

December 29, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
NYS State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Please Fund the Resident Assistance in Affordable Senior Housing Program in SFY 2027 Budget

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of our mission-driven affordable senior housing provider members, we are writing to ask you to create and fund an Affordable Independent Senior Housing Assistance (“Resident Assistance”) program in your SFY 2027 Executive Budget to help address the aging-related needs of low-income older adults living in affordable rental housing statewide.

Through this program, seniors would be provided on-site and on-request assistance in affordable senior housing properties, including help accessing services, benefits, and preventative programming; obtaining transportation or using technology for telehealth and social engagement; and arranging for on-site social and wellness programs to combat isolation and strengthen healthy living habits.

A strategic and modest investment of \$10 million in State funds over five years – just \$2 million in the SFY27 Budget – would support these programs in at least 16 existing affordable senior housing buildings and serve 1,600 or more older adults annually, promoting their general wellness and independence. Moreover, the program would result in significant and immediate Medicaid savings to the State by keeping low-income older adults out of emergency rooms and more costly levels of care, such as assisted living or nursing homes.

This approach aligns with your Master Plan for Aging, which emphasizes the importance of community housing models – including a Resident Assistance program – that help older adults age safely at home while controlling healthcare and long-term care costs. But unfortunately, despite stakeholder support and benefits proven by rigorous research and provider experience, many affordable senior housing properties do not have the funding they need to support these programs, leaving thousands of low-income older New Yorkers without access to this critical resource that improves quality of life and reduces medical costs.

We urge you to support the healthy aging of more low-income New Yorkers by advancing the State’s goals with a targeted, evidence-based investment in Resident Assistance in your SFY27 Executive Budget.

Sincerely,



Sebrina Barrett
President & CEO
LeadingAge New York

Cc:

Erin Kate Calicchia, Senior Counsel
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