

## **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Eugene White  
Northern Rivers Family of Services  
518.701.4927 (cell)  
Eugene.White@northernrivers.org

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 23, 2021

### **Northern Rivers Announces \$15/hr. Minimum Wage, Other Enhanced Employee Benefits**

**ALBANY, NY** — Northern Rivers Family of Services has established a \$15 per hour minimum wage for full- and part-time staff, along with a host of enhanced employee benefits to help the organization attract and retain a top-quality workforce in a challenging labor market.

In addition to the substantial increase in starting salary for many positions, the organization has implemented a number of other enhancements, including enhanced 401(k) profit-sharing, reimbursement for clinical license fees, enhanced contributions to their student loan repayment program, increased sign-on bonuses and expanded employee referral bonuses, review and adjustment of positional compensation (including clinical positions), universal free employee access to telemedicine services, additional HSA funding, frozen health insurance premiums, and more.

Salaries for many positions are dictated by state reimbursement rates. For entry level employees working 40 hours per week, this wage enhancement represents a raise of nearly \$4,000 per year.

“Our staff performs life-changing work for children and families coping with abuse, neglect, trauma, poverty, mental illness, educational challenges, and more each day. We owe it to them to do everything in our power as an organization to support them, through salary, benefits, flexibility, responsiveness to their needs, and respect. These initiatives aren’t easy to implement for organizations in our industry, and we undertake them without the promise of additional support from our funders. We’re doing this because our staff deserves it, and our clients deserve the best staff we can provide,” said William T. Gettman, Jr., CEO of Northern Rivers.

#### **About Northern Rivers Family of Services:**

Founded where the Mohawk and Hudson meet, like the rivers that shaped our region, Northern Rivers Family of Services empowers children, adults, and families to change their lives and build stronger communities. Comprised of parent company Northern Rivers and member agencies Northeast Parent & Child Society, Parsons Child & Family Center, and Unlimited Potential, we are a family of human services agencies providing help and hope to those who struggle with abuse, neglect, trauma, mental health challenges, educational difficulties, career training and employment, and service navigation through an innovative continuum of home-, clinic-, school-, and community-based, vocational rehabilitative, supported employment, and senior-supporting programs that provide person-centered, trauma-informed innovative solutions to ensure clients live their best lives. Our quality of care, dedication to best practices, vast knowledge and experience and passion for our work make us a leading human services provider. Informed by our 190-year heritage, our 1,400-strong workforce provides services for 18,000 children, adults, and families throughout 41 counties in New York state. For more information, call 518.426.2600 or visit [northernrivers.org](http://northernrivers.org).

— # # # —