



**New York State Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging**

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**February 23, 2010  
2010-11 Joint Budget Hearing  
Senate Finance Committee and Assembly Ways & Means Committee  
Human Services Sub-Committee**

*Testimony of*  
**Crystal Carter, Director, Clinton County Office for the Aging & President, NYSAAAA  
Laura A. Cameron, Executive Director  
New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

Good morning Senator Kruger, Assemblyman Farrell, and members of the Committee. My name is Laura Cameron and I am Executive Director of the New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging. I am joined by Crystal Carter who is President of our Association. We extend our appreciation to Senator Ruben Diaz, Chair of the Senate Aging Committee, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chair of the Assembly Aging Committee, and NYSOFA Director Michael Burgess for their leadership and support of programs and services to assist older New Yorkers.

Our Association represents the 59 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), also known as Offices for the Aging, throughout New York State. Area Agencies on Aging design, fund, and coordinate programs that maintain seniors in their homes, postponing the need for more medically intensive and costly health care services. The local planning process ensures that limited government dollars are utilized effectively and efficiently to deliver the appropriate level of services to seniors. The safety net that AAAs have been able to provide throughout the years is being challenged by the needs of a growing aging population that increasingly requires more intensive services.

While a great number of our older adults live independently, there are a growing number of older adults who have limitations, chronic illnesses and disabilities, particularly as life expectancies increase. Those age 85 and above, who are more likely to need Office for the Aging care and support services have already increased by 28% from 2000 to 2008; and are anticipated to grow by 41% by the year 2015 and 80% by 2030. Many require supportive services that help them remain safely at home which can avoid or delay more costly nursing home placement.

Governor Paterson's proposed budget recognizes the valuable role of non-medical community based senior services and caregiver supports play in the effort to rebalance and reshape New York's long-term care system. While the Executive Budget preserves funding for critical core programs, it does propose some reductions in funding for the three core programs coordinated by Area Agencies on Aging. In light of the fiscal climate, we are thankful that the reductions were kept to a minimum. However, the overall impact of cuts made over the last few years has resulted in reduced services for seniors and longer waiting lists at the local level.

Our Association believes the State Budget should focus resources on community-based critical care direct services to keep seniors at home and reduce Medicaid costs and nursing home placements. The core programs of EISEP, CSE, SNAP and caregiver support services keep seniors in the community, reduce Medicaid costs, and prevent nursing home placement. We ask the Legislature to reaffirm the value of support services provided through AAAs around the state, as follows:

### ***Restore EISEP to \$48,035,000 (+\$2 million)***

EISEP (Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program) provides case management and home care services that enable the most vulnerable non-Medicaid seniors to remain safely at home.

Reductions in EISEP funding have resulted in waiting lists throughout the state. Without these cost-efficient services, many seniors will spend down to Medicaid, costing the state far more. By delaying institutional care and reducing Medicaid spending, EISEP saves taxpayers money and improves seniors' quality of life.

We extend our appreciation to the New York State Office for the Aging for working with our AAAs to provide increased flexibility in EISEP regulations to expend funds in a manner that acknowledges the varying needs of seniors in their community. The proposed revisions expands the definition of ancillary services and increases the maximum housing adjustment. NYSOFA is also working to draft regulations to allow consumer direction in the EISEP program.

### ***Restore SNAP to \$23,380,000 (+\$2 million)***

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutritious meals and related services to frail, homebound seniors at high nutritional risk, enabling them to remain in the community. Increasing SNAP will have an immediate positive impact on seniors. Economic conditions have caused an increased demand for meals resulting in waiting lists for home delivered meals for seniors.

### ***Restore CSE to \$16,312,000 (+\$1 million)***

The Community Services for the Elderly program (CSE) provides non-medical community-based services to frail, low-income seniors helping them to remain at home. Services include personal care, home delivered meals, congregate meals, and adult day services. The program offers flexible service options to meet the unique needs of senior citizens.

***Increase HIICAP to \$3 Million (+ \$2,079,000)***

The Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP) provides information to seniors on Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, EPIC, and other health insurance options and issues, and also assists Medicare beneficiaries to access needed health care and to apply for programs such as the Medicare Savings Programs.

Seniors using HIICAP are linked to the wide array of services provided by AAAs, potentially accessing additional services. Volunteers have historically been utilized as HIICAP counselors, but volunteers are resigning due to the time commitment and complexity of the health insurance programs. The Executive Budget includes a \$921,000 allocation for 59 Area Agencies on Aging, which isn't sufficient to maintain HIICAP statewide. We recommend that HIICAP be funded at \$3 million.

***Restore CSI to \$806,000 (+\$806,000) (eliminated in Executive Budget)***

The Congregate Services Initiative (CSI) provides services in congregate settings. Allowable CSI services are: information and referral, transportation, nutrition-related services, socialization/companionship, educational and cultural opportunities, counseling, support services for families/caregivers, volunteer opportunities, employment services information, and health promotion and disease prevention services.

# The Human Face of Funding Reductions:

**\$5 million in cuts to EISEP, SNAP and CSE**

**Impact = 12,372 fewer seniors served**

		SFY 2009-10		Executive Budget SFY 2010-11			
	Seniors served annually	State funding		Proposed Funding	Reduction in funding	Projected seniors served (with reduced funds)	Difference
<b>EISEP</b>	49,927	\$48,035,000		\$46,035,000	-\$2,000,000 (-4.2%)	47,830	-2,097
<b>SNAP</b>	63,793	\$23,380,000		\$21,380,000	-\$2,000,000 (-8.5%)	58,371	-5,422
<b>CSE</b>	79,556	\$16,312,000		\$15,312,000	-\$1,000,000 (-6.1%)	74,703	-4,853
						<b>Impact =</b>	<b>- 12,372</b>
							<b>Fewer seniors served</b>

## Support Funding Levels in Executive Budget

### **COLA Funds for CSE, EISEP and SNAP (\$14,707,000 in Executive Budget)**

The Association supports continuing and making permanent the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for:

- Community Services for Elderly (CSE) program
- Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The COLA has enabled Area Agencies on Aging to recruit and retain workers necessary to provide services to seniors. As energy and transportation costs increase, COLA funds help the AAAs maintain services.

## ***NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care Services***

The Association supports the NY Connects Program led by the New York State Office for the Aging. Established in 2006 and operational in 54 counties, NY Connects provides comprehensive and easily accessible information and assistance for consumers of all ages seeking long term care services. NY Connects helps consumers remain in community-based settings and avoid over utilization of institutional care. The Executive Budget continues funding at the same level as SFY 2009-10.

### **Closing**

In closing, investing state funds to maintain and expand AAA services is a cost-effective alternative to more medically intensive and costly health care services. A few dollars spent now can significantly delay, and in some cases prevent, admissions to nursing homes and subsequent Medicaid eligibility. Seniors and their families want to use their resources wisely and keep their loved ones at home for as long as possible. **These services are critical to older New Yorkers in order to remain safely and with dignity in their own homes.**

# NYS Association of Area Agencies on Aging ▪ [www.nysaaaa.org](http://www.nysaaaa.org)

**NYS Office for the Aging: State Fiscal Year 2010-11: Executive Budget vs. Previous Years ▪ Updated 1-20-2010**

<b>NYSOFA Budget</b> (within the Health & Mental Hygiene Budget Bill) <b>Programs/Services/Grants</b> (in order of funding in enacted Budget 2009-10)	<b>2007-08</b> Enacted Budget	<b>2008-09</b> Budget (3-31-2008)	<b>2008-09</b> August 2008 Special Session	<b>2008-09</b> Final Funds Available (incl. mid-year Adjustments)	<b>2009-10</b> Executive Budget (12-16-08)	<b>2009-10</b> Enacted Budget	<b>2010-11</b> Executive Budget (1-19-10) <b>vs. Enacted 2009-10</b>
<b>1- EISEP</b>	\$49,972,000	\$48,973,000	\$46,486,742	\$46,486,742	\$46,035,000	\$48,035,000	\$46,035,000 <b>(-\$2,000,000)</b>
<b>2- SNAP</b> (Supplemental Nutrition Assist.Prog.)	\$19,209,000	\$22,745,000	\$21,592,210	\$21,592,210	\$21,380,000	\$23,380,000	\$21,380,000 <b>(-\$2,000,000)</b>
<b>3- CSE</b> (Community Svcs for the Elderly)	\$16,621,000	\$16,289,000	\$15,485,498	\$15,485,498	\$15,312,000	\$16,312,000	\$15,312,000 <b>(-\$1,000,000)</b>
<b>4- COLA – EISEP, CSE &amp; SNAP</b>	\$10,782,000	\$15,288,000	\$14,370,720	\$14,370,720	\$13,207,000	\$14,707,000	\$14,707,000
<b>5- NORCs</b>	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,156,000	\$2,035,547	\$2,035,547	\$2,027,000	\$2,027,000	\$2,027,000
<b>6- Neighborhood NORCs</b>	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 2,156,000	\$2,026,640	\$2,026,640	\$2,027,000	\$2,027,000	\$2,027,000
<b>7- Mgd Care Consumer Assistance Program</b> (DOH Budget)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,962,000	\$1,844,280	\$1,844,280	\$923,000	\$1,767,000	\$1,767,000
<b>8- Respite</b>	\$ 1,274,000	\$ 1,249,000	\$1,207,120	\$1,207,120	\$1,207,000	\$1,207,000	\$1,207,000
<b>9a- Senior Transportation Oper. Exp.</b>	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 980,000	\$924,031	\$924,031	\$921,000	\$921,000	\$921,000
<b>9b- Senior Transportation Legis Add'n</b>	\$ 1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$940,000	\$752,000			
<b>10- HIICAP</b> (Health Insurance Info. Counseling & Assistance Program)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 980,000	\$921,200	\$921,200	\$921,000	\$921,000	\$921,000
<b>11- Social Model Adult Day Services</b>	\$ 1,447,000	\$ 1,188,000	\$1,116,720	\$1,067,840	\$872,000	\$872,000	\$872,000
<b>12- CSI</b> (Congregate Svcs. Initiative)	\$ 866,000	\$ 849,000	\$805,664	\$805,664	\$725,000	\$806,000	0 <b>(-\$806,000)</b>
<b>13- LTC Ombudsman Program</b>	\$ 746,000	\$ 731,000	\$689,767	\$689,767	\$621,000	\$690,000	\$690,000
<b>14- Elder Abuse Educ &amp; Outreach</b>	\$ 500,000	\$ 490,000	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$490,000
<b>15- RSVP</b> (39 local programs)	\$ 442,000	\$ 433,000	\$433,000	\$433,000	\$433,000	\$433,000	\$433,000
<b>16- Caregiver Resource Centers</b>	\$ 360,000	\$ 353,000	\$353,000	\$353,000	\$353,000	\$353,000	\$353,000
<b>17- Enriched Social Adult Day Services Demonstration</b>		\$ 500,000 Delay to /1/09	\$245,000	\$245,000		\$245,000	\$245,000
<b>18- Community Empowerment</b>		\$ 492,000	\$245,000	\$245,000	\$245,000	\$245,000	\$245,000
<b>19- State match for federal grants</b>	\$ 241,000	\$ 236,000	\$236,000	\$236,000	\$236,000	\$236,000	\$236,000
<b>20- Regn Caregiver Ctrs of Excellence 21 a --Direct Respite for caregivers</b>		\$ 275,000 \$ 200,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
<b>21- Foster Grandparents</b>	\$ 200,000	\$ 196,000	\$196,000	\$196,000	\$196,000	\$196,000	\$196,000
<b>22- Patients' Rights Hotline</b> (Statewide Sr Action)	\$ 64,000	\$ 63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	0 <b>(\$63,000)</b>
<b>LTCIEOP</b> (LTC Insur Educ & Outreach)	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 2,940,000	\$2,771,607	\$2,771,607			
<b>Geriatric In-Home Medical Care pilot</b> + Geriatric Social Workers – add'l \$600,000 + Stony Brook Evaluation – add'l \$150,000	\$ 1,000,000 \$ 600,000 \$ 150,000	\$ 750,000	\$705,000	\$564,000			
<b>Senior Transportation</b> (Econ Sustainable)	\$ 250,000	\$ 245,000	\$245,000	\$245,000			
<b>End of Life Care Initiatives</b>	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$188,000	\$150,000			
<b>Affordable Housing Pilot</b>	\$ 2,030,000						
<b>Family Caregiver Council</b>	\$ 200,000	\$ 125,000					
<b>Model Zoning &amp; Planning</b>	\$ 100,000						
<b>Mature Worker Task Force</b>	\$ 100,000						
<b>NORC Health Indicators</b>	\$ 90,000						
<b>Web-based reporting</b>		\$ 50,000					
<b>Alzheimer's Advisory Coord. Council</b>	\$ 225,000	\$ 50,000					
<b>Study of the Senior Benefits Program</b>	\$ 25,000						
<b>Caregiving in NY Study</b> (United Hosp. Fund)	\$ 10,000						
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$120,104,000</b>	<b>\$124,144,000</b>	<b>\$116,846,746</b>	<b>\$116,430,866</b>	<b>\$108,424,000</b>	<b>\$116,163,000</b>	<b>\$110,294,000</b> <b>-\$5,869,000</b>