First and foremost, our hearts are with the family & friends of the more than 5,400 New Yorkers statewide who have lost their lives to COVID-19. We know that in many cases senior service providers have lost participants, tenants, and friends to this disease, our hearts are with you all during this time of grief as well. Yet despite this grief and the inherent challenges of today, providers like yourself remain on the front lines to serve and keep safe as many older New Yorkers as possible. We stand in awe of your indefatigable spirit during this difficult time. We are committed to telling your story & advocating for the resources and supports you deserve. We thank YOU.

As a small token of what we can do to support your herculean efforts during this time, below is a listing of key resources and updates newly available:

Key Budgetary Updates
- The City Council has released its Preliminary Budget Response letter, here. Given expected budgetary challenges, the Council explicitly recommended the support of senior services, particularly senior meal programs, as well as human services contracts, tenant vouchers, and emergency food programs, among others.
- The State has issued budget guidance for non-profits during COVID-19. This has been long advocated for by human services organizations, including LiveOn.
- The State Budget passed, NYSOFA programs are largely flat, while, notably, the Medicaid budget was significantly slashed. More specifics are forthcoming.

Nutrition Resources Updates
- All New Yorkers can now pick up three meals daily at New York City Department of Education meal hubs. Learn more and find a Meal Hub location.
- Senior centers are closed and meals are being provided through a centralized meal delivery system. The City is directing seniors to: “Call your local senior center with questions about how to receive delivered meals. You can also call Aging Connect at 212-Aging-NYC (212-244-6469) or 311.” DFTA has also released this new FAQ regarding the new system.
- LiveOn NY continues to strongly encourage the City to increase transparency on these new processes and to release meal data to providers looking to ensure their clients are accounted for in this new system.
- NYC is also rolling out, and expanding, its NYC Food Delivery Assistance Portal for qualifying households to receive meal delivery, at this time requests can be submitted every 48 hours. Learn more.
- SNAP continues to be an important resource helping New Yorkers afford food. If you or your clients need assistance applying for SNAP or other benefits, please email: benefits@liveon-ny.org

Other Key Resources
- HELP NYC catalogue of resources for individuals and organizations
- Common Scams that have emerged and how to protect yourself
- Statewide mental health hotline: 1-844-863-9314

For more resources we encourage you to continue to check out our COVID-19 Webpage, here, as well as our full Resource Listing, here, full of tips generated from our new Working Groups for senior services professionals. Interested in joining our Friday working groups? Email Stephanie at sruiz@liveon-ny.org.

You’re not alone in this, here are a few examples of your work in the news to date:
- Delivering Food To Seniors Is Only Half The Battle, The Need For Help Is Overwhelming
- I’m Really Isolated Now’ When Elders Have to Fight Coronavirus Alone
- Senior Services Rush to Shield Older New Yorkers From Coronavirus
- They survived the HIV crisis. Now New York’s aging gay population is confronting another pandemic.

On this note, we are increasing our efforts to tell your stories in the media, if you have pressworthy stories, are open to speaking to the needs of our system or have clients that are willing to do so, please email Katelyn at kandrews@liveon-ny.org.

Thank you again for all you do. And, to all who are celebrating during this time, Chag Sameach and Happy Easter!

More to come,
The LiveOn NY Team

More Information
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