



New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging

272 Broadway
 Albany, NY 12204-2717
 Ph. 518-449-7080
 Fax 518-449-7055
 office@nysaaaa.org
 www.nysaaaa.org

▪ 2007-08 State Budget Platform ▪

The New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NYSAAAA) has identified several important areas for increased funding and recognition in the 2007-08 State Budget. Programs offered by the 59 Area Agencies on Aging strengthen community supports, enhance the quality of life in our communities and help maintain older adults in their homes. The programs offered by our members play a critical role in helping people avoid dependency on Medicaid and other more costly programs. In an era of cost containment, our programs help control health care expenditures, maximize the involvement of family and other informal supports (who provide 80% of all long-term care) while meeting the needs of seniors. Caregivers help avoid over \$11.8 billion in health care spending in New York annually.

	Exec Budget	
	SFY 2006-07:	2006-07: <u>We Support:</u>
Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)	\$49,972,000	same as 06-07 10% local match

Created in 1987, EISEP provides coordinated case management and home care services to maintain frail older adults in their homes, deflecting costs from Medicaid. Services include: case management; in-home services and housekeeping/chore services; non-institutional respite such as social adult day care, companion and in-home services; and ancillary services including, repair, maintenance and modification of a senior’s living environment as well as personal emergency response systems.

Expanding options for long term care in the least restrictive, most integrated setting possible is at the core of the EISEP program. As New York moves toward a patient-centered philosophy of providing health care services, more seniors will seek consumer-centered EISEP services, increasing the demand for this flagship program.

We encourage the Senate and Assembly to include language in the SFY 2007-08 budget for an extension of the 10% local match for the EISEP funds added in SFY 2005-06 (\$10 million) and SFY 2006-07 (\$15 million).

	Exec Budget	
	SFY 2006-07:	2006-07: <u>We Support:</u>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$18, 209,000	+\$1 million Exec Budget increase

SNAP was created in 1984 and provides nutritious meals and related services to the frail seniors at high nutritional risk, enabling them to remain in their own homes. Additional funds are needed to keep pace with inflation, repair and replace food preparation equipment and vehicles utilized to transport meals, and address the increased meal costs due to rising gasoline and milk prices. This program can have an immediate and dramatic impact on the lives of seniors.

We support the \$1 million increase for SNAP, as proposed in the Executive Budget in statewide SNAP funding for SFY 2007-08.

	Exec Budget	<u>We support:</u>
	2007-08:	Exec. Budget Amt &
COLA for EISEP, CSE and SNAP	SFY 2006-07: \$2,311,000	2007-08: \$10,782,000
		10% local match

We support the Executive Budget's proposal for \$10,782,000 for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for designated human services programs. The COLA is expected to improve recruitment and retention of workers employed by voluntary providers as well as provide for inflationary cost increases. The 2007-08 Executive Budget proposes an increase of \$8,471,000 over the amount appropriated in 2006-07 (\$2,311,000).

We support the increased funds included in the Executive Budget for the COLA. We also encourage the Senate and Assembly to include language in the SFY 2007-08 Budget to provide for a 10% local match (instead of 25%) to ensure that all state funds can be utilized at the local level.

	Exec Budget	<u>We Support:</u>
	2007-08:	Additional Funding of
Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program	SFY 2006-07: \$16,621,000	same as 06-07
		+ \$2 million

Established in 1979, CSE provides cost-effective, non-medical community-based services to frail, low-income elderly to allow them to maintain their independence at home. The program's flexibility makes it an effective vehicle to adapt to meet the needs of the growing senior population. CSE listens to communities about their needs. The resulting services include: community-based long-term care services (adult day services, case management, homemaking/personal care, housekeeping/chore, home delivered meals); congregate-related services (congregate meals, escort services, transportation, senior center recreation and education); and other ancillary programs (legal assistance, personal emergency response services).

We support an additional \$2 million in funding for CSE for SFY 2007-08. During an era of increased demand for services to meet the complex needs of an aging population, bolstering the CSE program is essential.

	Exec Budget	<u>We Support:</u>
	2007-08:	Add'l Funding
AAA Transportation Operating Expenses	SFY 2006-07: 1,000,000	same as 06-07
		\$1 million

The Budget continues funding for AAA Transportation Operating Expenses Program. The availability of transportation can make the difference in an elderly person receiving a meal or a caregiver ensuring that their loved one is able to attend an appointment with a doctor. Dramatic increases in operational costs (fuel, insurance and driver compensation) have impaired the ability of local transportation programs to continue to assist seniors. The Transportation have been very helpful to AAAs in addressing increased costs. In SFY 2005-06 area agencies statewide reported providing 2,488,466 units of transportation service from all funding sources.

We support the Executive Budget's funding of \$1 million for Transportation Operating expenses, and we recommend an additional \$1 million.

	Exec Budget	<u>We Support:</u>
	2007-08:	Current Funding
Economically Sustainable Transportation Demonstration Programs	SFY 2006-07: \$250,000	same as 06-07
		\$250,000

We support the Executive Budget's proposal for \$250,000 in funding for economically sustainable transportation demonstration programs.

	Exec Budget	<u>We Support:</u>
	SFY 2006-07:	2007-08:
Family Caregiver Council	\$1,000,000	same as 06-07
		Additional Funding of
		+ \$1 million

The 2007-08 Executive Budget provides \$200,000 in new funding to establish a Family Caregiving Council to gather information on family caregiving, evaluate the impact of current programs and policies on family caregiving, and develop recommendations to address unmet need. Sustaining the cost-effective, individualized support system of informal caregivers is a primary focus of the Aging Network.

The Association supports the formation of the Family Caregiver Council.

	Exec Budget	<u>We Support:</u>
	SFY 2006-07:	2007-08:
Geriatric Mental Health	\$2,000,000	same as 06-07
		Additional Funding of
		+\$3,000,000

We join the Geriatric Mental Health Alliance in asking the Legislature to include \$3 million more for expanded geriatric mental health services and for training and workforce development.

Geriatric mental health services could include: community support services to avert placement in nursing homes and adult homes; family support designed to delay placement into nursing homes or adult homes; treatment services in community settings, community-based coordinating coalitions of mental health; health and aging providers; public education to breakdown stigma and ignorance about mental illness and effective treatment; legal advocacy to assist older adults get benefits and services they need to remain in the community.

Workforce development and training initiatives could include: training for community-based mental health; health and aging services personnel on how to meet the mental health needs of older adults; mental health training for nursing homes and other skilled care facilities; and translation of research in practice.

New Office of Long Term Care at DOH

We commend the establishment of a new Office of Long Term Care Services and Programs that will assume responsibility for long term care programs currently overseen by several bureaus and offices throughout DOH. We additionally support the Governor's efforts to advance new initiatives to shift spending away from expensive institutional care toward community and home-based alternatives for seniors and disabled New Yorkers. Shifting individuals to home-based alternatives will result in a higher demand for community-based services, including EISEP, which must be able to support the increased demand.

Elderly Pharmaceutical Coverage Program (EPIC)

The EPIC program has made New York a national leader in helping older adults afford prescription drugs. EPIC currently provides affordable coverage to approximately 362,000 seniors. Since 1987, EPIC has helped 625,000 seniors save over \$2.3 billion. Over the years, EPIC has served seniors well, and we encourage the Governor and Legislature to maintain an affordable, effective EPIC program to assist seniors needing pharmaceutical assistance.