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AARP & Live On NY: City Budget Fails Aging NYers

Statement on Passage of the NYC Budget by Beth Finkel, State Director of AARP New York:

“The mayor and the New York City Council have under-funded seniors and aging programs in today’s enacted budget – in the face of an aging population. Despite adding nearly \$400 million to overall baseline spending, the new budget cuts senior homecare services by \$2.2 million. Senior case management was cut by 40% which means fewer seniors will receive help to manage their activities of daily living and access the services and resources they need. Other important aging programs – from transportation to family caregiver support to naturally occurring retirement communities – saw no increased support despite growing need because of our aging population. That’s unacceptable.

“The city’s seniors are struggling with tight finances. AARP is calling on the mayor and the City Council to immediately allocate funding for these essential programs, which are cost-effective by helping people age in their own homes rather than in far more costly, taxpayer-funded institutional settings.

“With hundreds of millions of dollars in new spending, the sad truth is that the city could have stabilized all senior services and started a caregiver support program for less than \$15 million.

“Need is clearly growing. New York City can and should ensure that those who are able can age in their homes and communities – as the vast majority want. Older New Yorkers provide significant contributions to keep this a robust city with their volunteerism, support for their families, economic power, and so much more. Helping them to remain and thrive here will continue to benefit our city for years to come. Today’s enacted budget agreement is short-sighted and clearly insufficient to ensure a livable city for New Yorkers of all ages.”

Statement on Passage of the NYC Budget by Bobbie Sackman, Director of Public Policy, LiveOn NY:

"A shock wave has run through the aging community today as we woke up to the news that cuts were made to case management and home care for homebound elderly New Yorkers.

The inability and unwillingness of the de Blasio administration and City Council to reach an agreement to fully fund these programs creates a hardship and a dangerous reality for seniors who so desperately need and rely on support.

While city funding was added to the budget to meet the needs of many populations, about only 3% went to fund older New Yorkers who continue to not receive their fair share of city funding despite the aging tsunami that is with us.

Upwards of 325 frail seniors will be impacted by home care cuts. Over 1400 seniors languishing on case management waiting lists are cut off from accessing home care as they survive in the vicious cycle of needing a case manager to get the home care.

No progress has been made to fund meals-on-wheels and meals at senior centers, no progress on funding vans to medical visits, senior centers, and delivering meals-on-wheels, no progress on adult day care for individuals with Alzheimer's or for family caregivers who are mostly women.

Seniors and their family members are being told you're on your own."

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP enEspañol, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity of AARP that is working to win back opportunity for struggling Americans 50+ by being a force for change on the most serious issues they face today: housing, hunger, income and isolation. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

LiveOn NY's mission is to champion the rights of older adults to make New York City a better place to live. Founded in 1979, LiveOn NY is recognized as the lead NYC organization that connects resources, builds supports and fosters innovation so that older New Yorkers can age with confidence, grace and vitality. We have a membership base of over 100 organizations that provide more than 600 community based programs, which range from individual community-based centers to large multi-service organizations. Our policy, advocacy and research focus on issues critical to older adults such as affordable housing, elder hunger, economic security and community services. The direct services we provide have an immediate impact on older adults such as bringing needed SNAP benefits and bill paying assistance to those in need. We also support community programs by providing capacity building assistance, educational opportunities and serving as an incubator where aging services can come together to share information and exchange ideas. Through our network and initiatives, we serve the 3 million older adults who call New York home. Learn more at liveon-ny.org.

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