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**EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES WELLCARE OF NEW YORK
TO OPEN MAJOR NEW OFFICE IN LOWER MANHATTAN**

*MANAGED CARE COMPANY WILL RETAIN APPROXIMATELY 600 EXISTING JOBS, CREATE 200
NEW JOBS IN NEW YORK, AND INVEST \$6 MILLION IN FACILITY UPGRADES*

Empire State Development, New York State’s chief economic development agency, today announced that WellCare of New York will open a major new office in lower Manhattan, which will allow the company to retain approximately 600 existing jobs in the state and create 200 new jobs in Lower Manhattan. The new headquarters will be located at 1 New York Plaza.

“Wellcare will be a great addition to the Lower Manhattan business community and will increase the diversity in the city’s economy,” said Empire State Development (ESD) President, CEO and Commissioner Howard Zemsky. “I am very happy to announce that the company will be staying and expanding in New York.”

Wellcare provides managed care services targeted to individuals currently enrolled in government-sponsored health plans. The company specializes in serving people who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. Wellcare helps its members access the right care at the right time through coordinated care teams and community partnerships. Wellcare serves approximately 4 million members nationwide and employs more than 6,100 people, including 650 across New York State.

“We are pleased to be moving into new space in lower Manhattan,” said John Burke, president, WellCare of New York. “The state was very helpful and cooperative as we progressed through this process, and we couldn’t be happier to affirm our commitment to New York. We’d also like to thank the New York Grant Company, for their diligence in helping put this together.”

Before deciding to move forward with the project in New York, the company, which is a subsidiary of Florida-based WellCare Health Plans, Inc., considered several out-of-state locations.

To encourage WellCare to invest in lower Manhattan, ESD has offered the company \$1 million in performance-based Excelsior Jobs Program Tax Credits, which are tied directly to the creation of 200 new jobs. Additionally, the company will retain approximately 600 existing New York State jobs, while

investing \$6 million in renovations and upgrades to the new headquarters, a 68,000-square-foot space in the Financial District.

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