

December 3, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

LeadingAge New York and its not-for-profit, mission-driven members write to you today in support of legislation A.3807-A/S.2193-A, an act to amend the public housing law, in relation to an affordable housing five-year capital plan. This legislation would modify Article 2 of the Public Housing Law to require the development of a five-year capital spending plan for New York State Homes & Community Renewal as part of the annual executive budget for the fiscal year beginning on April 1, 2022 and every fifth fiscal year thereafter. The bill would require that the development and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing targeted to low-income seniors be specifically addressed as part of the five-year capital spending plan.

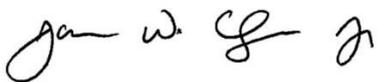
Since the implementation of New York's first five-year housing capital spending plan in 2017, significant progress has been made in the development and preservation of affordable and supportive housing stock throughout the state. To date, the original five-year plan has created 66,500 affordable units, but an ongoing capital commitment is necessary to continue this momentum. Without a guarantee of future investment, New York's affordable and supportive housing development community will be unable to ensure continued, uninterrupted unit production.

A guaranteed investment in affordable senior housing is more important than ever as New York prepares for substantial growth in its aging population. Between 2015 and 2040, the number of adults aged 65 and older will increase by 50 percent, and the number of adults over 85 will double. Older New Yorkers are the fastest growing demographic in our state and will comprise an estimated 4.3 million households by 2030. As this population increases, strains on New York's already limited affordable senior housing stock will only continue to grow. In New York City, waitlists for HUD Section 202 Senior Housing average seven years, with some seniors staying on waitlists for upwards of ten years. To combat these long waitlist times and address this growing population, it is imperative that housing that is targeted to seniors, and that is affordable, be developed. A.3807-A/S.2193-A accounts for the need for this housing and would help ensure that New York's seniors have safe and affordable places to call home.

For these reasons, LeadingAge NY strongly supports this legislation and recommends that it be signed into law.

Sincerely,

James W. Clyne, Jr.



President and CEO
LeadingAge New York