



New York State Coalition for the Aging, Inc. & LiveOn NY with the Association on Aging in New York Unveil Legislative and Budget Priorities

(FEBRUARY 10, 2015 – ALBANY, NY) The **New York State Coalition for the Aging, Inc.** and **LiveOn NY**, in conjunction with the **Association on Aging in New York** today called on Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to make older New Yorkers a priority by increasing funding for elder abuse prevention programs and critically needed programs statewide that will eliminate waiting lists for vital services, and by enacting legislation that will protect them from the growing problem of financial abuse, while improving the infrastructure of services for the aging.

In unveiling this [2015 State budget and legislative agenda](#), **Igal Jellinek, Executive Director of LiveOn NY** (formerly the Council of Senior Centers and Services – CSCS), said, “In less than 15 years, New York’s over-65 population will skyrocket to a projected 3.9 million. As New Yorkers live longer, the need for increased support is essential. It is imperative that government funding keep pace with the need. By investing now in programs that will keep seniors safe and healthy in their own communities, we will be saving millions of dollars in future costs to government.

“While the New York State Coalition for the Aging, Inc. and LiveOn NY are grateful to Governor Cuomo and the Legislature for their commitment to date, much more needs to be done. The budget and legislative agenda we unveil today lays out a roadmap that will make New York a better place to age,” Jellinek added.

BUDGET PRIORITIES:

Increase statewide funding for elder abuse prevention programs by \$5 million. Additional resources will result in better detection, intervention, expanded capacity for elder abuse specialists to work with law enforcement and increased public awareness.

Eliminate waiting lists for aging services statewide by including \$21 million in additional funding to the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program. This significant infusion of funds to CSE will help reduce the number of older New Yorkers who are now on waiting lists for such vital services as home-delivered meals, case management for homebound elders, adult day services, in-home personal care services and transportation for medical appointments.

Increase funding to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Long Term Care Ombudsmen Program (LTCOP), as required under the Older Americans Act, provides a voice for residents and families of those who reside in State Licensed Long Term Care Facilities. Due to inadequate funding, many vulnerable older adults in long term care facilities have no regular Ombudsman and receive no routine visits as required by law.

Create a Nonprofit Infrastructure Capital Investment Program. The aging services network also supports the allocation of \$50 million to create a capital investment program for not-for-profits in the human services field, especially those that serve New York's seniors.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:

Protect older New Yorkers from financial abuse (S.639- Valesky).

Presently in New York State, there is no standard protocol for banks to report elder financial exploitation to Adult Protective Services (APS). This measure would standardize reporting and disclosure protocols. This measure has passed the Senate twice – unanimously – but has failed to even get out of committee in the State Assembly.

Pass the Care Act Caregiver Advise, Record And Enable Act (S.676 - Hannon; A.1323 – Rosenthal). This bill requires hospitals to allow a patient to designate a caregiver in their medical record and to notify and offer to meet with the designated caregiver to discuss the patient's plan of care prior to discharge or transfer to another facility. The bill also provides that the hospital offer to adequately train the designated caregiver in certain aftercare tasks upon a patient's discharge home.

Support capital infrastructure improvement and development for older New Yorkers (CIID NY) grant program (S.626 - Valesky). CIID NY would provide grants to encourage improvements in the operation and efficiency of the aging services provider network in New York State.

To see the full list of legislative and budget priorities, go to:

<http://www.liveon-ny.org/files/NYSCA.LiveOn-NY.2015.legislative.agenda.pdf>

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About LiveOn NY: LiveOn NY, formerly the Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS), is a non-profit organization dedicated to making New York State a better place to age. Founded in 1979, it is recognized as a leader in aging that connects resources, advocates for positive change, and builds, supports and fosters innovation. Our goal is to help all New Yorkers age with confidence, grace and vitality.