

February 2024



Dear Governor Hochul & State Legislators

I am writing to urge you to double critical funding to the New York State Office for the Aging to protect vital services for older New Yorkers. Older New Yorkers contribute **\$72 Billion dollars** to New York's economy in state and local taxes, yet only .08% of NY's budget goes to fund services that help older adults age in their homes and communities. NY claims it is the **first Age Friendly State** in the nation with initiatives like **Age-Friendly Health Systems** and a **Master Plan on Aging**. New York State **ranks fourth** in the nation in the number of adults age 60 and this number grew by 21% over the last 10 years. Despite over 18,000 people waiting for services, the governor proposes to cut 12 million more from the NY State Office for Aging budget, causing more older adults to go without. It is time to **#STOP AGEISM in New York** and invest in Services that save money as well as celebrate the contributions of older new Yorkers.

Investing in aging programs is an economic benefit for New York:

- Aging programs cost less than 1/10th the cost of nursing home care.
- For every \$1 invested aging programs, \$8 in Medicaid spending is saved as people are diverted from higher facility cost care that impoverishes them.
- Older adults who live at home, continue to contribute to the local economy through taxes and purchasing of goods and services;
- Aging programs create jobs for local homecare agencies, meals on wheels, adult day services and other small businesses and not-for-profit agencies that assist older adults to stay at home.

Ask the governor and state elected officials to:

Double **NYSOFAs budget** to \$362 Million dollars so seniors can get the assistance they need to live out their golden years at home and **#STOP AGEISM IN NY!**

*Name: _____ (optional)

*Address: _____ *Zip Code: _____

Comments from constituents:

I am counting on you to say “#STOP Ageism in NY! Thank you.