

New York State Assembly

Carl E. Heastie

Speaker



Committee on Aging

Steven H. Cymbrowitz

Chair

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



STEVEN CYMBROWITZ
Assemblyman 75TH District
Kings County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Aging

COMMITTEES
Codes
Environmental Conservation
Health
Insurance

December 15, 2016

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 349
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging. In assuming the role of Chair of the Committee on Aging, I was tasked with advancing legislation aimed at protecting the quality of life, health, safety and independence of New York's seniors. The work accomplished during the 2016 Legislative Session reflects the commitment of the Committee and myself to achieve these goals.

This year, the Committee on Aging continued to address the crime of elder abuse, specifically financial exploitation, as it is becoming the most common crime committed against the elderly. In a positive development on this front, legislation passed by both houses of the Legislature this year would require the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), in consultation with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, to conduct a public education campaign regarding elder abuse. The campaign would focus on the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, where suspected elder abuse can be reported, and would contain contact information for programs that can help victims. This bill was vetoed last year, but I have hope that the Governor will choose to sign it into law this year.

Good health and well-being are important at any age and, as such, are core components in the lives of senior citizens. Therefore, programs such as Social Adult Day Services (SADS) are vital to aging communities as they provide services and support such as personal care, socialization, transportation, and information and caregiver assistance to functionally impaired adults and senior citizens. This year, legislation passed by both houses of the Legislature expanded oversight of all SADS programs, requiring that such programs be subject to the rules and regulations of NYSOFA without needing to be recipients of a grant from the agency or local agencies on aging.

Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) and Neighborhood NORC

programs are multi-age housing developments or neighborhoods that were not originally built for seniors but are now home to a significant number of senior citizens. These programs support older New Yorkers by identifying the major health risks among the population they serve and developing programs to improve their NORC community members' health status.

In his Executive Budget, the Governor proposed enforcing the existing demographic requirements for funding which would have resulted in the elimination of several NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs for a savings of \$951,000. Within the Enacted Budget, existing NORC and Neighborhood NORC contracts were extended to December 31, 2017, and the proposed funding reductions were restored. The Enacted Budget also makes several changes to NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs in order to reflect current demographics. Through the Mortgage Insurance Fund (MIF) Program, an additional \$700,000 was allocated to NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs for current and new projects. This is the first increase in funding for NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs in years.

As such, I profoundly thank the many colleagues who joined myself and the Committee in our request to continue and grow support for these programs. The Committee held several discussions with service providers and seniors to ensure that the changes made responded to community needs. One of the facets of the NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs that was not changed during the budget process is the matching requirement for state funding. To address this issue, legislation introduced by Assemblywoman Harris and signed into law (Chapter 245 of the Laws of 2016) by the Governor lowers the match requirements for state funding for NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs from 100 percent to 25 percent of the state funding received.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members for their continued contributions to this past year's achievements. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your leadership and support of our legislative initiatives to better protect New York State's seniors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Cymbrowitz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steven H. Cymbrowitz,
Chair, Committee on Aging

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING**

STEVEN H. CYMBROWITZ, CHAIR

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Sara Neitzel, *Associate Counsel*
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Lena DeThomasis, *Committee Clerk*

Table of Contents

I. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS.....	1
II. 2016 COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	2
A. Real Property Tax.....	2
Renewal Notices for the SCRIE Program.....	2
Shortening the Reapplication Process for SCRIE and DRIE.....	2
Excluding Annuity Roll-over Transfers from Taxable Income for Seniors	3
Reapplication to SCRIE or DRIE after a Period of Ineligibility	3
Extending the Eligibility Requirement for Disabled Persons	3
B. Safety, Health, and Well-Being	3
Creating and Publishing a Drug Guide for Seniors.....	3
Broadening the Geriatric Service Demonstration Program	4
Establishing Model Community Programs	4
Allowing Social Adult Day Programs to Provide Enriched Services.....	4
Expanding Oversight of Adult Day Programs	5
Clarifying Service Provisions to Residents Living in Independent Senior Housing.....	5
C. Elder Abuse	6
Home Visitation for Elderly Victims of Violent Crime.....	6
Opt-In Program for Reporting Suspected Financial Exploitation	6
Elder Abuse Public Education Campaign.....	7
Expanding Congregate Services Initiative for the Elderly.....	7
D. Other Legislation.....	7
Best Practices for Retaining Employees Who Are Informal Caregivers	7
New York State Senior Center Council	7
Study of Fees and Charges in Assisted Living Facilities.....	8
Hiring, Retaining, and Retraining Older Workers	8
Aging in New York: State Plan on Aging	8
Lowering the Match Requirements for State Funding of NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs.....	9
III. SFY 2016-2017 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS.....	10
A. Aid to Localities.....	12
B. Restorations	14
C. Article VII.....	15
IV. OUTLOOK AND GOALS FOR 2017	16
APPENDIX A	17
APPENDIX B	18
APPENDIX C	19
APPENDIX D.....	21

I. Committee Responsibilities and Goals

The New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Aging has jurisdiction over legislation affecting the quality of life of New York's senior citizens. The Committee also reviews certain legislation providing real property tax relief for seniors. The Committee works closely with NYSOFA and has legislative and budgetary oversight of the agency's programs.

The Committee works to ensure that essential services are available for seniors so that they may enjoy a high quality of life as they get older. This includes programs such as: the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), Caregiver Resource Centers, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Respite programs, Social Adult Day programs, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs), the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program, Foster Grandparent programs, the Elder Abuse Education and Outreach program, and locally based Meals-on-Wheels programs. The Committee also has legislative and budgetary oversight of the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program, which is administered by the New York State Department of Health.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the Committee reviewed 118 bills that sought to address and remedy many concerns affecting seniors. These bills dealt with issues such as reducing the real property tax burden on low-income seniors, protecting seniors from abuse and victimization, ensuring that seniors are able to safely remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible with the supports they deserve, and providing a variety of resources to seniors and their caregivers.

The following report details the major legislative activities and accomplishments of the Committee on Aging during the 2016 Legislative Session.

II. 2016 COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. Real Property Tax

In 1970, the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program began offering qualifying senior citizens an exemption from future rent increases. In 2005, it was expanded to include qualifying tenants with disabilities under the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) program. These programs help eligible senior citizens aged 62 and over and tenants with qualifying disabilities, living in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments in New York City, stay in affordable housing by freezing their rent. As such, the Committee on Aging aims to enable and support seniors so that they may remain within their communities for as long as possible. The SCRIE and DRIE programs help to accomplish this goal by providing a property tax credit to building owners that covers the difference between the actual rent amount and what the tenant is responsible for paying at the frozen rate.

In addition, through the Senior Housing Exemption program, eligible homeowners aged 65 and over who meet the program's income requirements can apply to receive a reduction in their property taxes.

1. Renewal Notices for the SCRIE Program

A.1087 (Dinowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would require that the appropriate rent control or administrative agency send a notice of required renewal to each head of household currently receiving an exemption under the SCRIE program. The notice would have to be sent no less than 30 days prior to the application renewal date, via the United States Postal Service, to the head of household's permanent address.

2. Shortening the Reapplication Process for SCRIE and DRIE

A.6702-A (Perry); Chapter 442 of the Laws of 2016

This law establishes a short form reapplication for any head of household who has been receiving SCRIE or DRIE for five consecutive benefit periods with no change in address or income. The short form requires these individuals to certify that their eligibility information has not changed.

3. Excluding Annuity Roll-over Transfers from Taxable Income for Seniors

A.7248-A (Skoufis); Passed Assembly

This bill would exclude any non-taxable gain from the exchange of one annuity for another from the calculation of income for the purpose of determining eligibility for the Senior Housing Exemption program.

4. Reapplication to SCRIE or DRIE after a Period of Ineligibility

A.8228-A (Cymbrowitz); Chapter 343 of the Laws of 2016

This law authorizes a head of household, who has been dropped from the SCRIE or DRIE program due to a non-recurring item of income that causes a change in the combined household income, to apply the following calendar year as a continuation of their previous benefit. If accepted, they would be able to make rent payments at their previous frozen rent amount. In addition, a head of household will not receive more than three rent increase exemption orders upon recalculation of household income.

5. Extending Eligibility for the DRIE Program to Disabled Persons

A.8679 (Weprin); Chapter 392 of the Laws of 2016

This law allows the receipt of a disability pension or compensation from the United States Postal Service as proof in order to demonstrate disability for the purposes of eligibility for the DRIE program.

B. Safety, Health, and Well-Being

With a growing number of seniors living independently, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that older adults are safe at home and in their communities, and that they maintain their health and wellness. As people age, they may become more vulnerable to a variety of hazards such as falls, drug interactions and victimization. It is the goal of the Committee on Aging to help prevent such hazards and establish appropriate responses.

1. Creating and Publishing a Drug Guide for Seniors

A.422-A (Dinowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would require the director of NYSOFA, in conjunction with the State Board of Pharmacy, and after consultation with the Department of Health, to create and publish a senior drug guide detailing the purpose, function, and common drug interactions for drugs commonly used by seniors over the age of 62.

2. Broadening the Geriatric Service Demonstration Program

A.1234 (Dinowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would extend grant eligibility under the Geriatric Service Demonstration Program, which is currently limited to providers of mental health services for the elderly, to providers of chemical dependency and compulsive gambling treatment for the elderly. The bill would also require the demonstration program to be administered in cooperation with the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

3. Establishing Model Community Programs

A.5337 (Cymbrowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would require NYSOFA to develop model community programs materials to be distributed, upon request, to local agencies on aging and to community organizations. Such model programs would include:

- a telephone reassurance program, whose guidelines would address the following:
 - phone calls from community organizations to participating seniors;
 - a secondary contact, if applicable, to call if a senior does not answer;
 - coordination with law enforcement to ensure appropriate response if a senior cannot be contacted;
 - consent to access the home by law enforcement if a senior cannot be contacted; and
 - coordination between participating seniors and program operators to reduce incidents resulting in unnecessary law enforcement involvement.
- a visiting program to provide seniors with regular contact whose guidelines would address:
 - obtaining volunteers by partnering with educational institutions;
 - screening volunteers to ensure good matches and protect seniors; and
 - checking on seniors and volunteers, and responding to problems that may arise.

4. Allowing Social Adult Day Programs to provide Enriched Services

A.7588 (Cymbrowitz); Chapter 448 of the Laws of 2016

This law requires NYSOFA to develop a process by which eligible social adult day programs currently possessing a contract with NYSOFA could provide enriched services and/or optional services without the program receiving a grant.

Currently, receipt of a grant is required for a program to provide enriched and/or optional services, but there has been no grant funding in several years.

5. Expanding Oversight of Social Adult Day Programs

A.9130 (Cymbrowitz); Veto Memo. 288

This bill would ensure that all SADS programs are subject to the rules and regulations of NYSOFA even if such programs are not recipients of a grant from the agency or local agencies on aging. In the event that a program falls under the jurisdiction of NYSOFA and another agency, the rules and regulations of the other state agency overseeing the program shall take precedence.

This bill would also require the Director of NYSOFA to submit a report to the Governor, the Temporary President of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Aging, and the Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging regarding the projected costs and benefits of establishing uniform standards and requirements with regard to social adult day programs in the State. The report would have to be delivered on or before December 31, 2016, and would include the Director's findings, recommendations, and an estimate of the fiscal implications of regulating social adult day care services in the State.

Finally, the bill would amend the definition of "social adult day services" and "social adult day care" to prohibit any person or program from saying they provide social adult day care unless they meet the requirements of the definition.

6. Clarifying Service Provisions to Residents Living in Independent Senior Housing

A.10243 (Cymbrowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would clarify that residents living in independent senior housing are able to obtain the same assistive technologies, personal care and home care services as if they were living in a private home. In addition, this bill would provide that a licensed or certified home care agency, personal care program, long-term home health care program or managed long-term care program is able to perform outreach to residents of independent senior housing as well as arrange for and provide home care services to such residents. Finally, it would specify the services an independent senior housing operator may provide and include a conflict of interest provision regarding third-party referrals.

C. Elder Abuse

Elder abuse affects thousands of seniors across New York State every year. There are many types of elder abuse, including physical, verbal, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. One of the primary hurdles to addressing elder abuse is the lack of awareness and information about its signs and symptoms. Fortunately, efforts are currently being made to eliminate these severe challenges. Working to increase opportunities to identify signs of abuse, increase outreach and education, and empower seniors who are or may become victims of elder abuse is one of the Committee on Aging's top priorities.

1. Home Visitation for Elderly Victims of Violent Crime

A.300 (Dinowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would require that NYSOFA be consulted in the promotion of volunteer home visitation programs for elderly and invalid victims of violent crime.

2. Opt-In Program for Reporting Suspected Financial Exploitation

A.4037-A (Robinson); Passed Assembly

This bill would require the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) to create a voluntary opt-in program for account holders, whereby financial institutions would be required to report suspected financial exploitation of a participating account holder to the appropriate adult protective services and law enforcement agencies. This program would be offered to all account holders, but participation would be voluntary and revocable at any time. Account holders would be required to submit a form to their financial institution to initiate and terminate their inclusion in the program. This form would be kept on file with the financial institution for as long as the account holder maintains an account with the financial institution. A copy of the form would be forwarded to DFS and the account holder.

In accordance with the bill and the rules and regulations promulgated by DFS, any officer, director, agent, or employee of a financial institution who has cause to suspect financial exploitation of a participating account holder would be required to submit a form prescribed by DFS to report the suspected financial exploitation.

This bill would also provide those financial institutions that report suspected financial abuse in good faith with immunity from any civil liability that might otherwise result from such reporting. Furthermore, any information or documentation submitted pursuant to this legislation would not be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Law.

Lastly, DFS would also be required to develop and make available training materials educating bank employees on the guidelines of reporting financial exploitation and provide brochures for bank patrons.

3. Elder Abuse Public Education Campaign

A.9143-A (Cymbrowitz); Chapter 455 of the Laws of 2016

This law requires NYSOFA, in consultation with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, to conduct a public education campaign regarding elder abuse. The campaign shall focus on the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, where suspected elder abuse can be reported, and contact information for programs that can help. It may include printed, audio, video, electronic, and other media, as well as public service announcements or advertisements.

4. Expanding Congregate Services Initiative for the Elderly

A.9712-A (Richardson); Chapter 131 of the Laws of 2016

This law adds financial literacy education and elder abuse education and outreach to the list of services that may be provided through the congregate services initiative.

D. Other Legislation

1. Best Practices for Retaining Employees who are Informal Caregivers

A.294 (Dinowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would encourage businesses to retain workers who are informal caregivers and to provide such businesses with information on ways to do so. NYSOFA, in conjunction with the New York State Department of Labor and community-based organizations that represent the interests of informal caregivers, would develop and annually update a guide for businesses that outlines best practices for retaining and supporting employees who are informal caregivers. This guide would be available on the websites of NYSOFA, New York State Department of Labor, and New York Department of State.

2. New York State Senior Center Council

A.1150 (Rodriguez); Chapter 399 of the Laws of 2016

This law establishes the New York State Senior Center Council which would be composed of the Director of NYSOFA, serving as chair, and ten members appointed by the chair. The members of the Council would represent all geographic areas of the State as well as older adult groups. The purpose of the

Council is to create an environment of peer-to-peer support for senior centers, encourage efficient and effective operation of senior centers across the State, and offer recommendations for how the State can support them.

3. Study of Fees and Charges in Assisted Living Facilities

A.4252-B (DenDekker); Passed Assembly

This bill would direct the Department of Health and NYSOFA to study the fees and charges, specifically their rates of increase, assessed to residents of assisted living facilities. This study would be delivered on or before April 2018.

4. Hiring, Retaining, and Retraining Older Workers

A.5354 (Cymbrowitz); Passed Assembly

This bill would direct NYSOFA, in conjunction with the Department of Labor, to develop and update annually a guide for businesses to hire, retain, and retrain mature workers.

The guide would be made available on the websites of NYSOFA, the Department of Labor, and the Department of State. Businesses that obtain licensure or certification from the Department of Labor or Department of State would be provided with a link to the guide or a paper copy upon request. Individuals who are not business owners could be provided with paper copies of the guide for a nominal fee.

5. Aging in New York: State Plan on Aging

A.7628-A (Barron); Veto Memo. 237

This bill would require the creation of an interagency council (the Council) comprising NYSOFA, Department of Health, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Department of Labor, Department of Financial Services, Department of Transportation, and the Office of Children and Family Services.

The Council would develop a statewide plan on aging to account for the current and future needs of older adults. The plan would focus on several areas including, but not limited to, health services, community-based services, housing, workforce issues, kin care, and mental health and substance abuse services.

6. Lowering the Match Requirements for State Funding of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood NORCs

A.10201 (Harris); Chapter 245 of the Laws of 2016

This bill lowers the required match for state funding for NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs from 100 percent to 25 percent of the state funding received with half required to come from the community served.

III. SFY 2016-2017 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016-2017 Budget provided funding for many programs in New York State that are dedicated to protecting the quality of life, health, safety, and independence of senior citizens. These programs and services provide significant and essential assistance to the elderly as well as their caregivers, families, friends, and neighbors. The following chart lists these aging programs and the amount at which they were funded in this year's budget.

Programs/Service	Total Funding
Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program	\$28,933,000
Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP)	\$50,120,000
Caregiver Resource Centers	\$353,000
Wellness in Nutrition (WIN) Program	\$27,483,000
Local grants for the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program	\$1,190,000
State aid grants to providers of respite services	\$656,000
Grants for providers of social model adult day services	\$1,072,000
Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)	\$2,027,500 ¹
Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs)	\$2,027,500 ¹
Additional funding to NORCs and NNORCs	\$951,000
Grants for transportation operating expenses for the elderly	\$1,121,000
Grants for the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP)	\$921,000
Matching federally funded model projects and/or demonstration grant programs	\$175,000
Managed Care Consumer Assistance Program (MCCAP)	\$1,767,000 ²
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	\$216,500
EAC/Nassau Senior Respite Program	\$118,500
Home Aides of Central New York, Inc.	\$71,000
New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing and Respite Care Program	\$172,000
Foster Grandparents Program	\$98,000

¹ Additional information on the allocated funds can be found under the "Additional Funding" section.

² Funding appropriated to MCAAP is disbursed to the following programs: Medicare Rights Center (\$793,000); New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Inc. (\$354,000); New York Legal Assistance Group (\$222,000); Empire Justice Center (\$155,000); Community Service Society (\$132,000); and Legal Aid Society of New York (\$111,000).

Elderly Abuse and Outreach Program	\$745,000
Livable New York Initiative	\$122,500
New York State Adult Day Services Association, Inc.	\$122,500
Congregate Services Initiative	\$403,000
New York Statewide Senior Action Council, Inc. – Patients’ Rights Hotline and Advocacy Project	\$63,000
Point of Entry Initiatives for Long-term Care Systems	\$3,350,000
Association on Aging in New York State	\$250,000
Cost of Living Adjustment for direct care staff, direct support staff, and clinical staff	\$7,400,000
Riverdale Senior Services, Inc.	\$100,000
Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Inc.	\$100,000
Lifespan Elder Abuse Prevention Program	\$200,000
Lifespan Elder Abuse Prevention Program – Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Teams	\$500,000
Meals on Wheels Programs & Services of Rockland, Inc.	\$50,000
North Flushing Senior Center serving Mitchell Linden Community	\$100,000
North Flushing Senior Center at College Point	\$100,000
Senior Citizens Service Center of Gloversville and Fulton County, Inc.	\$30,000
Services Now for Adult Persons, Inc.	\$250,000
Jewish Community Center of Hillcrest, Inc.	\$100,000
HANAC, Inc.	\$50,000
Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders (SAGE)	\$150,000
LiveOn NY - SCRIE Outreach Program	\$150,000
Allerton Avenue Homeowners and Tenants Association	\$25,000
North Flushing Senior Center at College Point	\$100,000
Senior Citizens Service Center of Gloversville and Fulton County, Inc.	\$30,000

A. AID TO LOCALITIES

New and additional funding was also appropriated under Aid to Localities for many State and local programs for seniors in this year's budget.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) \$1,000,000

The Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) Program helps to improve the capability of communities to support elderly people in need of assistance so that they may remain in their homes and actively participate in family and community life. CSE also works to reduce the heavy reliance on institutions as the first-choice method to care for older adults, therefore reducing the public expense of caring for the needs of older New Yorkers. Eligible services available to counties include, but are not limited to, meals, transportation, social adult day services, case management, personal care, respite, friendly visiting, and minor residential repairs.

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) \$700,000 and Neighborhood NORCs

The Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood (NORCs) are multi-age housing developments or neighborhoods that were not originally built for seniors but are now home to a significant number of senior citizens. These programs provide a variety of services in order to maximize quality of life and keep seniors in the community. This year's Executive Budget also authorized the transfer of \$700,000 from the Mortgage Insurance Fund Program for the NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs; \$350,000 allocated to each.

NEW FUNDING

Lifespan Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams \$500,000 (E-MDT) Program

This year's enacted state budget will help sustain the existing E-MDTs and continue their mission to prevent and address financial exploitation and elder abuse of older adults. Lifespan is also charged with using the allocated funds to implement new E-MDT hubs across the State.

North Flushing Senior Center at College Point **\$100,000**

The North Flushing Senior Center at College Point is a community-centered organization which provides individuals aged 60 and older, residing in the Queens community, with a variety of social services, activities, and most important, a sense of community. The center was in danger of shutting down until it received additional funding from this year's State budget. The funds will be dedicated toward rent and operating costs.

North Flushing Senior Center serving Mitchell Linden **\$100,000**

**Senior Citizens Service Center of Gloversville
And Fulton County** **\$30,000**

Service Now for Adult Persons **\$250,000**

Service Now for Adult Persons is a social service agency which aims to improve the quality of life of older adults in the borough of Queens by providing linkages to community resources and helping them remain independent community residents. Services provided include congregate meals, meals on wheels, transportation services, caregiver services, case management, volunteer opportunities, health and wellness services, trips, and educational and recreational classes.

Jewish Community Council of Hillcrest **\$100,000**

The Jewish Community Council of Hillcrest is a community-based organization serving individuals and families in Fresh Meadows with a wide range of social services, as well as capacity-building support to other community-based non-profit organizations throughout New York City. Services for seniors include: senior centers, home care services, transportation, case management, home delivered meals, English as a Second Language (ESL) courses for non-English speaking seniors, a Medicare Part D Help Center, friendly visiting programs, and various services for Holocaust survivors.

HANAC, Inc. **\$50,000**

HANAC, a New York City-based multi-faceted social services organization, offers a network of services designed to serve the needs of the elderly, as well as their families and caregivers.

**Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual
and Transgender Elders (SAGE)** **\$150,000**

SAGE is dedicated to achieving a high quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. SAGE offers supportive services and consumer

resources for LGBT older adults and their caregivers, advocates for public policy changes which address the needs of LGBT older people, and provides training for aging providers and LGBT organizations within the community.

Allerton Avenue Homeowners and Tenants Association **\$25,000**

LiveOn NY – SCRIE Outreach **\$150,000**

LiveOn NY, formerly known as the Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS), is a non-profit organization focusing on helping to make New York a better place to age. The organization accomplishes this goal by connecting older New Yorkers to available resources, advocating for positive change, and providing community-based services through more than 600 programs.

B. RESTORATIONS

NORCs and NNORCs **\$951,000**

The Executive proposed altering the allocation language thereby reducing funding to several NORC and Neighborhood NORC projects, which would have resulted in a savings of \$951,000. In the Enacted Budget, existing NORC and Neighborhood NORC contracts were extended to December 31, 2017, and the proposed funding reductions were restored.

Foundation for Senior Citizens Home-Sharing and Respite **\$86,000**

The Foundation Home Sharing and Respite program helps link adult “hosts” with extra private living spaces within their homes or apartments with the appropriate adult “guests” to share their space. Match-mates must be age 60 or older.

Statewide Senior Action Council: Patients’ Rights Helpline **\$31,500**

Organized in 1972, the Statewide Senior Action Council is a membership organization made up of individual senior citizens and senior citizen clubs from all parts of New York State. The council seeks to advocate for the interests of senior citizens and needed services and programs. Through the Patients’ Rights Helpline, Statewide has helped thousands of New Yorkers with questions concerning their rights as health care consumers.

Lifespan Elder Abuse Education Outreach Program

\$200,000

Lifespan, also the coordinator of the Elderly Abuse Education and Outreach Program (EAEOP), provides education and outreach services, technical assistance to programs across the State, and directs intervention services in cases of elder abuse.

C. ARTICLE VII

The SFY 2016-2017 Budget also had a significant impact on the rules and provisions of various aging programs and services; these changes are outlined in Article VII.

Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)/Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE)

In this year's Executive Budget, NYSOFA extended the \$50,000 income eligibility limit until June 30, 2020. In addition, it limited the State's obligation to reimburse NYC for lost revenue attributable to the income eligibility increase to the \$1.2 million previously appropriated in 2014.

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and Neighborhood NORCs

This year's Enacted Budget extends the current NORC and Neighborhood NORC contracts to December 31, 2017. The Budget also makes several changes to the NORC and NNORC programs which shall take effect on January 1, 2018, and restructure the statute to clarify program requirements. To reflect the current services provided by projects and current population demographics, the list of eligible services and elder population thresholds for grant eligibility have been updated. Within the RFP process, a priority clause was added for projects proposing to serve an area already being served to ensure continuity of services. In addition, beginning on March 30, 2019, and reoccurring every five years after, NYSOFA will be required to submit a report on the status of NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs to the governor and Legislature.

IV. OUTLOOK AND GOALS FOR 2017

The 2017 Legislative Session promises to present many challenges to the Aging Committee. The Assembly has been working diligently to increase awareness of the many forms of elder abuse in the hope of preventing and providing better support to victims. The Committee on Aging will continue to address the severe challenges surrounding the issue, including the lack of awareness and information about the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, by working to increase opportunities to identify signs of abuse, increase outreach and education, and help empower seniors who are or may become victims of elder abuse.

With a growing number of seniors living independently, it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that older adults are safe at home and in their communities, and that they maintain their health and wellness. While medical advances have led to longer and healthier lives, there are still large numbers of older adults living in poverty. The Committee on Aging will remain dedicated to understanding the causes and risk factors related to poverty among senior citizens, and work toward reviewing existing services and new initiatives to better meet their needs.

The Committee on Aging will also work toward securing adequate resources for various services and programs that serve older adults throughout New York State. With more people living longer, and the aging of the “baby boom” generation, it is essential that we find a way to meet the increasing demand of such programs and ensure that older New Yorkers receive the services they need, both at home and in their communities.

APPENDIX A

Chapters of 2016 - Bills Signed into Law by the Governor

CHAPTER	ASSEMBLY BILL # (SPONSOR)	SENATE BILL # (SPONSOR)	DESCRIPTION
131	A.9712-A (Richardson)	S.8098 (Persaud)	Adds financial literacy education and elder abuse education and outreach to the list of services that may be provided through the congregate services initiative.
245	A.10201 (Harris)	S.7851 (Golden)	Lowers the required match for state funding for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORCs) and Neighborhood NORCs from 100 percent to 25 percent of the state funding received with half required to come from the community served.
343	A.8228-A (Cymbrowitz)	S.6214-A (Golden)	Authorizes a head of household, who has been dropped from the SCRIE or DRIE program due to a non-recurring item of income, to apply the following year and, if accepted, make rent payments at their previous frozen rent amount.
392	A.8679 (Weprin)	S.6231 (Comrie)	Allows the receipt of a disability pension from the United States Postal Service as a way to demonstrate disability for the purposes of eligibility for the DRIE program.
399	A.1150 (Rodriguez)	S.8099 (Valesky)	Establishes the New York State Senior Center Council to address the challenges facing senior centers and offer recommendations as to how the State can help.
442	A.6702 (Perry)	S.8063 (Golden)	Establishes a short form reapplication for any head of household who has been receiving SCRIE or DRIE for five consecutive benefit periods with no change in address or income. The short form would require these individuals to certify that their eligibility information has not changed.
448	A.7588 (Cymbrowitz)	S.5732 (Serino)	Requires NYSOFA to develop a process allowing eligible social adult day programs to provide enriched and/or optional services without the program receiving a grant.
455	A.9143-A (Cymbrowitz)	S.6923 (Serino)	Requires NYSOFA, in conjunction with the NYS Office of Children and Family Services, to conduct a public education campaign regarding elder abuse.

APPENDIX B

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

VETO MEMO. #	ASSEMBLY BILL # (SPONSOR)	SENATE BILL # (SPONSOR)	DESCRIPTION
237	A.7628-A (Barron)	S.5999 (Parker)	Would require the creation of an interagency council that would develop a statewide plan on aging focusing on the current and future needs of older adults.
288	A.9130 (Cymbrowitz)	S.7161 (Savino)	Would remove the requirement that a social adult day program be the recipient of a grant from NYSOFA in order to be subject to rules and regulations promulgated by NYSOFA.

APPENDIX C

Bills that Passed the Assembly in 2016

BILL #	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION
A.300	Dinowitz	Would provide that NYSOFA be consulted in the promotion of volunteer home visitation programs for elderly and invalid victims of violent crime.
A.422-A	Dinowitz	Would authorize the director of NYSOFA to work with the State Board of Pharmacy to create and publish a senior drug guide after consultation with the Department of Health.
A.1087	Dinowitz	Would require the appropriate rent control or administrative agency to send a notice of renewal to each head of household currently receiving an exemption under the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) program. The notice would be sent no less than 30 days prior to the applicable renewal date, via USPS to the head of household's permanent address.
A.1234	Dinowitz	Would expand the "Geriatric Service Demonstration Program" to grant eligibility to providers of chemical dependency and compulsive gambling treatments for the elderly, and require the program to be administered in cooperation with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.
A.4037-A	Robinson	Would require the New York State Department of Financial Services to create an opt-in program whereby bank patrons could choose to opt into the program and financial institutions would be required to report suspected financial exploitation of a participating account holder to the appropriate adult protective services and law enforcement agencies.
A.4252-B	DenDekker	Would direct the Department of Health and NYSOFA to study the fees and charges assessed to residents of assisted living facilities.
A.5337	Cymbrowitz	Would require NYSOFA to develop model community programs materials to be distributed, upon request, to local agencies on aging and community organizations.
A.5354	Cymbrowitz	Would direct NYSOFA to work with the New York State Department of Labor to develop and update annually a guide for businesses to hire, retain, and retrain mature workers.

BILL #	SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION
A.7248-A	Skoufis	Would exclude any non-taxable gain from the exchange of one annuity for another from the calculation of income for the purpose of determining eligibility for the Seniors Homeowner's Exemption.
A.10243	Cymbrowitz	Would clarify that residents living in independent senior housing are able to obtain the same assistive technologies, personal care, and home care services as if they were living in a private home.

APPENDIX D

**2016 Summary Sheet
Summary of Action on All Bills
Referred to the Committee on Aging**

Final Disposition of Bills	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total
Bills Reported With or Without Amendment			
To Floor; Not Returning to Committee	1	0	1
To Floor; Recommitted and Died	0	0	0
To Ways and Means	16	0	16
To Codes	3	0	3
To Rules	0	0	0
To Judiciary	0	0	0
Total	20	0	20
Bills Having Committee Reference Changed			
Total	0	0	0
Senate Bills Substituted or Recalled			
Substituted		0	0
Recalled		1	1
Total		1	1
Bills Defeated in Committee	0	0	0
Bills Never Reported, Held in Committee	6	0	6
Bills Never Reported, Died in Committee	89	17	106
Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken	3	0	0
Motions to Discharge Lost	0	0	0
Total Bills in Committee	118	18	133
Total Number of Committee Meetings Held	5		