



# County Aging Departments Launching New Programs to Help Older Americans

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# Master Plan on Aging Initiative

Governor Hochul State of the State Priority – what this  
means for your County

## New York Work to Date That Represent Elements of Master Plan on Aging

New York has 16 years of experience working to better coordinate multi-agency initiatives to improve the lives of New Yorkers.

Many multi-agency, public private partnerships have been developed in to address population health and age friendly communities, which is to improve the lives of individuals of all ages to make NYS the best place to grow up and grow old, similar to the purpose of a master plan on aging.

Our approach is more comprehensive and needs coordination at the Cabinet Level to be successful.

State Budget includes many items that fit into goals of Age Friendly NY/Master Plan



- New York has a variety of age friendly initiatives underway that will positively impact older New Yorkers, will modernize the health and social services infrastructure to promote better inter-agency connectivity, provider referral networks, consumer knowledge, and support the goal of helping older adults live in their community and/or the least restrictive setting able to meet their needs;
- policies related to the environment, agriculture, housing, transportation, energy, parks and recreation, and economic development all significantly influence the public's physical, economic, and social environments; in which principles of smart growth and sustainable development directly support improved health outcomes and age-friendly communities;
- the State has made a broad-based commitment to smart growth and downtown revitalization, particularly through the Downtown Revitalization initiative, which has positive physical and mental health impacts on New York State's older population and helps accomplish several objectives of the AARP/WHO age-friendly domains and modification to the built environment that are embedded within components of the State's Prevention Agenda;

- the 2019-2024 cycle of the New York State Prevention Agenda, the State's health improvement plan for improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities in and amongst racial, ethnic, disability, and low socioeconomic groups, as well as the populations who experience such disparities, has provided a blueprint that enabled the State to make substantial progress across numerous measures of public health and prevention, and specifically included priorities related to improving older adult outcomes;
- the Health Across Policies initiative systematically considers the health implications of decisions made by all government entities regarding public policies; avoids harmful health impacts in order to improve population health and health equity; and incorporates health considerations into policies, programs, and initiatives led by non-health agencies;
- the State issued Executive Order #190 which builds smartgrowth, age friendly and livability elements into state planning and procurement, DRI embedded language into grantmaking.

- NYSOFA/DOS/DOH funded multiple counties to sign on to join AARP/WHO age friendly community network, replicate EO#190 at the county level or both
  - Also funded in partnership with Health Foundation of Western and Central NY was the creation of 5 regional age friendly centers of excellence
- NYS already has established
  - Alzheimer's disease coordinating council
  - Geriatric Behavioral Health council
  - Food and hunger council
  - Geriatric Mental Health Council
  - Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council
  - Suicide Prevention Council, etc.
- The state has also implemented with public and private partners
  - age friendly health system designation
  - development of dementia friendly communities

# Enacted Budget for Aging Services

Significant impact on County Government





The enacted FY 2023 state budget appropriates \$181,525,000 in total funds for NYSOFA programs and services.

Community Services for the Elderly (CSE), which provides community-based, supportive services for older adults who need assistance to maintain their independence at home (\$35,867,000).

The Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) program, which provides a coordinated package of in-home and other supportive services designed to support and supplement informal care (\$67,498,000).

The Wellness in Nutrition program, which includes home delivered meals, congregate meals, and other nutrition supports, such as shopping assistance, nutrition counseling, and nutrition education (\$33,747,000).

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, which advocates for residents and their families in nursing homes and other facilities (\$3,690,000). This enacted funding includes \$2,500,000 added to the Executive Budget proposal. Such funds are necessary to meet the growing advocacy needs of long-term care residents as well as new responsibilities and administrative demands on the program stemming from recent legislation.

- Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood NORCs (NNORCs), which coordinate a broad range of health and social services to help support older residents age in their own homes (\$8,880,000). This includes \$825,000 added to the Executive Budget proposal for nursing services in NORCs/NNORCs.
- Funding for respite (\$656,000); social adult day care services (\$1,072,000); elder abuse initiatives (\$995,000); Enhanced Multi-disciplinary Teams (\$500,000), which bring together various disciplines to investigate, intervene, and prevent financial exploitation of older adults; and the Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (\$1,000,000), which provides free, accurate, and objective information, counseling, assistance, and advocacy on Medicare, private health insurance, and related health coverage plans.
- \$23 million to support additional service capacity through NYSOFA programs (aka "unmet need").
- \$750,000 that would be suballocated to NYSOFA from the Department of Financial Services to expand bill-payer programs aimed at combatting elder abuse and financial exploitation in up to ten counties.

- \$2.9 million in funding for pioneering NYSOFA initiatives to combat social isolation and offer new or expanded innovations in aging service provision, including:
- \$350,000 for NYSOFA's animatronic pet initiative, which provides lifelike companion pets for older adults and is proven to reduce self-reported loneliness by 70 percent.
- \$350,000 to provide older adults with access to free GetSetUp online courses – a partnership which has already provided over 109,000 free online classes to 100,000+ New Yorkers in one year.
- \$500,000 to continue and build capacity with GoGoGrandparent, a specialized ride-sharing network that responds to the unique needs of older adults, helping to bridge transportation access.
- \$400,000 for a caregiver training and support platform (Trualta) that will be available free of charge to all caregivers in New York State, offering expert-led training across critical care competencies for conditions like Alzheimer's, dementia, Intellectual and developmental disabilities, diabetes, stroke, and more.
- \$700,000 to provide access to ElliQ – voice-operated smart technology designed to empower independence and support for older adults with daily check-ins, assistance with wellness goals, physical activities, and more.
- \$200,000 to expand NYSOFA's partnership with the Virtual Senior Center (VSC) pioneered by Selfhelp Community Services – a one-stop platform that includes facilitator-led classes, one-on-one video calls for social or telehealth visits, curated links to internet and games, recorded content and materials, and direct connection to technological assistance.
- \$150,000 to expand NYSOFA's stipend program in the long term care ombudsman program and health information, insurance, counseling and assistance program to provide additional resources to expand and retain volunteers.



- An **historic \$20 billion in multi-year healthcare investments**, including \$1.2 billion dedicated to frontline healthcare worker bonuses, as well as a \$4.5 billion multi-year investment in healthcare payment reform. Other landmark investments include \$2.4 billion being directed to improving healthcare infrastructure and \$3.9 billion in funding to provide aid to hospitals struggling financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. Another \$7.7 billion will be spent over four years to increase the home care worker minimum wage by \$3.
- A **\$25 billion, five-year housing** plan that tackles systemic inequities by creating and preserving 100,000 affordable homes, including 10,000 homes with support services for vulnerable populations. This includes \$300 million for senior housing to help older New Yorkers age in place.
- A **new property tax relief credit**: the Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit for eligible low- and middle-income households, as well as eligible older adult households. Under this program, basic School Tax Relief (STAR) exemption and credit beneficiaries with incomes below \$250,000 and Enhanced STAR recipients are eligible for the property tax rebate, where the benefit is a percentage of the homeowners' existing STAR benefit.



- To **increase coverage and affordability for older adults**, the enacted state budget raises the [Medicaid] income limit for New Yorkers 65 and up and for those with disabilities to 138% of the federal poverty level, raises the income limit for the Medicare Savings Program, and expands coverage for undocumented individuals 65 and up.
- **\$250 million in funding to eliminate pandemic-related utility arrears** for low-income households, and reduce all other household arrears that accumulated during the pandemic. This program is in addition to an estimated \$100 million to be paid through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to reduce utility arrears.
- An investment of **over \$1 billion in the ConnectALL initiative** — the largest ever investment in New York's 21st century infrastructure — leveraging public and private investments to connect New Yorkers in rural and urban areas statewide to broadband and establish the first municipal broadband program of its kind in the nation.



# Questions?

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