

# Issues impacting older residents in the Proposed Executive Budget

February 6, 2026

**New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc**

2025: “Your Family is  
My Fight”

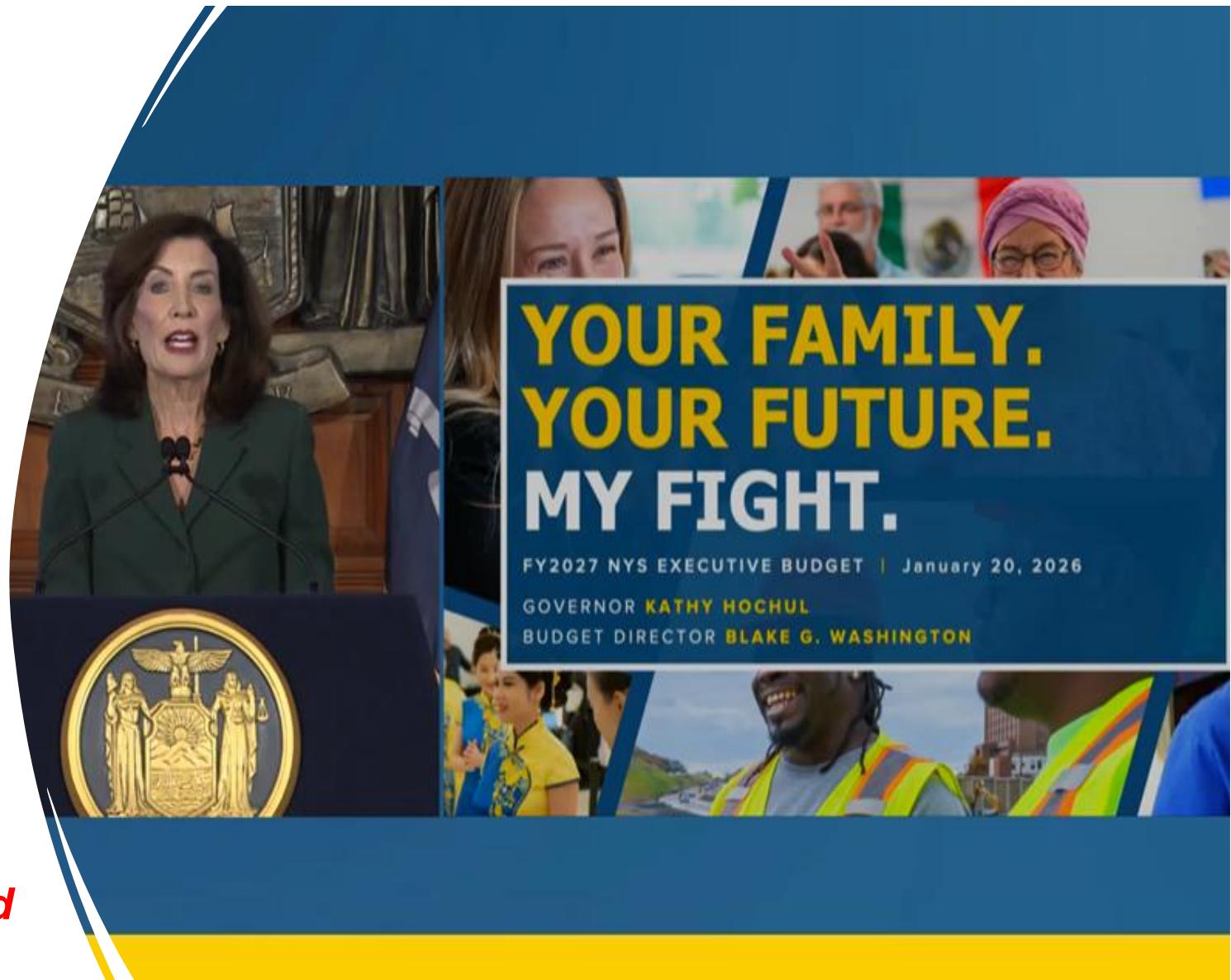
2026: “Your Family.  
Your Future.  
My Fight”

“Make New York More Affordable for  
Working Families”

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This is my “vision for a stronger, safer, more affordable New York. With careful planning, historic investments, and common-sense reforms, we can push through vital projects—from housing and clean water infrastructure, to public safety and education.”

***“A budget is a statement of priorities and a plan for how to realize them.”***



***The budget makes investments in education, child care and health care***

# Biggest Budget Ever!

**AGAIN!**



\*A decrease of \$8 billion in federal aid, projected decrease in federal spending related to HR1 cuts.

\*\*largely because of jumps in Medicaid and Education spending.

- \$ 260 billion (All Funds\*) 8 billion increase over last year. Annual growth of 0.7 percent. Growth in the state-funded portion of the budget by 5.7%\*\*
- \$10.3b cut in federal funds, including \$3B in Medicaid
- Keeps \$14.6 billion in reserves.
- This year ends in a budget surplus, Projecting future (but improving over predictions) year budget gaps

# Where's the Money

- No new personal income or corporate taxes. New tax on “alternative nicotine products” – same rate as cigarettes for Vapor Products.
- Eliminates a portion of tax on tips, to mirror federal changes
- Enhance the New York City Musical and Theatrical Production Tax Credit. \$150 million
- Exempts sales tax on retail sale of electricity for electric vehicle charging stations
- Spending increases:
  - .5b for National Guard to staff state prisons
  - \$1b+ increases payments to hospitals, nursing homes, ALPs, & FQHCs and \$750m extra for hospitals & Nursing Homes
  - Increase school aid by \$1.6b – 4.3%, and Increase in school meals program
  - Increased Funding for child care centers \$918.5m, \$803.5m for Child Care Assistance, (\$73m for 2 year olds)
  - \$15m to expand food banks/pantries
  - \$20.5m increase in Adult Protectives and supports for victim of domestic violence
  - SUNY/CUNY
  - Housing
  - 3.75b for clean water infrastructure (over 5 years)
  - \$50m for Empower+ (rate reductions for smart thermostat users)
  - Increases transportation funding for upstate and downstate transit systems
    - Includes redesign of Jamaica Station & Extension of 2nd Avenue Subway



# **Significant need for aging services**

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New York State has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest population of older adults in the U.S.

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4.6 million NYers are aged 60 and over.

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By 2030, this population is expected to reach 5.3 million.

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Also by 2030, over 51 counties will have a population with 25% of individuals being aged 60 and older.

**Compelling need for an investment in care and a comprehensive roadmap for meeting the needs of aging New Yorkers**

# 2022 Gov. Hochul Established State Master Plan for Aging Process to:

**further the ability for more New Yorkers to age with dignity and independence,  
building healthy, livable communities that offer opportunities for older adults.**

- The MPA has been published with a series of recommendations.
- Important among those is proposal #50 to increase funding for the network of community-based aging services provided through Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)....to ensure that all New Yorkers can age in their community of choice.

Read the Master Plan for Aging at <https://ny.gov/mpa>.

# Proposal Presented for the Master Plan for Aging (#50)

## **Summary**

Increase funding for the network of community-based aging services provided through Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Such funding could include expanding access to capital programs (such as Statewide funding opportunities) and other ongoing State resources for community-based services, seeking support from Medicaid or other insurers, and exploring innovative financing programs (i.e., social impact bonds) to ensure that all New Yorkers can age in their community of choice.

## **Justification**

New York State's community services are underfunded, hindering their ability to meet the existing and emerging needs of older adults, individuals who are fragile, individuals in need of nursing home care, and those needing primary prevention. The State could reduce costs by expanding home care services and reducing utilization of more costly nursing home care. The approximately 98,000 people in Nursing Homes in New York present a particular opportunity to evaluate their needs and preferences, and follow Olmstead principles to examine whether a shift to community-based settings is appropriate.

Funding could specifically be deployed to AAAs for the following purposes:

- \$35 million allocated to:
  - Reduce waiting lists.
  - Enhance the home care rate for personal care I and II.
  - Expand personal care and case management.
  - Provide additional transportation support.
  - Combat social isolation.
  - Increase access to social model adult day services so caregivers are able to have meaningful employment.
  - Expand health and wellness services, evidenced-based interventions.
  - Other locally determined needs.
- Invest in sustainable nutrition support - \$43 million.
- Invest in Aging Services network workforce - \$20 million.
- Expanding eligibility to younger onset Alzheimer's and to age 50 for caregiver and respite support – \$26 million
- Provide annual appropriation for technology access - \$5 million.
- Provide annual appropriation for New York's Lifespan Respite Care Programs - \$1 million
- Provide annual appropriation for elder abuse education and outreach - \$3 million.
- Provide increased funding for the New York State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), known in New York as the Health Insurance Information, Counseling, and Assistance Program (HIICAP) - \$5.5 million
- Provide an increase in funding for state legal assistance programs - \$3 million.
- Provide an increase in funding for the long-term care ombudsman program - \$10 million.
- Provide an annual appropriation for Aging and Disability Resource Centers - \$20 million.
- Provide reskilling and training for older individuals who wish to return to employment - \$2 million.

# Master Plan for Aging in State of the State Message or Budget

- Downtown Revitalization Initiative for Smart Growth. (community livability)
- •NORC \$
- •\$3m participate in federal nursing home staffing campaign
- •\$694M - 2 workforce programs for new workers
- •expand scope of practice for several critical workers, including cert ns assist to administer medications. the scope of practice issues will help dislodge historical opposition
- •Nursing Home Capital Construction needs
- •Certificate of need reform
- Maintain nutrition programs
- Housing - SCRI & DRIE increases proposed
- Transportation, improve traffic safety- speed monitoring device
- One stop shop for older Nyers to access benefits
- •Improving access to Hospice & Palliative care. new need methodology for hospice, and doh educational awareness for community and clinical providers.
- •Protect older adults from fraud - NYSOFA to develop
- Assistive Technology Innovative Center
- Disaster response - search and rescue improvements for older adults and people with disabilities

# Master Plan for Aging accountability

- New bill – introduce at StateWide's request S9091 by Sen. Cleare: to provide transparency, tracking and public awareness for steps to implement the state's Master Plan for Aging. The bill is expected to be introduced in the Assembly by Aging Committee Chair Rebecca Seawright.



Call your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor Senator Cleare's bill, S9091.

## “Investing in Older Adults”

- The Governor will **increase** investments in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs & NNORCs)
- The Governor will **renew** a fiscal year 2026 \$35 million investment to reduce waitlists for nonmedical in-home services such as personal care, case management, home delivered and congregate meals, and transportation. No NEW \$
- New directive to NYSOFA to provide community education on elder abuse – NO \$
- Plan for One stop benefits center – NO \$



# Minimum Wage funding

- Some state agencies are receiving additional funds to address the increased minimum wage. \$53.5 million
  - This is not included in the NYSOFA budget
- Medicaid is increasing the provider payment rate for hospitals, nursing homes & Federally Qualified Health Centers
  - This is not reflected in an increase in base payments for EISEP workers.



# COST OF LIVING

***COLA now called TII - Targeted Inflationary Increase for this coming fiscal year would help to address providers' continued reports of increasing costs and staffing shortages and prevent program reductions.***

COLA adopted in 2023-24 budget

4%

COLA proposed in 2026-27 budget

1.7%

(\$3.92m for NYSOFA)

COLA adopted for 2024-25 budget

2.84%

COLA adopted for 2025-26 budget

2.6%

Advocates want 2.7%

Program Name	2022-23 Final	2023-24 Final	2024-25 Final	2025-26 Proposed	2025-26 Final	2026-27 Proposed
<b>EISEP</b> <b>Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly</b>	<b>67,498,000</b> <b>+ 8,000,000</b>	<b>67,498,000</b> <b>+ 8,000,000</b> <b>+ 9,300,000</b>	<b>68,357,277</b> <b>+ 8,000,000</b> <b>+10,000,000 *</b>  <b>*increase of 700,000 over 23-24 final budget</b>	<b>69,484,276</b>	<b>69,866,436</b> <b>+ 53,000,000 to address waiting lists</b>	<b>71,197,876</b> <b>+ 53,000,000 to address waiting lists added in past years</b>
<b>WIN</b> <b>Wellness in Nutrition (formerly SNAP)</b>	<b>33,474,000</b>	<b>35,648,296</b>  <b>4% COLA</b>	<b>38,153,816</b>  <b>2.84% COLA</b>	<b>40,053,560</b>  <b>2.1% COLA</b>	<b>40,491,920</b>  <b>2.6% COLA</b>	<b>42,019,160</b>  <b>1.7% COLA</b>
<b>CSE</b> <b>Community Services for the Elderly</b>	<b>35,867,000</b>	<b>37,682,638</b>  <b>4% COLA</b>	<b>39,509,508</b>  <b>2.84% COLA</b>	<b>41,359,764</b>  <b>2.1% COLA</b>	<b>41663244</b>  <b>2.6% COLA</b>	<b>42,720,564</b>  <b>1.7% COLA</b>

Program Name	2022-23 Final	2023-24 Final	2024-25 Final	2025-26 Proposed	2025-26 Final	2026-27 Proposed
<b>HIICAP</b> Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance	1,000,000 + a portion: Additional 150,000 Volunteer retention stipend funding to be shared with ombudsman program	1,000,000 + a portion: Additional 150,000 Volunteer retention stipend funding to be shared with ombudsman program	1,000,000 Additional 150,000 Volunteer retention stipend funding to be shared with ombudsman program	1,000,000 Additional 150,000 Volunteer retention stipend funding to be shared with ombudsman program	1,000,000 Additional 150,000 Volunteer retention stipend funding to be shared with ombudsman program	1,000,000 Additional 150,000 Volunteer retention stipend funding to be shared with ombudsman program
<b>MCCAP</b> Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program	1,767,000	1,767,000	1,767,000	1,767,000	1,767,000	1,767,000
<b>StateWide's Patients' Rights Helpline</b>	231,500	231,500	231,500	31,500	231,500 Includes \$200,000 added by Legislature	31,500

Next Steps – Call your legislators to support  
StateWide's Patient Rights Helpline

**Make your phone calls right away!**

• **518-455-4100** – ask for your Assemblymember

• **518-455-2800** – ask for your Senator

- Message:
- My name is \_\_\_\_\_ & I live in the district.

**Please stop the cut to**

**NY StateWide Senior Action Council's Patient Rights Helpline  
by restoring \$200,000 to the budget and adding an additional  
\$50,000 to address inflationary costs and unmet need.**



# The only improvement in funding from the Governor's budget

Program Name	2022-23 Final	2023-24 Final	2024-25 Final	2025-26 Proposed	2025-26 Final	2026-27 Proposed
<b>NORCs</b> Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	4,027,500 + portion of 825,000 to be shared with NORCs	4,027,500 +1,000,000 to be shared with NNORCs	4,027,500 +1,000,000 to be shared with NNORCs	4,027,500	4,027,500 +1,000,000 to be shared with NNORCs	8,027,500
<b>Neighborhood NORCs</b>	4,027,500 + portion of 825,000 to be shared with NORCs	4,027,500 See above, a portion of an extra 1,000,000	4,027,500 See above, a portion of an extra 1,000,000	4,027,500	4,027,500 See above, a portion of an extra 1,000,000	8,027,500

The Governor will **increase** investments in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCS), which are housing developments or neighborhoods with large populations of older adults where community providers offer supportive services for residents, such as healthcare navigation and case management.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>2022-23 Final</b>	<b>2023-24 Final</b>	<b>2024-25 Final</b>	<b>2025-26 Proposed</b>	<b>2025-26 Final</b>	<b>2026-27 Proposed</b>
<b>Senior Transportation</b>	1,121,000	1,121,000	1,121,000	1,121,000	1,121,000	1,121,000
<b>Social Model Adult Day Service (SADS)</b>	1,072,000	1,072,000	1,072,000	1,072,000	1,072,000	1,072,000
<b>SADS Training Grant</b>	122,500	122,500	122,500	122,500	122,500	122,500
<b>Respite</b>	656,000	656,000	656,000	656,000	656,000	656,000
<b>Elder Abuse Education &amp; Outreach</b>	745,000 +250,000	745,000 + 250,000 + 375,000	1,120,000	995,000 Shortfall: 125,000	995,000 + 375,000	745,000 + 250,000
	TOTAL 995,000	TOTAL 1,370,000			TOTAL 1,370,000	TOTAL 995,000
<b>Long Term Care Ombudsman</b>	1,190,000 + 2,500,000 Total 3,690,000 + portion of 150,000 volunteer retention stipend funding pool to be shared with HIICAP program	4,940,000 included \$2.5 million added by Legislature 3,690,000	3,690,000 + 2,500,000 + portion of 150,000 volunteer retention stipend funding pool to be shared with HIICAP program	6,190,000 + portion of 150,000 volunteer retention stipend funding pool to be shared with HIICAP program	6,190,000 + portion of 150,000 volunteer retention stipend funding pool to be shared with HIICAP program	6,190,000 + portion of 150,000 volunteer retention stipend funding pool to be shared with HIICAP program
<b>Congregate Services Initiative</b>	403,000	403,000	403,000	403,000	403,000	403,000





Program Name	2022-23 Final	2023-24 Final	2024-25 Final	2025-26 Proposed	2025-26 Final	2026-27 Proposed
<b>Ageless Innovation to reduce Social Isolation</b>	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
<b>Services and expenses to TRUALTA for caregiver training and supports</b>	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
<b>Services and expenses for GoGo Grandparent for transportation expansion and capacity building</b>	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
<b>Holocaust Survivors Program</b>	1,000,000 +1,600,000	1,000,000 +1,080,000 + 350,000 TOTAL 2,430,000	1,000,000 +1,080,000 + 350,000 TOTAL 2,430,000	1,000,000	1,000,000 +350,000 +1,080,000 TOTAL 2,430,000	1,000,000
<b>Bill paying services in 10 Counties (LifeSpan)</b>		750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000
<b>Elder Law and Justice for the Prevention of Elder Abuse</b>		150,000 + 175,000	150,000 + 175,000	0	175,000 + 175,000	0



# HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Expected increase in Uninsured NYers  
Impacts all of us and  
the Health Providers We Rely Upon

- As a result of federal cuts:  
Est. # of NYers Losing Insurance **935,914**
  - Medicaid  
Est. # of NYers Losing federally supported Medicaid Coverage **858,102**
  - Lack of federal action to extend the ACA premium tax credits  
Est. # of NYers Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage **77,812**
- Essential Plan Reverts to “BASIC” plan  
Eliminates LTSS  
Reduce to 200% FPL (from 250% FPL) by reverting to allowable limits under the “BASIC” plan  
(Removes coverage for 460,000 NYers)
- Coverage for legal immigrants must be funded (case law) and falls to Medicaid with state paying 100% (500,000 NYers)



“The FY 2027 Executive Budget reaffirms Governor Hochul’s unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of every New Yorker, prioritizing stability in a period of unprecedented federal volatility.

In direct response to the federal funding reductions and eligibility restrictions mandated by the H.R. 1, this Budget provides a critical firewall to preserve the integrity of our healthcare system.”

# Governor Proposes Medicaid rate increases for Hospitals, nursing homes , ALPs, FQHCs



# ONCE AGAIN Governor Proposes Less Nursing Care

- Proposes to allow “certified medication aides” in nursing homes to administer medications.
- We need more nursing aides – and licensed nurses.
- We need the new law on minimum hours of resident care per day enforced! Rather than creating new types of workers for nurses to supervise – removing them further from patient care



# Medicaid - Investments Needed



- Reject the proposed elimination of the **EQUAL program** (Enhanced Quality of Adult Living) that funds quality of life enhancements (like room air conditioners & some personal items) for people who live in adult care facilities – empowers the Resident Council to determine how to spend the funding
- Gov. Hochul acknowledges that 29% of NYS hospitals are financially distressed. Provide **enhanced funding for true safety net hospitals** – funding priority must be given to hospitals that serve a disproportionate number of people who are uninsured or covered by Medicaid, in addition to those facilities that are the sole community provider .
- **Advocates want to Rightsize Long Term Care – take out the profit motive!** Eliminate the current partially capitated Medicaid Long Term Care program and replace it with long term care services delivered through a fee-for-service model. Achieves \$3billion annual savings, which can be used to reinvest and support the Medicaid program while addressing healthcare workforce issues. Home Care Savings and Reinvestment Act, S3222A (Rivera)/A2018A (Paulin.)



# Medicaid Advocacy

## Action needed



- Medicaid Home Care – Repeal the change in number of Activities of Daily Living (& the elimination of housekeeping only)  
Support S358/A1198
- Repeal the Medicaid Home Care Look Back  
Support S4786/A1907
- Increase Personal Needs Allowance to \$200/month for residents in nursing home residents (set at \$50/month in 1988)  
Support S4744/A2048





# Home Care Crisis – not addressed in the Budget

- Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program
  - Changed as of April 1, 2025 to a single fiscal intermediary (account manager) with subcontracts to some Independent Living Centers
  - Study needed on impact - new bill S9142 PPL Oversight Bill
  - Governor marks over \$1 billion in savings achieved , NOT reinvested in home care
- Fair Pay for Home Care
  - Establishes new minimum hourly base wages (150% of minimum wage) for home care aides to address workforce crisis.  
A1991 (Paulin)/S8955 (Cleare)





# Dental Care Crisis – Not addressed in budget:

- Raise the Medicaid rate for dental services
- Ensure that Medicaid Managed Care plans have sufficient capacity to reduce waiting times to schedule appointments
- Continue Medicaid coverage for comprehensive dental care services. S3566 (Cleare)/A1931 (Paulin)

- Allow Medicare enrollees to purchase dental coverage on the state's health care exchange. S7594 (Cleare)
  - Adult dental policies were launched in January 2026, but are not open to Medicare enrollees to purchase.



# Health care staff shortages

- Budget includes \$3m to enable NYS to participate in a federal nursing home staffing campaign to increase the number of nurses working in nursing homes, particularly in rural areas.
- Expands free community college program for adult (2<sup>nd</sup> career) learners to allow a student who already has a degree to get the benefit if they study nursing.





## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Reforms to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), allowing for housing, infrastructure, and other projects that meet specific criteria to be built more efficiently throughout the State.
- Trying again: Repurpose SUNY and NYS DOT owned real property owned. The development of State-owned property could result in the development of approximately 15,000 units of new housing on Long Island.
- Commits \$250m to support new construction of affordable housing, part of previously announced funds to create & preserve 100,000 homes.
- \$25m funding for the Homeless and Housing and Assistance Program
- \$60 million funding increase for the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative
- \$100 million in capital for the MOVE-IN NY Homes program to support factory-built and modular housing statewide, a \$50 million increase.
- The Budget maintains funding for key housing initiatives, including:
  - \$50 million for the Resilient and Ready Program to support home retrofits and disaster preparedness,
  - \$40 million for the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) to provide foreclosure prevention legal services, and
  - \$20 million for Lead Abatement initiative outside of New York City, consistent with prior year funding levels.

# SCRIE/DRIE

- The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)
- Available in New York City (with similar programs in Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties)
- Uses property tax credits to offset rent increases for seniors and people with disabilities to freeze their rent.



Budget will increase the income eligibility limits for the programs from \$50,000 to \$75,000 in New York City, with the same options being available at local-opt in outside NYC.



Need to make sure these income limits increase each year with a cost of living adjustment

# Economic Security for State Retirees at risk



- The Governor proposes to reduce retiree health coverage by stopping a long time policy of paying IRMA Medicare premium for NYS retirees.
- State retirees should get the same coverage they had when actively employed so they don't face limits on skilled nursing facility care. The Governor vetoed a bill in 2022 because it wasn't funded.....but has failed to include in the budget!



# Address Food Insecurity

Prevent Skimming:

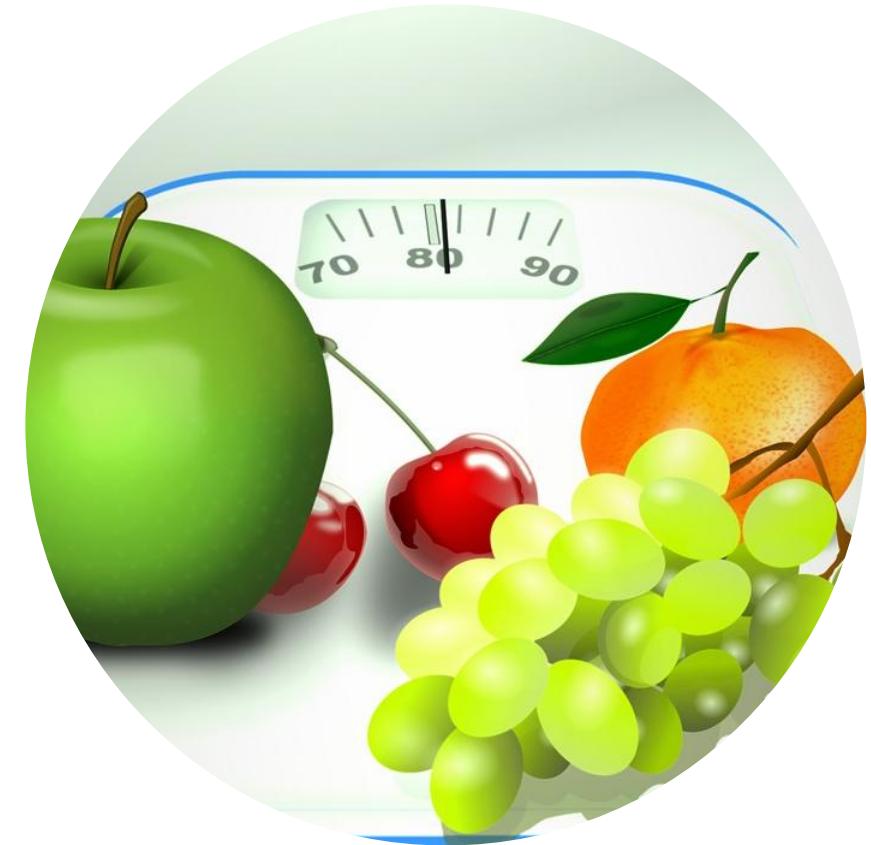
Transition to the use of chip cards for public benefits to prevent this theft from occurring.

+15m for Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program

Funding to expand food banks and pantries

Increase in funding for Free School Breakfast & Lunch for All

Only 1.7% TII increase for NYSOFA funded congregate meals and home delivered meals



# Addressing High Homeowners and Auto Insurance

Combating high car insurance rates by targeting fraud, preventing staged auto accidents.

Require premium increase notifications & explanations for auto and homeowners insurance policies



# Making Utilities more affordable



- Protect tenants from Unfair Utility Shutoffs  
When a landlord fails to pay utility bills, a lien can be placed against the property instead of punishing the tenant with utility shut off
- Utility Rate Setting Reforms  
A number of changes to how the state's Public Service Commission reviews utility company requests for rate increases.

# IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT



- Budget provides an increase of \$250 million funding for clean water infrastructure
- \$50m for EmPower+ - Allowing additional 10,000 low & moderate income households to make energy efficient home electrification modifications.
- Incentivizing homeowners and businesses to install smart thermostats with a \$25 utility bill credit each month for a year.
- Funding for Coastal Resiliency and Water Infrastructure Protection for coastal projects in South Shore, Staten Island, Mamaroneck, Long Beach, East Rockaway Inlet & Jamaica Beach.
- Resilient and Adaptive Community Grant Program \$10 million in new funding to support disadvantaged communities with disaster response and resilience planning during extreme weather emergencies.
- Level funding for the Environmental Protection Fund but increases program funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation programs, open space programs, parks, recreation and historic preservation programs.

# “OUR” EPIC: Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage



RxBIN 012345  
Rx Grp NYEPIC  
Issuer (80840)

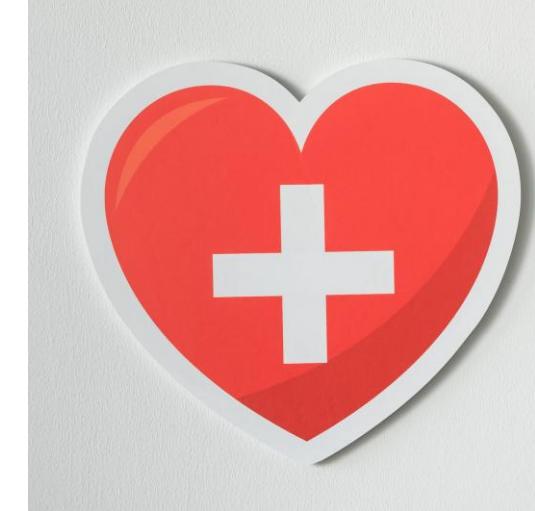
EPIC ID# EP1234567  
NAME JANE SMITH  
ISSUE DATE 3/1/2010

Coverage is valid only for the individual named above.

- There are no budget cuts – we expect savings as more people enroll in Medicare Savings Program and automatically get Extra Help
- Expand EPIC by including persons with disabilities younger than age 65, so that EPIC works for everyone on Medicare regardless of age Support (S3555-A Sen. Cleare)
- The EPIC program should set a zero dollar co-pay for insulin and inhalers so that older residents enrolled in EPIC receive the same benefit proposed by the Governor for the rest of Nyers.



# Strengthening Cardiac Emergency Readiness



- Regional Training Hubs to ensure communities know how to use AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators)
- Reduces barriers to installing AEDs
- Creates a registry of where AEDs are located – enabling emergency dispatchers to direct individuals to the nearest device

# Governor proposes Sensitive Locations Protection Act

- restricting civil immigration enforcement in designated “sensitive” locations
- Does not include places where seniors gather for assistance.
- Need to add heating and cooling centers, congregate dining sites, shelters and senior centers to the places protected under the newly defined list of sensitive locations.



# Invasive use of Drones

- The budget proposed to create new criminal penalties for people who use drones unlawfully.
- Also creates a registry of drone vendors



# Preventing Misleading Discounts

- Prohibits companies from inflating prices to promote a new sale price that is not truly a reduced price



# Upcoming dates

- NYS Legislature Fiscal Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Budget on Human Services  
(includes NYSOFA among other agencies)  
February 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM  
Watch recording  
[www.nyassembly.gov](http://www.nyassembly.gov)
- NYS Legislature Fiscal Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Budget on Health  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
Watch recording  
[www.nyassembly.gov](http://www.nyassembly.gov)
- Beginning of March  
Assembly & Senate each produce their own budget bills
- April 1 – start of new fiscal year
- April – Date TBD, Webinar on adopted budget
- May 11 - StateWide hosts Grassroots Day in Albany