



THE COUNCIL *of* THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## **New York City Council Committee on Aging Set to Conduct Oversight Hearing On NYC Aging’s Community Care Plan**

*Committee Will Investigate Status of Community Care Plan Implementation and Review Legislation Aimed at Bolstering Older Adult Services*

**For Immediate Release:** Friday, September 20, 2024

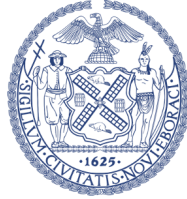
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**New York, NY — On Monday, September 23, at 1pm the New York City Council’s Committee on Aging, chaired by Council Member Crystal Hudson, will conduct an [oversight hearing](#) on the status of NYC Aging’s implementation of the Community Care Plan.** The hearing will take place in the Committee Room at City Hall and will be [live-streamed](#) on the Council’s website.

In April 2021, then-Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) a five-year [Community Care Plan](#) for older adults. The plan seeks to support older New Yorkers so they can age in place in New York. Community Care refers to the programs and services that support older adults in their existing communities to ensure they can continue to live at home, which is less expensive than institutional care (*\$32,000 annually compared to \$154,000 for a nursing home*), better for physical and mental health of older adults, and reduces social isolation given support to remain in connection with existing civic organizations, such as houses of worship or non-profit service providers.

The de Blasio administration said it would allocate \$48 million in the first year of the plan’s implementation to add an additional 25 older adult centers or NORCs in underserved communities and \$10 million for staffing and programming. In the remaining years, NYC Aging called for “strategic investments” to expand case management, homecare services (including home-delivered meals), caregiver services, virtual and in-person programming, and the dissemination of technology to maintain virtual connectivity.

**In the FY22 Executive Budget, NYC Aging [requested \\$179.2 million in new needs](#) to finance the Community Care Plan across FY22-FY25, largely financed using expiring stimulus funds that must be used by the end of calendar year 2024. Yet, NYC Aging has seen [no major funding increases](#) since the plan’s announcement to finance its specific needs.** Actual expenditures for the agency overall in FY22 totaled \$502.6 million, dropping in FY23 to \$494.7 million. As of the FY25 Adopted Plan, total budgeted expenditures agency for the agency in FY24 were \$514.8 million, increasing for FY25 to \$550.2 million, decreasing in the outyears to \$425.9 million in FY26, and approximately \$420 million in FY27 and beyond. In the FY25 Adopted Plan, \$4.8 million in baselined funding was added to increase reimbursement rates for home delivered meals and \$12.2 million in funding was added in FY25 only to replace expiring federal funding for older adult centers and restore funding that had been previously cut,



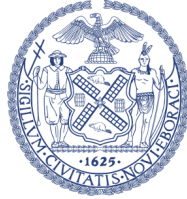
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with no additional funding added to expand services identified under the Community Care Plan. In its FY25 Preliminary Budget Response, the Council [called for \\$78.2 million in additional funding](#) for home care, case management, to increase reimbursement rates for home-delivered meals, to invest in capital improvements at older adult centers, and to restore funding previously cut for older adult centers.

**The lack of expanded funding has translated to stagnant services by the city’s older adult agency. According to the recently released FY24 Mayor’s Management Report, NYC Aging has seen [little growth](#) in key areas covered by the Community Care Plan.** Between FY23 and FY24, the number of older adult center participants increased only five percent while older adult center meal participants jumped nine percent. The number of NORC participants — a key pillar of the plan’s initial rollout — fell 7.5 percent from 19,085 to 17,650. Moreover, the number of home delivered meals, home delivered meals clients, home care clients, and case management clients all dropped year over year.

*“Caring for our older neighbors requires a determined effort. That means making sustained investments in the resources upon which older New Yorkers rely,”* **said Council Member Crystal Hudson, Chair of the Committee on Aging.** *“The de Blasio Administration’s Community Care Plan was a vital step toward meeting the emerging needs of a rapidly aging population, but if we don’t continue to make good on his Community Care Plan, it will be no more than an idea rather than a set of tangible actions we take as a municipal government. It’s my hope that this hearing will help us take a next step, understanding how we can continue to build upon the Community Care Plan and considering new, innovative pieces of legislation that will help us ensure all New Yorkers are able to age in place with the care and dignity they deserve.”*

*“We are only here today because of those older adults who came before us, and made many sacrifices so the younger generations who followed could have the best future opportunities possible,”* **said Council Member Chris Banks.** *“Today’s hearing of the City Council’s Committee on Aging basically asks one simple question: How much do we value the efforts and contributions of those older adults who came before us? As the Council Member for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Council District, I represent significant numbers of older adults who reside in the communities of East New York, Brownsville, Canarsie, East Flatbush, and Remsen Village. As our population continues to live longer, we must stay committed to doing what is necessary and morally correct to ensure that our older adults are able to live their lives in the most dignified manner possible. To accomplish this, the administration must clearly outline how they will commit to adequately funding a Comprehensive Community Care Plan in both the short and long term. The Community Care Plan must go beyond focusing on Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), and must take a comprehensive approach that invests in community based resources needed to reduce instances of institutional care. These investments will allow our city’s aging adults to remain in their homes and communities, help offset the adverse effects that presently impact more aging New Yorkers who are living in poverty, giving them the opportunity to live in a respectful and dignified manner.*



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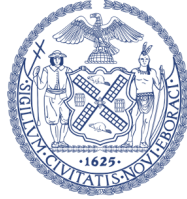
*A comprehensive approach to investing in the needs of our aging community will be an investment that will benefit all New Yorkers.”*

Recent [reporting](#) has made clear that the world's population is facing a historic shift. By 2030, one in six people will be 60 years old or older. By 2040, 80 million Americans are [projected](#) to be ages 65 or older, representing nearly 20% of the nation’s total population. The number of adults ages 85 and older — the group most often needing help with basic personal care — will have quadrupled in the 40-year span between 2000 and 2040. Across the five boroughs, this national trend is exacerbated, with older adults projected to make up 15% of the city’s population by 2040, representing a 40% increase in the 20-year period between 2020 and 2040. Nearly [1 in 8](#) older New Yorkers is currently living in poverty, with higher rates for Black, Hispanic, Asian, and immigrant older adults, leaving many older New Yorkers uninsured, underinsured, and/or food insecure.

Polling shows that older adults want to spend their twilight years at home in their communities. A 2021 AARP poll found that [77 percent](#) of adults fifty or older want to remain in their homes as they age. But older adults have unique needs that must be met to ensure they can age in place with dignity. Older adults are more likely to experience social isolation; have daily activity limitations because of impaired mobility, health needs, or economic challenges; face economic insecurity because of a reliance on low-paying government programs like Social Security and a higher likelihood of living on fixed incomes; and require unique housing support and in-home services.

*“As New York City’s older population grows, it’s critical that we invest in the services that allow older adults to age in place with dignity,” said Kevin Jones, Associate State Director, Advocacy of AARP New York. “The Community Care Plan was a step in the right direction, but without consistent and equitable funding, too many seniors, especially in underserved communities, are being left behind. We need to guarantee that the city fully funds this plan, expands access to older adult centers, and provides the resources necessary for all older New Yorkers to thrive in their communities. AARP New York applauds Council Member Hudson and the entire Aging Committee for holding this important oversight hearing and looks forward to working with our partners in government to ensure the needs of our aging population are met with fairness and urgency.”*

*“With every year that passes, New York City’s older adult population grows, but Mayor Adams has done little to follow the Community Care Plan and ensure that the City’s aging services infrastructure has grown with them,” said Tara Klein, Deputy Director of Policy & Advocacy of United Neighborhood Houses. “From a fiscal cliff that threatens up to 60 older adult centers that the Mayor has failed to address, to a failure to expand and grow services to better suit the needs of New York’s seniors, a stagnant NYC Aging budget makes it clear the Mayor doesn’t prioritize older New Yorkers. Thank you to Council Member Hudson and the Council’s Aging Committee for holding this important hearing.”*



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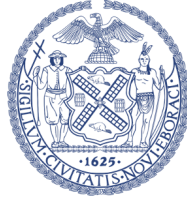
*“Almost a quarter of the city's population is over 60 years old, but less than half a percent of the city's budget goes toward aging services. We can no longer fight for scraps as the number of older homeless New Yorkers is at an all-time high,”* said **Kevin Kiproviski, Director of Public Policy of LiveOn NY.** *“Right now, the Mayor is facing a choice: increase the budget for NYC Aging and give our city a chance to age with dignity, or condemn New Yorkers to the streets. We urge the Mayor to implement a Community Care Plan that truly meets the basic needs of all older New Yorkers.”*

*“The Community Care Plan has made significant progress in supporting our older adult population, yet proposed budget cuts and a history of inadequate funding threaten essential services for older adults, especially within the AAPI community which experiences one of the highest rates of senior suicides in the city,”* said **Wayne Ho, President & CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC).** *“CPC serves over 40,000 older adults through older adult centers, home delivered meals, mental health services, employment programming, home care, and affordable housing, so we know that these harmful cuts will exacerbate the pressing mental health needs of the City's fastest growing demographic. Without immediate intervention, we risk further weakening vital resources for our community's most marginalized members.”*

*“While SAGE fully supports the implementation of the Community Care Plan, we urge the City to address the funding shortfall hindering its progress. Older LGBTQ+ adults, especially those living with HIV, face unique challenges that require sustained investments in care services. We must provide the resources necessary to allow all older New Yorkers to age with dignity and community support,”* said **Darcy Connors, Executive Director of SAGEServes.**

*“As our city's aging population continues to grow, expanding and investing in critical programs like NORCs, OACs, home-delivered meals, and homecare is more vital than ever,”* said **Beth Shapiro, CEO of Citymeals on Wheels.** *“In addition to providing social engagement and linkages to care, these programs are essential infrastructure in the fight against elder hunger. The investments called for in the Community Care Plan would ensure that older New Yorkers, especially those in underserved communities, have access to nutritious and culturally appropriate food and other supports they need to age in place. We must follow through on its promise to make New York an inclusive and equitable city for all generations.”*

*“Almost 14% of NYC's older adults are Asians and they are the fastest-growing group in the City. With almost a quarter of them living in poverty, the Community Care Plan has proven crucial for their wellbeing and security,”* said **Jo-Ann Yoo, Executive Director of the Asian American Federation.** *“However, the lack of ongoing and expanded funding is troubling. Not only does high poverty and limited English proficiency rates among Asian older adults severely limit their access to critical services, this lack of support will exacerbate their isolation. We strongly believe that continued investment in the Community Care Plan is essential to help New York City's older adults age with dignity at home.”*



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*“Underfunding services for older adults impacts New Yorkers of all ages. Without access to services, older adults often rely on their families and friends,” said Carrie Zwiebel Bloss, Executive Director of Heights and Hills. “AARP found that on average caregivers spend 26% of their income on caregiving activities. Family caregivers are helping to pay for groceries, rent, and other basic needs. Older Adult Centers, Case Management, Home Delivered Meals, and other NYC Aging programs make it possible for older adults to remain in their own homes without needing to rely as heavily on their caregivers, but that is only true when those programs are adequately funded.”*

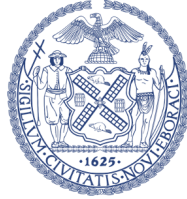
*“NYC Aging Community Care plan is a brilliant collective impact model aimed at pooling resources and connecting neighbors to help make NYC a better place to age, and avoid the costly, lonely, and subpar institutional care options,” said Encore Community Services. However, the plan is vastly underfunded. As a result, too many older adults go hungry, experience social isolation, and can’t access the social services they need to stay safely housed at home. We need to do much better for all our aging loved ones and we commend Council Member Crystal Hudson for her continuous effort to improve the lives of older adults in New York City.”*

*“At Educational Alliance, we recognize the importance of providing older adults the opportunity to age with dignity and we applaud Councilmember Hudson for her commitment to supporting these members of our community,” said Rich Baum, President and CEO of Educational Alliance. “In the face of proposed budget cuts to older adult programs across the city (including ours), Councilmember Hudson has worked to ensure this important segment of our population has access to the vital services they need to thrive. Sustained investment in the Community Care Plan is a necessary step towards creating a more vibrant and livable city for the oldest members of our community.”*

At a 2021 hearing about the Community Care Plan, advocates [raised concerns](#) about the plan’s implementation given consistent underfunding of NYC Aging’s budget. AARP New York flagged that OACs and NORCs in low-income communities of color “have historically suffered from inequitable funding allocated by the City, thereby impacting their ability to deliver comprehensive and quality aging-related services to their clients.” And LiveOn NY [noted](#) that reports on the initial Request for Proposal for new OACs and NORCs “have raised significant concerns on if the investments made in the Care Plan are sufficient to fully fund the number of contracts it seeks to execute.”

This hearing seeks to better understand the status of NYC Aging’s implementation of the Community Care Plan, determine historic funding for the plan and funded programs or services, and outline future programming and funding needs to meet the Community Care Plan’s objectives.

Additionally, the Council will hear four bills aimed at mandating routine planning for older adult services and supporting New Yorkers who seek to age in place across the five boroughs.



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- [Int 1022-2024](#) (Gutiérrez): Require NYC Aging to conduct a three-year study on NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs that it would implement upon completion that identifies potential sites, assesses the needs of older adults, determine improvements, and collect demographic trends
- [Int 1025-2024](#) (Hudson): Require NYC Aging to provide information on older adult workforce programs administered by DFTA to all contracted older adult centers and clients of all contracted providers
- [T2024-2470](#) (Hudson): Require NYC Aging to conduct a feasibility study regarding the creation of brick-and-mortar older adult information and service centers
- [T2024-2487](#) (Hudson): Require NYC Aging to submit a ten-year aging in place plan, implement it, and provide status reports every two years
- [Res 0452-2024](#) (Hudson): Resolution calling on the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation to lower the age of eligibility for Older Americans Act-supported social services and programs from 60 to 45 years for individuals living with HIV

The Committee on Aging has jurisdiction over issues related to New York City's older adults, namely the operations of the NYC Department of the Aging. Its members are Council Members Crystal Hudson (Chair), Yusef Salaam, Linda Lee, Lynn Schulman, Darlene Mealy, Chris Banks, and Susan Zhuang.

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