

January 9, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor
State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, NY 12224

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

Dear Governor Hochul,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge you to create and fund an Affordable Independent Senior Housing Assistance (“Resident Assistance”) program to be included in your SFY 2027 Executive Budget to help address the aging-related needs of low-income older adults living in affordable rental housing statewide.

New York State’s Master Plan for Aging highlights the importance of [community housing models](#) to help older adults age safely in their home while keeping high-cost health care and long-term care spending in check. The Resident Assistance program would bring this vision to life by embedding on-site resident support directly into existing affordable senior housing, where older residents are at the greatest risk of preventable health crises and housing instability.

Through this program, low-income older adults would be provided on-site and on-request assistance in affordable senior housing buildings, including help enrolling in essential benefits, connecting with preventive services, and arranging for social and wellness programming in the building. The program would address the root causes of avoidable health issues and help stabilize residents before their needs escalate into costly emergency room visits, hospital stays, or nursing home placements.

Research backs up the effectiveness of this model. Studies of existing Resident Assistance programs show significant drops in hospital admissions and emergency room visits for residents who have access to on-site support. These reductions lead to direct savings for Medicaid and Medicare. The savings happen quickly - within the same fiscal year - making this program a smart investment with immediate budgetary benefit.

But, unfortunately, many affordable senior housing properties currently 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.

By funding the Resident Assistance program, the State would:

- Reduce unnecessary Medicaid and Medicare spending on acute and long-term care.
- Build on the commitments of the Master Plan for Aging.

- Strengthen housing providers' ability to support aging New Yorkers.

We urge you to provide \$10 million investment to establish and fund over five years for Resident Assistance, **starting with just \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Budget**. This is a targeted, evidence-based investment that aligns with the State's goals and ensures public healthcare resources are used wisely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

LeadingAge New York
United Church Manor
West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
Selfhelp Community Services
St. Simeon Properties
New York Housing Conference
Loretto
Episcopal SeniorLife Communities
DePaul Housing Management
Frederick Douglass HDFC
New York State Association for Rural Health
Lifespan of Greater Rochester
American Association of Service Coordinators
Enterprise Community Partners
JASA
Supportive Housing Network of New York
NYSARSC
LiveOn NY
Home Care Association of New York State

Research Basis:

Findings from published peer-reviewed research by Dr. Michael K. Gusmano of Rutgers University and The Hastings Center; Dr. Victor G. Rodwin of the New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service; and Dr. Daniel Weisz of the Columbia University School of Public Health, demonstrate that older adults residing in service-enriched affordable housing experience materially lower rates of inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department utilization compared to similarly situated peers without on-site service coordination.

The analysis attributes these outcomes to early intervention, benefits access, and care navigation supports, resulting in measurable, near-term cost avoidance to Medicaid and Medicare while improving housing stability and health outcomes. A summary of research can be read in [Selfhelp Community Services Healthy Housing White Paper](#).

