

**Testimony of
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**Office for
the Aging**

**Joint Legislative Budget Hearing
Conducted By
Senate Finance Committee
Assembly Ways & Means Committee**

**Thursday, January 30, 2020
Hearing Room B
Legislative Office Building
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York**

The State Office for the Aging and our network does not stop there—we understand the need to continually do more to meet new and emerging needs—and we work to meet these needs. Through innovative partnerships with foundations, state and community partners, and our own efforts, we are expanding services and testing new delivery models. These include:

- Advancing our state age-friendly work via grants to help communities replicate Executive Order #190 at the county level; bring new municipalities into AARP's network of age-friendly communities; stand up five Age Friendly Regional Technical Assistance Centers; and implement a learning collaborative to assure the success of the grantees;
- Implementing our private pay program as a result of receiving the statutory authority in last year's enacted budget;
- Working with Performing Provider Systems (PPS) and health plans to purchase services from our network that address the social determinants of health;
- Significantly expanding our state certification and skills-based trainings for staff who deliver services to older adults;
- Expanding our partnership with OTDA to provide targeted nutrition counseling and nutrition education in low-income target areas in the state;
- Working with the Village to Village network and the Albany Guardian Society to seed local village movements that organize neighbors helping neighbors, and building a regional Village Technical Assistance Center in the Capital District;
- Participating in a statewide collaborative to educate the public on the devastating impact of sepsis;
- Reducing social isolation via the use of animatronic pets;
- Working with the New York State Council on the Arts to bring arts and arts education to senior centers and libraries in three regions to improve health; reduce social isolation; improve cognitive function; and support professional artists;
- Working to better understand the fiscal impact that caregiving has on the public and private workforce and on health care costs; and
- Working with the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council to provide training and education resources that will help us better serve individuals with disabilities who are aging into our services.

NYSOFA will continue to engage state agencies, private partners, not-for-profits, and other community-based organizations to serve New York's older population as effectively as possible.

Thank you—I appreciate the opportunity to be here; and I am happy to answer any questions.