

# The Year of the Senior

## *Older New Yorkers are Community Anchors*

As we age, we build an incredible amount of momentum that powers up the economy, the political system, and communities. Older adults provide invaluable volunteerism, caregiving, and economic input in their neighborhoods. They are keepers of local histories and cultural traditions, and bastions of civic engagement.

## *But there are Challenges to this Momentum*

New York City inadequately invests in its 1.5 million older residents. Incomes fall while the cost of living keeps getting higher—one third of older New Yorkers live at or just above the poverty level. Half of all older New Yorkers are immigrants and more than a third have limited English proficiency. Social isolation is a critical public health issue. Ageism is pervasive and obscures the diversity and growing number of older adults and their community contributions.

## *Actualizing New York City's Potential*

Communities need help to support the strengths of older adults with activities and services that allow them to remain independent, healthy, and connected. Local nonprofits facilitate social engagement, provide accessible transportation, deliver meals, organize visitors for the home-bound, and offer respite to caregivers. Each day, over 55,000 older adults (including thousands of older immigrants) benefit from the safe, culturally competent, and user friendly environment of their senior centers, NORCs, and adult day programs.

## *A Lack of Funding puts Communities at Risk*

Local nonprofits struggle to meet demand due to inadequate funding, difficulty retaining quality staff, and an outdated infrastructure. DFTA's budget has experienced stagnation and dramatic cuts at a time of rapid growth of older adults. **DFTA's budget is less than ½ of 1% of the city's budget despite older adults comprising more than 18% of the city's population.** The human impact of underfunding is severe - growing waiting lists, senior centers in disrepair, and no community-based safety net for older New Yorkers.

## *The Solution: Strengthen the Safety Net for Older New Yorkers*

Now more than ever, as sweeping federal cuts threaten existing safety net programs, the City must commit to fully funding services for older adults with an investment of \$132.8 million over the next five years.

**We propose that in FY18—the Year of the Senior—the administration allocate \$60.6 million to baseline discretionary funding for core services and fill the gaps in current services. We also stand with the human service sector ask for a 12 percent increase to all human services contracts to address existing under-funded OTPS costs, raise salaries, and support reasonable fringe benefits.** The four following years focus on building the infrastructure for services and responding to changes in needs based on shifting demographics, with an additional \$24.3 million in FY19, \$20.3 million in FY20, and \$13.9 million in FY21 and FY22.



## Year 1: Fund a Safety Net for Older Adults (Total = \$60,608,000)

### FY18 - Baseline discretionary funding for core services: \$15,738,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
DFTA Core Services Enhancement	Supports DFTA's homecare, senior center, and meals programs.	\$660,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Provides on-site services to areas with high numbers of older adult residents.	\$3,850,000
Social Adult Day Care	Provides non-medical adult day care services to individuals with cognitive or physical limitations.	\$950,000
Senior Centers, Programs, and Enhancements	Supports senior centers in order to adequately cover program costs.	\$3,578,000
6 <sup>th</sup> Congregate Weekend Meal	Provides an extra weekend meal to older adults. \$600k for home delivered + \$600k for congregate.	\$1,200,000
Homecare	Provides homecare services to older adults who are not eligible for Medicaid.	\$4,300,000
Case Management Waitlist	Restore funding to address current waitlist for case management.	\$1,200,000

### FY18 - Adequately support current place-based programs: \$44,870,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	A system wide upgrade, making all senior centers Innovative Senior Centers. This could include hiring social workers and program coordinators, creating culturally competent programs in immigrant communities, adding meals, extending hours, increasing per-meal reimbursement rates, etc.	\$15,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Support currently unfunded mandate for nursing hours.	\$1,120,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase per-meal reimbursement by 30% to cover years of inflationary increases. (Year 1: from \$8.50 to \$9.50/meal.)	\$3,900,000
Social Adult Day Services	Restore prior City Council funding.	\$2,500,000
Transportation	Restore prior City Council funding and expand access to services.	\$2,000,000
Homecare	Address current waitlist for homecare services.	\$9,000,000
Case Management	Expand services to meet rising demand and prevent waitlists.	\$5,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Expand support and respite programs for growing number of caregivers.	\$4,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

## Years 2-5: Build an Infrastructure for senior services

### FY19 - \$24,250,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$10,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Plan for and develop neighborhood NORCs.	\$1,000,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase per-meal reimbursement. (Year 2: \$9.50 to \$10.50/meal.)	\$3,900,000
Social Adult Day Services	Plan for expanding service across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

### FY20 - \$20,250,000

Program	Services Provided	Request
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$6,000,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Continue to develop and expand NORC services.	\$1,000,000
Home-Delivered Meals	Increase per-meal reimbursement. (Year 3: \$10.50 – \$11.50/meal.)	\$3,900,000
Social Adult Day Services	Expand programs across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

**FY21 - \$13,850,000**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>Request</b>
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$3,500,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Continue to develop and expand NORC services.	\$1,000,000
Social Adult Day Services	Expand programs across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One counselor per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

**FY22 - \$13,850,000**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Services Provided</b>	<b>Request</b>
Senior Centers	Continue system wide upgrade of senior centers.	\$3,500,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities	Continue to develop and expand NORC services.	\$1,000,000
Social Adult Day Services	Expand programs across the city.	\$1,000,000
Transportation	Continue building infrastructure to meet increasing needs and rising fuel and maintenance costs.	\$1,000,000
Homecare	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$3,000,000
Case Management	Expand services in proportion with expected growth in need to prevent waitlists.	\$1,000,000
Caregiver Programs	Build a network of caregiver programs.	\$1,000,000
Service Coordinators in Affordable Housing	This would include 202 buildings as well as affordable housing that exists and is in development.	\$2,000,000
Elder Abuse	Provide mental health counseling for abuse victims. One social worker per existing elder abuse contract.	\$350,000

## Summary of Investment Plan for Older New Yorkers

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Yearly Investment		\$ 60,608,000	\$ 24,250,000	\$ 20,250,000	\$ 13,850,000	\$ 13,850,000
Total DFTA Budget	\$330,888,838	\$391,496,838	\$415,746,838	\$435,996,838	\$449,846,838	\$463,696,838

