

# Advocacy Alert

## Let's Make Some Noise!



March 4, 2016

### Let's Make Some Noise!

We have a short window of opportunity to act, the state budget will be completed by March 31st.

Galvanize your followers, network and consumers to call their representative in Albany to VOTE YES for seniors!

### The message to our Legislators: Invest in Aging Services!

We ask you to urge your Senators and Assemblymembers to invest in aging services!

The Association on Aging in NY, along with partners LiveOn NY and Lifespan have formulated a plan for a \$177 million investment in aging services to help modernize New York's aging services network. The plan seeks to ensure an increasing number of older New Yorkers receive the services they need to remain independent.

Read the Plan [view](#)

### Action Requested:

#### Call:

Pick up the phone today! Dial the AARP Senate Hotline: 1-844-254-6884

#### Post/Tweet:

Take to social media with messages to the Legislature in Albany. Add posts to your personal and organizations Facebook and twitter accounts.

#### Write:

Have seniors, agency staff, and other community leaders send letters to your state Assemblymembers and Senators. You can mail them in bulk to your legislator's Albany office. [Sample letters here](#)

#### Share:

Ask other advocates, volunteers, advisory boards, and consumers to do the same!

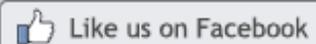
### Talking Points to Share

How can we meet the demands of a growing senior population

### CONTACT

NYS Assembly  
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NYS Senate  
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when our state and federal budget is less than what local government contributes? Yes you heard me right! Local governments and local partners put more money into programs for older adults than NY State or the Federal government.

There are over 9,700 people across NY on waiting lists for OFA services.

As caregivers get burned out, they start talking to Mom or Dad about assisted living and nursing homes. Once in a nursing home or assisted living facility, Mom or Dad must spend all of their life savings before Medicaid will start paying the costs. In most cases this only takes a few months!

Why isn't NY State and the federal government spending a lot more on senior programs when numerous studies have shown that investment in these programs decreases overall healthcare spending and keep people off of Medicaid which is bankrupting our country and our state?

States that invest in home and community based services like those provided by Office for Aging spend less on overall healthcare costs. (NY is not one of them.)

A 2012 study by Brown University confirmed that investment in Aging programs like home delivered meals prevents people from going into nursing homes.

In 2014 AARP and the SCAN foundation released a report about how states are doing with their investment in home and community based services and NY is still lagging behind. Why is this?

Since 2006, the federal government has been giving incentives to States to invest more in home and community based services. For every \$1.00 spent on Aging Programs, the federal government will provide \$0.50 in matching funds to the state. This was originally called FMAP. Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) is used to determine the matching funds allocated annually to certain medical and social service programs in the United States. Is NY State getting this money??? If so, where is it going? Why are we not using the matching funds for aging services?

Based on the Governor's 2016-17 Budget request for \$105 million dollars in a select aging programs (EISEP, CSE and WIN), the state can draw down over \$52 million in additional matching federal funds! This money needs to be reinvested in Aging services to ensure that NY seniors get the help they need to stay in their homes through the end of life. It's the right thing to do for our seniors!

Please reach out to the Governor's Office and ask where is the federal match for Aging programs? If NY is getting this, why isn't it reinvesting the federal match in programs that specifically help seniors?

**THANK YOU**

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