Important Coronavirus Updates: Senior Center Meals and Other Info
March 21, 2020

LiveOn NY Members and Partners,
We are sharing important updates from DFTA, MOCS, Governor Cuomo and info re: volunteers.

DFTA Updates
Click here to read today’s email from DFTA Associate Commissioner Cruz re: important updates on DFTA’s transition from senior center Grab and Go meals to delivery to congregate clients. Please read the memo carefully as it contains important information. Of note:

- The email states “Please note that in New York City, senior services are considered essential and that currently there are no restrictions for older adult center staff to travel to and from work since they would be providing critical meals and services to clients.”
- DFTA is phasing in a direct meal delivery system that will gradually replace the current Grab and Go model at centers. The first phase will begin March 25. DFTA requested that centers should continue Grab and Go as the new system is incorporated. More info will follow on the phase in.
- DFTA Home-Delivered Meals program will continue operations as usual.
- Centers should inform clients of the upcoming changes.
- Programs should provide a point of contact to DFTA.
- Please read the memo in its entirety for important details.

MOCS Updates
Read this additional guidance re: streamline processes during this time.

Governor Cuomo Updates
Governor Cuomo has instituted an Executive Order mandating that 100% of the workforce stay home, except Essential Services, as well as additional changes.

Volunteer Engagement Information – New York Cares
As organizational needs continue to shift and evolve, LiveOn NY wanted to connect our members with emergency volunteers that are available to assist in meeting the need. New York Cares is the designated emergency volunteer provider for the City and has contacted us to be of assistance. Any organization that’s looking for volunteers right now can email Julia and Holly and they’ll take it from there.

- Julia Loehle, Officer who handles senior programming:
  Julia.Loehle@newyorkcares.org
- Holly Penzone, Manager of community partner intake:
  Holly.Penzone@newyorkcares.org

To move quickly, it’s always helpful if potential partners have thought through the volunteer service they need to some degree before the conversation. Questions to think about are below; the New York Cares team can also discuss these ideas in more detail on a call.

- What are the dates and times that you need volunteers?
- Projects generally run for 2 hours.
- What are the actions you would like volunteers to do?
- Socialization, conversation, language practice, physical activity (yoga, dancing), and games are all some common activities.
- How many clients would you like volunteers to interact with?
- What space do you have available to support volunteer activities?
- Would bilingual volunteers be helpful/necessary?

New York Cares has new requirements that community partners must meet to have on-the-ground programming at this time. These are linked, here. If a partner is uncertain whether they can meet these requirements, you should still reach out! Additionally, New York Cares is working on virtual volunteering or phone banking. If a partner is interested in that, you can still reach out, though it might take a bit longer to execute these types of projects.

More to come,
The LiveOn NY Team

Thank you all for your tireless work

Queens Community House
West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
Greenwich House
Peter Cardinali Senior Center

More Information
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