



Making New York a better place to age

**New York City Council  
Committee on Aging and Finance  
Chairs Zhuang and Lee  
May 10th 2025  
Preliminary Aging Budget FY25**

My name is [NAME] and I am the [TITLE] at [ORGANIZATION]. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LiveOn NY's members include more than 110 community-based nonprofits that provide core services under the NYC Aging portfolio and many other home and community based services in our city.

**Background & Current Challenges**

New York City has long failed to prioritize the programs and services that help older adults remain in their communities as they age. Unfortunately, this long standing underinvestment has led us to a tipping point: our city now faces the prospect of an additional \$102 million in cuts proposed by the Mayor that could close up to 60 older adult centers and slash vital services across the board. These cuts come at a time when older adults already make up 1 in 5 New Yorkers and this segment of the population is projected to grow to 25% by 2040. If these cuts move forward, more and more older New Yorkers will be pushed out of their homes—or onto the streets—due to an ever-weakening safety net.

Over decades, the City has intentionally underfunded and undervalued older adult programs, making it nearly impossible for providers to meet the growing need. These budget cuts would only accelerate that crisis by forcing more center closures and reducing core services at a time when demand continues to rise.

**Age Strong NYC**

Addressing these shortfalls and decades of neglect requires bold solutions. Based on the facts and data outlined in AgeStrong NYC which we support, we are calling for a transformative investment of at least \$2.3 billion in additional funding, allocated as follows:

- Nutrition: \$500 million
- Housing: \$1 billion
- Community Services and Spaces: \$800 million

This multi-pronged approach ensures that older adults have access to nutritious meals, safe and affordable housing, and robust community-based services—three essentials for healthy, dignified aging.



## **Nutrition**

Older adults deserve access to three meals a day, seven days a week—especially those who are homebound. Funding must also expand daily food availability at Older Adult Centers to include breakfast and grab-and-go options and expanded SNAP outreach. We must also improve pay for staff and create new programs to meet specific needs across the city.

## **Housing**

Our city must provide a genuine path to safe, affordable housing for older New Yorkers. This means ramping up development under programs like SARA, preserving existing housing stock—particularly within HUD 202 buildings—and expanding rental support programs such as SCRIE to help older New Yorkers meet skyrocketing rents.

## **Community Services and Spaces**

Ensuring robust community-based services is key to combating social isolation—a serious issue impacting the health and well-being of older adults. From under-resourced social services to broken HVAC systems in crumbling older adult centers, community-based organizations struggle to maintain spaces and services without consistent capital and expense funding from the City. We are also calling for the council to create a revolving initiative over the next 5 years to invest 5 million a year in emergency repairs for centers across the city.

## **Why Action Now Is Critical**

The proposed \$102 million in cuts will have a compounding effect on top of decades of disinvestment. Once an older adult center closes, it is extremely difficult to reopen or rebuild that capacity. Meanwhile, the fastest-growing group of adults experiencing homelessness in New York City is older adults—an alarming trend that highlights the urgent need for significant and targeted investment.

## **A Transformative Win for New York City**

Anyone who champions these investments will not only avert the closures of up to 60 older adult centers but will also fundamentally transform the future for millions of New Yorkers as we age. Making this \$2.3 billion investment in nutrition, housing, and community services is not just the right thing to do—it is an incredible win that would mark New York City as a truly age-friendly metropolis. It is a bold step that will correct past underfunding and position our city as a national leader in how we treat our older residents.

## **Conclusion**

We urge the City Council and the Administration to reverse the proposed \$102 million in cuts, commit to a robust increase in funding for older adult services, and fully address the decades of neglect that have brought us to this point. The investments we have outlined represent an opportunity for truly



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transformative change—one that ensures older New Yorkers can continue to call this city home. By doing so, we can show that New York City values leadership that takes bold action, invests in its most vulnerable populations, and sets a standard for aging with dignity and independence.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

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*For questions, please email Kevin Kiprovski, Director of Public Policy at LiveOn NY, [kkiprovski@liveon-ny.org](mailto:kkiprovski@liveon-ny.org)*

*LiveOn NY's members provide the core, community-based services that allow older adults to thrive in their communities. With a base of more than 100 community-based organizations serving at least 300,000 older New Yorkers annually. Our members provide services ranging from senior centers, congregate and home-delivered meals, affordable senior housing with services, elder abuse prevention services, caregiver supports, case management, transportation, and NORCs. LiveOn NY advocates for increased funding for these vital services to improve both the solvency of the system and the overall capacity of community-based service providers.*

*LiveOn NY also administers a citywide outreach program and staffs a hotline that educates, screens and helps with benefit enrollment including SNAP, SCRIE and others, and also administers the Rights and Information for Senior Empowerment (RISE) program to bring critical information directly to seniors on important topics to help them age well in their communities.*