FACT SHEET

Community Services for the Elderly

Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) is a flexible funding stream that enables local Area Agencies on Aging to address areas of greatest need within their communities. Services include home delivered meals, social model adult day services, in-home personal care services and transportation. The Community Services for the Elderly Act was enacted in 1979 in part to reduce the reliance on institutions as a way to care for older adults.

History of the CSE Program

The Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program is guided by the tenants of NYS Elder Law and was designed to:

1) Improve the ability of communities to assist elderly people who need help in order to remain in their homes and participate in family and community life.

2) Improve cooperation and coordination among providers of community services that can help frail elderly people at-risk of premature institutionalization in nursing homes.

3) Eliminate the confusion and frustration often experienced by older adults, their friends, relatives, and individuals acting on their behalf when seeking services designed to meet the essential, and often chronic-care, needs of the elderly.

4) Reduce reliance on institutions, such as nursing homes, as a way to care for the older adult, prevent restrictions on the freedom of needy older persons and reduce the unnecessary public expense of caring for the needs of frail, at-risk older New Yorkers.

Funding 2018-19 was $31.183 million

Thousands of older New Yorkers are in need of community based services offered through local area agencies on aging and their local partners. CSE funds are used for a wide array of programs and services that help older New Yorkers maintain their autonomy and independence, as well as caregivers who support a loved one, including: assistance with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, shopping, preparing meals, bill paying, case management, home delivered meals, transportation, adult day services, and personal emergency response systems, among others. The unmet needs of older New Yorkers continue to grow as a result of the demand generated by both an increasing aging population and expanded awareness of community based programs that allow older New Yorkers to remain in their homes and provide respite to their caregivers.

Demographics of Those Served per State Fiscal Year

- Age 75 or Older: 61%
- Reported as Frail/Disabled: 53%
- Lived Alone: 52%
- Below 150% Poverty: 37%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70%