampshire: CCBHC peer support implementation lived experience advisory board implementation

New Jersey: Funding diversification planning • marketing strategy • advocacy training

Massachusetts: Peer workforce development • peer integration • peer supervision

National: Peer workforce development • integrated care • national webinars, workshops, and presentations



From Direct Service to Systems Change

These initiatives reflect an important evolution in the Alliance's work: we are not only delivering peer services, but we are also helping other organizations and systems understand how to build, integrate, support, and sustain authentic peer services of their own.

CELEBRATE

Strengthening Our Community & Our Movement

One of the most important things the Alliance does each year is bring our community together. That community extends across people with lived experience, peer supporters, advocates, providers, partners, and allies connected by a shared commitment to rights, recovery, choice, and community.



A Growing Alliance

Our members are at the heart of that community. As the Alliance's work and reach continue to grow, we are strengthening membership as a way for individuals and organizations to stay connected, share ideas and resources, learn from one another, and add their voices to a broader movement for change.

Through advocacy, education, regional activities, events, and other opportunities for connection, our members help keep the Alliance grounded in the experiences and priorities of the people and communities we represent.

Celebrating Leadership & Impact

Each year, the Alliance also recognizes individuals and organizations whose leadership, advocacy, innovation, and commitment are helping move our communities and our movement forward. Our Annual Awards, presented during the Alliance Conference, celebrate people whose work embodies the values at the heart of the Alliance and demonstrates the difference that individuals and organizations can make in advancing rights and recovery.

Their contributions remind us that progress is built not only through programs and policy, but through the leadership, persistence, creativity, and lived experience of people working for change in communities every day.



2026 Alliance Annual Award Honorees

**Brendan Nugent
Empowerment Award**
Elizabeth Breier •
Evangelist Theresa Hall

**Sally Zinman Lifetime
Achievement Award**
Angela Maria Cerio • Phillip
T. Yanos • Amy Brinkley

**Jason Brody Faith and
Fellowship Award**
Jim Coyle • Sara Taylor •
Michael Skinner

**Frances Olivero
Advocacy Award**
Regina Shoen

Our Movement, Our Moment

We are thrilled to welcome our community to Albany for the 44th Annual Alliance for Rights and Recovery Conference, **Our Movement, Our Moment**.

This year's gathering comes at an especially important time. Mental health systems are changing, funding remains uncertain, and fundamental questions about rights, recovery, community inclusion, and the role of peer support are once again at the center of state and national conversations.

Over these three days, we hope you will take time not only to learn, but to connect, celebrate, and be inspired. Our conference reminds us that the Alliance is more than an organization. It is a community and a movement made stronger by the people who come together each year.



Looking Ahead Together

The first half of 2026 reflects an Alliance that is growing in reach, capacity, and impact while remaining grounded in the values that have guided us for more than four decades. As we look ahead, we are grateful to our members, partners, staff, and supporters who make this work possible and excited about what we will continue to build together.



**The Alliance
for Rights
and Recovery**

Advocate | Educate | Innovate | Celebrate