FY22 ACTION FOR AGING

Over 1.8 million older adults live in New York City, contributing to our economy, political system and communities. With a growing and diverse aging population, older adults over the age of 60 are expected to make up nearly 20% of the City’s population by 2040. Despite the increasing need for aging services, the Department for the Aging (DFTA) budget remains at less than ½ of 1% of the overall City budget. In light of this, and in response to COVID-19, it’s time the City changed this. It’s time for #Action4Aging.

$16.6 million for Home-delivered Meals
- Provide $13.6 million for weekday meals and $3 million for weekend and holiday meals to increase capacity to meet new demand and bring the per-meal rate to the national average.

$48 Million in Cost of Living Adjustments
- Provide a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for human services workers

Support Essential Services
- Use FY21 accruals to cover costs associated with reopening in person senior services. This $30 million underspend should go towards HVACs repairs, safety precautions, and Senior Center upgrades.
- Restore and Baseline all Executive One-Time Funds, including funds for NYCHA Senior Centers.
- $1.7 Million to Enhance NORC Staff Salaries to ensure parity with other DFTA contracts.

Improved Technology and Service Access for Older Adults
- $4.4 Million to Address the Digital Divide by investing in technology at Senior Centers and directly supporting individual access to technology.
- $5.89 Million to Improve Service Access by creating marketing budgets for Senior Centers and improving the DFTA website.

New York City is entering a critical phase of the recovery, and the senior services network is focused on vaccine outreach, continuing emergency food distribution, and engaging a senior population as they prepare to return to in-person activities. A major RFP and overhaul of a network of key services will jeopardize these efforts.

The city must:
- First and foremost, extend the RFP submission date
- Provide a model budget for both Older Adult Centers, Network OACs, and NORCs
- Provide greater clarity on the NORC portion of the RFP
- Include COLAs, cost escalators, greater indirect funding, and a mechanism to ensure that providers can receive more funds should they serve more people
- Release the community assessments and information gathered to inform the RFP
Progress Made in the Executive Budget Proposal

Fully Fund the Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Initiative. The Administration has allocated funding for FY21 and FY22, and out-years, to fully fund the ICR initiative for providers who have accepted rates.

Final $10 Million of Model Senior Center Budget Initiative. Through stimulus funding, this investment, which will support the Senior Center workforce, is now included in the budget.

Community Care Investments. The Administration allocated $39.4 million towards its new Community Care plan in FY22, growing beyond this in FY23 and the out-years. This will support an expansion of senior services.

Examples of these key programs are listed below:

$5,100,000 for Support Our Seniors
Support senior services through the Support Our Seniors Initiative.

$1,500,000 for Immigrant Senior Centers
Provide culturally competent programs and services to diverse older New Yorkers.

$5,400,325 for NORCs
Support NORCs throughout the City, including funding for on-site nursing services.

$3,315,000 for SU-CASA
Support community arts initiative serving older adults.

$2,040,000 for Healthy Aging Initiative
Support health promotion programming for older adults.

$2,860,000 for Geriatric Mental Health Initiative
Expand mental health services for older adults by restoring $1.619 million and adding $950,000 to bring services to at least ten new sites.

Questions?
Katelyn Andrews, LiveOn NY, kandrews@liveon-ny.org
Tara Klein, United Neighborhood Houses, tklein@unhny.org
Ariel Savransky, UJA Federation of NY, savranskya@ujafedny.org
Elana Kieffer, New York Academy of Medicine, ekieffer@nyam.org

Kevin Jones, AARP New York, kjones@aarp.org
Jessica Cinque, FPWA, jcinque@fpwa.org
Rachel Sherrrow, Citymeals on Wheels, rachel@citymeals.org