NY StateWide Senior Action Council has prepared its NYS Elder Economic Security Charts. Combining the 2019 NYS Elder Economic Security Report with other demographic information, we have developed a snapshot of the economic status of NYS Seniors.

In reviewing our NYS Elder Economic Security Charts it is clear that this is a crucial time for New Yorkers, especially those aged 65 years and over to be counted in the 2020 Census. Here is why: Census numbers determine congressional seats and redistribute more than $675 billion in annual federal funds that support programs such as: services for the elderly, housing, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

As baby boomers continue to join the ranks of senior citizens, the 65+ population has overrun the number of children in NYS becoming the fastest growing segment in society.

StateWide’s analysis shows that among New York State’s 65+ population:

- 38.6% Single persons & 24% couples are living in the gap: they are not considered poor, yet they lack resources to make ends meet.
- 15.6% receive SNAP Benefits or Food Stamps.
- 120,000 qualifying NYS older residents leave $6,000 on the table annually by not enrolling in Medicare Savings Programs.

Furthermore,

- 33% of seniors 65+ are considered disabled.
- 8.9% have difficulty in Self Care.
- 5.6% experience difficulty in Independent Living.

Among New York State’s elderly population:

- 377,016 elders spend more than 30% of their household income on rent.
- 403,382 of older home owners spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
- 19.3% subsist without reliable access to a sufficient qty. of affordable, nutritious food.

We need more programs designed & funded to address this situation. The 2020 Census must be filled out by everyone.

If you would like to see your county’s statistics, please go to our website, www.nysenior.org.
Knowing how the 2020 Census process works will help you spot & report scams.

AVOIDING SCAMS

The Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Your citizenship status
- Money or donations

STAYING SAFE AT HOME

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, make sure that they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date.

REPORTING SUSPECTED FRAUD

If you suspect fraud, call the Census Bureau at 800-923-8282. If the visitor who came to your door doesn’t work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department. Other questions call your NYS SMP 800-333-4374.
The reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) passed the House with strong bi-partisan support and is awaiting action by the Senate.

- A House memo noted “as the population of Americans age 60 and over has grown, funding for OAA is not keeping pace.
- In 2010, OAA funding was $42.95 per senior in today’s dollars. Today it is $27.25 per senior.
- According to the Government Accounting Office, 83% percent of low-income older Americans who experience food insecurity do not receive any meal services through OAA, and two-thirds who struggle with daily activities received limited or no homebased care services.
- As a result, the House bill increases OAA funding, with a 7% increase the first year and 6% proposed annually for subsequent years.

StateWide is focused on the need to address prescription drug prices.

- We support efforts to allow Medicare to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers.
- We support Improved Medicare for All, which will address drug prices, cover long term care, hearing, vision and dental services while eliminating out of pocket costs.

We are monitoring the federal budget process, begun with the release of the White House’s budget.

- There are proposed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps and heating assistance that are unacceptable.
- The President’s budget is not binding – it presents a platform for his beliefs. Congress has the power to adopt a budget that meets the needs of their constituents.

One pending bill getting some discussion improves Social Security:

- Preserving its solvency for an additional 75 years.
- Increasing monthly payments to beneficiaries, and improving the calculation of the cost of living that more accurately reflects the needs of retirees.

It’s time to express your view on these matters with Congress.
Governor Cuomo has proposed his budget, and unlike the federal process, the Governor has the upper hand in budget deliberations. The Legislature can only work from his proposals, with negotiations culminating at the end of March. StateWide is weighing in, having had two conference call briefings with our membership and monthly input from our Public Policy Committee.

**We made recommendations on how to lift seniors out of poverty:**
- We are seeking improvements to the EPIC program and the Medicare Savings Program.
- We must ask Legislators to restore funding for our Patients Rights Helpline; the Governor’s proposed funding falls short by $100,000.

StateWide has also stressed the need to invest in Aging services to meet the needs of the state’s older population including:
- More funding for home delivered meals, congregate services, transportation and home care (EISEP) services.
- Incentives for recruitment and retention of personal care aides to address the current shortage.

Legislators are sympathetic to the needs, but the overwhelming issue this year is a funding gap in Medicaid services.

**The Governor announced a $6.1 billion gap between expected state income and spending on programs, mostly attributed to Medicaid.** The increase in costs is no surprise due to:
- Enrollment has grown with the expansion of coverage for people under age 65.
- The increase in long term care costs associated with an aging and disabled population.
- Necessary increases in the minimum wage.
- Provider reimbursement increase awarded by the Governor, and subsequently pulled back, have also contributed to the gap.

The Governor has NOT proposed cuts to specific Medicaid programs, as he has tried in the past only to be rejected by the Legislature. (Ex: eliminating spousal refusal, limiting access to covered drugs, and changing transportation benefits.)

Instead, he has appointed a Medicaid Redesign Team – a small group of advisers made up almost exclusively of Medicaid provider interests without consumer representation, to recommend changes to save $2.5 billion in the budget.

If you have used our services, referred someone or been helped with Medicare enrollment, now is the time to call your State Assembly member and Senator to voice your support.
Medicare Redesign Team (continued)

- Additionally, he will place some of the burden on local property taxpayers if Medicaid costs continue to rise.

- The Governor’s budget process has given the Legislature little time and opportunity to be partners in solving the budget problems.

Possible challenges are compounded by a self-imposed cap on growth of 3% in Medicaid spending and restraint on overall budget funding that keeps total year to year growth under 2%.

Solutions:

- The Governor and the Legislature could choose to increase revenues and allow spending to meet the need for services.

- Many advocates, including StateWide, are supporting revenue raisers that will fill the budget gap, by closing tax loopholes and increasing taxes on the uber-wealthy, including a tax on private jets, yachts, and multi-million dollar second homes.

The Governor has proposed some new programs that are worth considering:

- The “Restore Mother Nature” bond act would preserve forests, address flooding and fund water improvement projects. If agreed to, it will be on the November ballot.

- A number of gun safety measures to improve background checks.

- Requires businesses to provide sick leave.

- Restricts telemarketing “robo-calls”

- Efforts to end price gouging on prescription drugs as well as products packaged for sale to women that are priced higher than similar products marketed to men (such as razors.)

- Allow Enhanced STAR school taxpayers who failed to register for the Income Verification Program to enroll and receive their STAR benefit.

- Poses some changes to the Physician profiling law and the tax credit for long term care insurance that we will examine.

- He once again proposes to strip public employees of retirement health benefits, which we oppose.

BUDGET UPDATE CONFERENCE CALLS

Friday, April 17th: Final budget negotiations impact on programs that support older residents.

Friday, June 19th: Federal legislation and budget issues that impact older New Yorkers.

Call in #: 425-436-6260; 712-832-8330;
Access code: 4715203#, Time: 10:00 AM

Medicare Patient's Rights Helpline 800-333-4374
## New fiscal year starts April 1, 2020 Analysis prepared by NY StateWide Senior Action Council

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>2015-16 Final Budget</th>
<th>2016-17 Final Budget</th>
<th>2017-18 Final Budget</th>
<th>2018-2019 Final Budget</th>
<th>2019-20 Final Budget</th>
<th>2020-21 Governor’s Proposed Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EISEP</strong> (Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly)</td>
<td>$50,012,000</td>
<td>50,120,000</td>
<td>50,120,000</td>
<td>50,120,000</td>
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<td>Note: $108,000 more than 2015-16</td>
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<td>+$15m added by Governor to be used for any waiting list</td>
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<td>Total: 65,120,000</td>
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<td>Total: 65,120,000</td>
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<td><strong>WIN – Wellness in Nutrition (formerly SNAP)</strong></td>
<td>$27,326,000</td>
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<td>An increase of 798,000</td>
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<td>29,801,000 baseline</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$2.25 m added by Legislature</td>
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<td>+1,500,000 baseline + 750,000 + 750,000</td>
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<td>Program Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIICAP (Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance)</td>
<td>$921,000</td>
<td>921,000</td>
<td>1,000,000 Note: $79,000 more than 2016-17</td>
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<td>StateWide’s Patient Rights Helpline</td>
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<td>NORCs Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities</td>
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<td>2,377,500 +350,000 more than 2015-16</td>
<td>3,027,500 +650,000 more than 2016-17</td>
<td>4,027,500 Note: $2m added by Legislature</td>
<td>4,027,500 Note: Budget includes an additional 325,000 for NORC/NNORC health indicators project</td>
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<td>NNORCs</td>
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<td>2,377,500 +350,000 more than 2015-16</td>
<td>3,027,500 +650,000 more than 2016-17</td>
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Note:
- $79,000
- $500
- $100,000
- $2m
- Budget includes an additional 325,000 for NORC/NNORC health indicators project

Medicare Patient’s Rights Helpline 800-333-4374
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<td>Elder Abuse Education &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td>Xtra $ for lifespan 250,000</td>
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<td>Xtra 175,000 Center for Elder Law and Justice for the prevention of elder abuse</td>
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<td>Long Term Care Ombudsman</td>
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<td>Caregiver Resource Centers</td>
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<td>Foster Grandparents</td>
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<td>Community Empowerment</td>
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<td>Elder Abuse Multi-Disciplinary reports of suspected elder abuse or maltreatment</td>
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New Individual Members:

DeAnna Akos-Asare  
Nina Amit  
Maria Arias  
Sheryl Augustine  
Elizabeth Bagnardi  
Sophia Banks  
Pat Barbalich  
Susan Bellor  
Kathleen Betsko  
Vanessa Birmingham  
Renee Birnbaum  
Tom Bryant  
Glenda Bryant  
Eileen Cassidy  
Michael & Donna Clark  
Lillian Cohen  
Kathleen Collins  
Angela Conway  
Jerry Cornwell  
Sandy Crisco  
Josy Delaney  
Margaret Dennis  
Suzan Denny  
Bertha Drayton  
Bradley Easterling  
Julia Easterling  
Cynthia Eaton  
Stuart Eber  
Adela Edwards  
Jacqueline Flood  
Kathleen Gale  
Marvin Goodman  
Nadine Goodwin  
Diane Guyette  
Kendra Haven  
Ed Herzberg  
Mary Huse  
Audrey Izard  
Judith Jones  
Jean Jordanek  
Carolyn Kenyon  
Marie Mickell  
Joanne Oats  
Gillian Pederson-King  
Shirley Pinckey  
Richard Ploplaski  
Rose Posia  
Desiree Radford  
Laurie Rubin  
Dee Sarno  
Robert Souto  
Edward Swayze  
Edward Robert Souto  
Dee Sarno  
Desiree Rose Posia  
Shirley Pinckney  
Gillian Pederson  
Joanne Oats  
Marie Mickell  
Carolyn Jordan  
Judith Jones  
Audrey Izard  
Mary Huse  
Pat Barbalich  
Susan Bellor  
Kathleen Betsko  
Vanessa Birmingham  
Renee Birnbaum  
Tom Bryant  
Glenda Bryant  
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Gillian Pederson-King  
Shirley Pinckey  
Richard Ploplaski  
Rose Posia  
Desiree Radford  
Laurie Rubin  
Dee Sarno  
Robert Souto  
Edward Swayze

New Lifetime Members:

Maria Alvarez  
Nan Blackshear  
Janet Burns  
Eileen O’Brien & Joseph Cardona  
Wendy Fieser  
Joan Geitz  
Belinda Hall  
Rosa Jackson  
Sarah Johnson  
Andrea Mujahid  
Benn Nadelman  
Rachel Nieland  
Mark & Cynthia Saunders Perry  
Ettie Smith  
Helen Westmoreland  
LuAnn Wright

Kryzak Fund Contributors:

Priscilla Bassett  
Susan Beckley  
Jeanne Williams Bennett  
Patricia J. Binzer  
Barbara Boggs  
Catherine Bouchard  
Janice & Sidney Brown  
Constance Clausen  
Paul & Phyllis Cooney  
Margaret & Richard Carolyn Crawmer  
Mary Degon  
John Edie  
Helen Edelstein  
Wendy Fieser  
Kathleen Fleming  
Sharon Green  
Marcus Harazin  
Patricia Terrell  
Barbara Thomas  
Florence Thomas  
Tracey Twro  
Don & Mary Vanouse  
Barbara Waldmann  
Ruth Walker  
Lillie Walton  
Gale Washington  
Doris Welch  
Kevin Wells  
Doris White  
Bernice Wiggins  
Mary Zichettella  
Amherst  
Saratoga Springs  
Buffalo  
Schenectady  
Oswego  
Staten Island  
Ithaca  
Buffalo  
Buffalo  
Buffalo  
Canton  
Ithaca  
Amherst  
Ithaca  
Astoria  
Brooklyn  
Brooklyn  
West Nyack  
Germantown  
Glenmont  
Brooklyn  
Ithaca  
Ithaca  
Ithaca  
Buffalo  
New York  
Buffalo  
Buffalo  
Bombay  
New York  
Ithaca  
Ilion  
Albany  
New York  
Flushing  
Bronx  
Fresh Meadows  
Albany  
Corbett  
Rome  
Clifton Park  
Malone  
Rensselaer  
Rnome  
Germantown  
Ballston Lake  
Brooklyn  
Delmar

New Organization Members:

Council of Senior Citizens  
Schoharie County  
Cobleskill  
Citizen Action  
Glen Cove  
Glen Cove Senior Center  
Mental Health Association of NY  
Riverdale Senior Services  
Saratoga Family Health NPs  
Saratoga Springs  
Cobleskill  
Canton Senior Citizens  
Schoharie County  
Cobleskill  
Citizen Action  
Glen Cove  
Glen Cove Senior Center  
Mental Health Association of NY  
Riverdale Senior Services  
Saratoga Family Health NPs  
Saratoga Springs  
Cobleskill

Thank you for your support!
Yes! I want my experience to count.
I want to join NY StateWide Senior Action Council.

Check box:

- Individual Membership $20/year
- Couple Membership $25/year
- Lifetime Membership $150/individual
- Lifetime Membership $200/couple
- Organization Membership $75/year

You can contact us at 518-436-1006. Please make your check payable to: NY StateWide Senior Action Council
Send this form to: NY StateWide Senior Action Council, 275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210
All dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Honored: John Eadie, Former Executive Director of NY StateWide Senior Action Council receives national award (Contributor: María Alvarez)
Dr. John Eadie, Coordinator, Public Health & Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, at the National HIDTA Assistance Center, received the 2019 Hal Rogers Beacon of Hope Award for advancements in prescription drug monitoring programs and data collection.

In Memory of: Sarah Ann King, Former Board Member, NY StateWide Senior Action Council (Contributor: Maria Alvarez)
Sarah King advocated for senior citizen causes and represented Cayuga County. Sarah volunteered at Meals on Wheels, St. Alphonsus Food Pantry, Sacred Heart Church, the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, and Genesee & Seward Elementary Schools; as well as many other volunteer organizations and fundraising activities.

In Memory of: Jim Lyttle, Former Director, Sullivan County Office for the Aging (Contributor: María Alvarez)
Jim served Sullivan County for 25 years with pride and professionalism. He was the Director for 15 years cultivating and improving critical services to seniors and their families. Jim was dedicated to his community in many ways beyond County leadership including participating in StateWide initiatives.

Contributor: Diane Owens
In Memory of: Erma Owens
Our State Bill Tracker has been recently updated and posted to our website www.nysenior.org.
If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call our office.

NY STATEWIDE SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL

Annual Convention Oct 13-15, 2020

Socialize with Friends
Meet seniors from all over NYS to connect with and share information

Attend Panel Discussions

Visit the Exhibit Hall
Visit our Exhibit Hall on Oct. 14th 11:30 AM—12:30 PM