

Legislative Bulletin

Advocacy Alert - for Immediate Action!!



March 2015

Members Only

Dear Friends:

While we celebrate the positive, we also look to the horizon and see unmet demand for aging services. The Governor's budget has taken a positive step toward addressing the unmet demand for services. To continue to address the demand for non-Medicaid aging services, we need your help. Contact your legislator and share with him/her the following:

What's our ask?

- **\$21 million in additional funds for the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE)** program to fund the continued unmet need for aging services. There are thousands of older New Yorkers currently on waiting lists for services statewide. This includes home-delivered meals, case management, home care and transportation for medical appointments.
- Background: the Senate one-house budget bill added \$2.5 million to CSE, and the Assembly didn't add funds. More funding is needed!
- For more details, see our SFY 2015-16 Budget statement [view](#)

Who should you contact? When?

When: Now and all this week

Who:

1) Call and/or fax a letter to all of the Senators and Assembly members representing your AAA service area.

2) Special focus on: the Leadership of the General Budget Conference Committee and the Health Sub-Committee. AAAs with Senators/Assembly Members on these committees will be instrumental in carrying the message. For a spreadsheet with the Committee members, [click here](#) to access the Legislative Updates page

Talking Points on why AAAs need more

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CSE funding

1) More than 7,600 frail and at-risk older New Yorkers are on waiting lists for long term services and supports due to limited funding for area agencies on aging.

2) Unmet demand will grow as more people access NY Connects as the state's No Wrong Door (NWD) for information on long term services and supports.

3) Talk about how your AAA utilized the additional \$5 million added to the 2014-15 State Budget, and why your AAA needs more funding. For examples of CSE, see the document posted to the Legislative Update page, featuring samples from the Board of Directors and Legislative Committee [view](#)

4) Demographics drives increased demand. Discuss the senior population increase in your county. Statewide: between 2000 and 2010 the senior population rose on average 15%. Many counties reported increases above 20%. And the senior population in New York will increase 25% over the next 25 years, with the largest group of New Yorkers receiving personal care services - the 85+ population - increasing 35% over the next 25 years.

Support the Governor's Budget

While the focus of our advocacy is additional CSE funding, if you have time during your call to Legislators, please state your support for items in the Governor's Budget, as follows:

- *\$5 million for CSE:* Governor Cuomo acknowledged the value of the offices for aging in his new Executive Budget by including last year's \$5 million Legislative add to the Community Services for the Elderly program. We appreciate the Governor's recognition of the value of aging services.
- *COLA for EISEP, CSE, WIN:* The Governor provided \$7.4 million for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for several aging programs, a move that will have a direct impact on an aging services network threatened by erosion due to flat funding over a number of years.
- *NWD Sustainability:* In the Department of Health Budget, the Governor allocated \$8.2 million in Medicaid funding for sustainability of NY Connects, the No Wrong Door component of BIP. And the Executive Budget identified \$18.1 million to sustain NY Connects in State Fiscal year 2016-17. A strong commitment to this initiative.



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