

# FY23 EQUITY FOR AGING

As a result of COVID-19, older adults became invisible overnight with the City’s stay-at-home order, creating barriers to access critical community-based services that enable older New Yorkers to age in place. The pandemic also exposed some of the most pressing challenges facing older adults, namely: an over-reliance on institutionalization, a chronic rise in social isolation, and an inequitable care system. To confront these realities, the human services sector has stepped up to provide critical services for older adults. And yet, the DFTA budget that supports these services continues to make up less than 1% of the overall City budget. **We believe that every New Yorker deserves the ability to age in community with access to services regardless of one’s zip code or background.** It’s time for #EquityforAging and to make New York a better place to age.



## #JustPay human services workers

- Establish, fund, and enforce an automatic annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on all human services contracts.
- Set a living wage floor of no less than \$21 an hour for all City and State funded human services workers.
- Create, fund, and incorporate a comprehensive wage and benefit schedule for government contracted human services workers comparable to the salaries made by City and State employees in the same field.



## Restore Cuts to the Department for the Aging (DFTA)

- Restore the \$10.2 million PEG to DFTA's budget, including a \$1.3 million PEG to the Geriatric Mental Health program.



## \$12.7 Million in New Home-Delivered Meal Funding to Combat Hunger

- \$9.7 million to support continued growth in demand for the home-delivered meal program, including Recovery Meal clients transitioning to traditional home-delivered meals.
- \$3 Million to support weekend and holiday home-delivered meals not provided by current contracts.
- DFTA should assess and fund the capital and infrastructure needs for HDM providers including van purchases and kitchen investments such as refrigerators and other items.



## \$40 Million to Build Upon DFTA’s Community Care Initiative

- \$7 million to expand DFTA virtual programming accessibility, through an online database, devices and connectivity, as well as technology support provided by community-based organizations
- \$5 million to support continued growth in demand of the case management program
- \$28 million to support continued growth in demand of the home care program, including expanding the hours of home care service available to older adults requiring additional support



## Invest in Affordable Senior Housing

- Allocate capital funding to develop 1,000 units of affordable senior housing per year.
- Increase the per unit reimbursement rate for SARA services from \$5,000 per unit, to \$7,500 per unit, allowing for increased staff to more adequately address social isolation and significant case assistance needs.



Photo Credit: Greenwich House



Photo Credit: Lenox Hill Neighborhood House



Photo Credit: Selfhelp Community Services

# Full Funding For All Aging Related Discretionary Initiatives

Examples of these key initiatives are listed below



## Support Our Seniors

Restore  
\$7,140,000

Support aging services programs in every district

Add an additional  
\$2.6 million

This would provide \$50,000 per district on average to better support older New Yorkers, particularly given the needs, such as transportation, social isolation, technology, and others, experienced during COVID-19

*This would bring total Support Our Seniors funding to: \$9.74 million*

## NORCs



Restore  
\$6,400,000

Support NORCs throughout the City, including funding for on-site nursing services.



## \$3,405,000 for Geriatric Mental Health Initiative

Expand mental health services for older adults.



## \$2,000,000 for Case Management

Support case management services for older adults



## \$4,376,000 for Senior Center Programs and Enhancements

Support for senior centers, meals, homeware, transportation, and other senior services programs



## \$3,300,000 for SU-CASA

Support community arts initiative serving older adults

*Plus full funding for all initiatives that support older New Yorkers, including: Immigrant Senior Centers, LGBTQ+ Community Services, Borough Presidents' Discretionary Funding Restoration, Elder Abuse Prevention, Social Adult Day Care, and Information and Referral Services*

## Questions?

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