



For Immediate Release:

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Statement from LeadingAge New York on Governor Hochul’s Budget Proposals for Long-Term Care

The following statement can be attributed to Sebrina Barrett, President and CEO of LeadingAge New York:

“Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget takes several positive steps toward strengthening long-term care and supporting older New Yorkers. It is encouraging to see the State acknowledge the critical needs of nursing homes and propose new investments, including the restoration of the 10 percent cut to nursing home capital reimbursement and additional Medicaid funding for hospitals and nursing homes. These actions reflect a recognition of the severe pressures our long-term care providers are facing and the need for sustained support to ensure high-quality care for older adults. We look forward to learning more about the new Medicaid funds for hospitals and nursing homes and how it will be allocated, especially given the nursing homes case mix rate freeze in place since 2023.

“We also appreciate the Executive Budget’s continued investments in aging services, such as funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities and Neighborhood NORCs, and the continued support for in-home- services that help older adults age safely in their communities.

“However, we are disappointed that the Executive Budget again eliminates the EQUAL and Enriched Housing Subsidy programs and does not include any additional rate relief for ALPs or any increase in the SSI rate for adult care facility residents – essential supports for low-income- older adults. The failure to fund the Resident Assistant program for affordable senior housing also represents a missed opportunity to help thousands of seniors remain independent and connected to vital community resources.

“We appreciate the Governor’s office acknowledging the urgent need to ensure nursing homes are able to not only survive but “thrive” during this critical time, when we are seeing an alarming rate of closures and reduced access, which will only worsen without substantial funding increases. As the budget process moves forward, LeadingAge New York will continue to work with the Governor and Legislature to protect the investments that sustain quality care, while advocating for the critical programs and supports that were left out. Older adults and the providers who serve them deserve a budget that fully reflects the value they bring to New York’s communities and the urgency of investing in their wellbeing.”

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