

# Executive Summary

## Services for Older Residents of Onondaga County 2022

**The Onondaga County Office for Aging is seeking  
COMMUNITY INPUT on our 2022 Service Plan.**

Each year the Office for Aging plans programs  
and services for the following year.

**This year we are holding “*Community  
Listening Sessions*” plus we are seeking  
email/fax/mail or telephone input.**

If your senior center/dining or housing site/community  
group or agency would like an **in-person listening  
session** please contact us before 12/30/2021 at:  
315-435-2362 x4942.

We will gather input from all sources and  
**Report to the Community** in February 2022.

J. Ryan McMahon, II  
County Executive



JoAnne Spoto Decker  
Commissioner &  
Executive Director  
Office for Aging

# Executive Summary

The staff of Onondaga County Department of Adult & Long Term Care Services, Office for Aging, wish to thank you for being part of the Office for Aging Service 2022 Service Plan process. We know that you, as consumers and professionals in age-related services, are aware of the social needs in Onondaga County and the publicly funded support services that are required to meet those needs. We are pleased to share our current services, plans and visions for the future with you. We invite you to comment or share your ideas and concerns with us. This can be done in several ways.

**Seniors (age 60 or older), their caregivers or senior service providers (who work with seniors 60 or older) may write, email, call or fax us your input by 12/30/2021 to:**

JoAnne Spoto Decker, Executive Director  
Onondaga County Office for Aging  
421 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor  
John H. Mulroy Civic Center  
Syracuse, NY 13202

**Email: [ellenmccauley@ongov.net](mailto:ellenmccauley@ongov.net)**  
**Telephone: 315-435-2362 Ext. 4942**

**If emailing or faxing please put PLAN2022 in the subject line**

**Fax: 315-435-3129 - Attn: JoAnne Spoto Decker**

**Thank you for helping us develop our 2022 Service Plan**

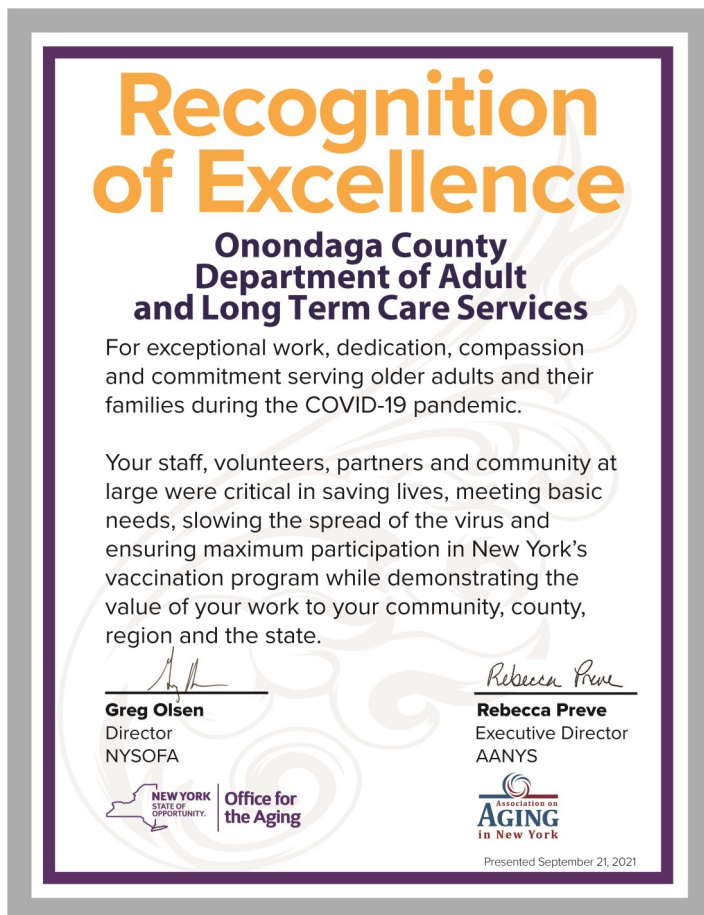


# Agency Overview

The Onondaga County Office for Aging is the designated Area Agency on Aging for Syracuse and Onondaga County. It was established as a result of the Older Americans Act of 1965 and is charged to “...provide assistance in the development of new or improved programs to help older persons through grants to the States for community planning and services and for training through research, development, or training project grants...”

The aging population of Onondaga County continues to grow and become more diverse. This affords us the opportunity to plan, establish and administer programs and services that will celebrate the strengths of seniors, and provide for their needs.

To this end, the Department of Adult & Long Term Care Services, Office for Aging, is pleased to present this Executive Summary of planned services for the year 2022. Our office welcomes comments from consumers, as well as service organizations, about issues and needs our community faces as our citizens age.



Our Department was recognized by the **NYS Office for Aging** for **EXCELLENCE** during the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic. Just a few highlights include how our Nutrition Program managed the Senior & Health Care Worker Nutrition Hotline responding to over 3,000 calls. More than 350,000 take-out and home delivered meals were provided by our staff and a host of volunteers. 35,000 masks and cases of hand sanitizer were also distributed.

**We are committed to assisting our community in 2022 and beyond.**

## Partnerships and Priority Services in 2021

As the official Area Agency on Aging in Onondaga County, the Department of Adult & Long Term Care Services, Office for Aging, is mandated by law to provide certain priority services. They are:

**Legal Services:** Contractor provides legal case assistance in civil matters and specific entitlement programs.

**Access Services:** These programs provide vital linkages to other social services. In addition, they can directly meet critical needs of older persons.

**In-Home Services:** Programs in this group are directly connected to the needs of homebound and/or frail older persons. These programs are designed to provide case specific support so that the older person may remain home for as long as it is practical.

We are committed to the continuation of our programs, which are planned and designed to meet both the letter of the law, and the spirit of the law. In 2021, we administered these mandated services in partnership with the following contracted agencies:

## Community Partners

Access CNY	Menorah Park Home Care
All Metro Health Care	Nascentia
Alzheimer's Solutions	North Area Meals on Wheels
ARISE	Northeast Community Center
Aurora of CNY	OASIS
CareGivers, Inc.	P.E.A.C.E., Inc.
Catholic Charities	Response 4 Help
CNY Regional Transportation Authority	Sage Upstate
Dunbar Association	Self-Direct Inc.
Ecumenical Council of Minoa, Bridgeport, Kirkville	Senior Home Care
Helio Health	Silver Fox Social Day Program
Highland Patient Transport	Stafkings
Huntington Family Center	Suburban Transportation
Integrity	Syracuse Housing Authority
InterFaith Works	Syracuse Jewish Family Service
Interim HealthCare	Syracuse Community Connections
Jewish Community Center	The Salvation Army Syracuse Area Services
Laker Transportation Project, Inc.	Touching Hearts at Home
Legal Aid Society of Mid New York, Inc.	Town of Elbridge
Maxim Healthcare Services	TymeSavers, Inc.
Meals on Wheels Eastern Onondaga County	Upper NY Conference of the UM Church
Meals on Wheels of Syracuse	Westcott Community Center

## The Year Ahead - 2022

(Service Delivery will be Provided in Accordance with CDC Guidelines.)

**Onondaga County Department of Adult & Long Term Care Services, Office for Aging, will:**

- ❑ Continue support of **Mandated Services** contingent upon funding from the United States Congress, the New York State Legislature, the Onondaga County Legislature and the City of Syracuse.
- ❑ Continue to provide services to the community through **Contracted Agencies** by means of a Competitive Procurement Process. The Office for Aging staff and the Aging Services Advisory Board, in accordance with New York State Office for Aging regulations, will monitor programs.
- ❑ Continue to offer telephone and in-person **Information and Assistance** services.
- ❑ **Senior Nutrition Services** will work with contract agencies and community groups to increase access to senior nutrition programs and other support services.
- ❑ The **Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP)** will continue to provide in-home services to seniors in accordance with NY State Office for Aging regulations and include consumer directed in-home options for care.
- ❑ **Caregiver Services Program** will continue to provide information, assistance and public education to caregivers. The Program will also offer, and facilitate, Caregiver Discussion Groups throughout Onondaga County.
- ❑ The **HIICAP (Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program)** will continue to offer free and unbiased insurance information.
- ❑ **New York Connects** will continue to offer a “No Wrong Door Program” for free and impartial information and assistance on long term care services and supports for people of any age and any payer source. Certified staff will provide Options Counseling to assist families in choosing appropriate, person-centered services.
- ❑ **Community Services** for the Elderly Programs will continue to operate with the goal of creating and implementing programs and services that meet the diversity of needs of older adults. Providing ethnic and culturally sensitive case work practices, continues to be a central focus.
- ❑ Access to Energy Assistance for income-eligible seniors will continue through **HEAP** and other programs.
- ❑ Continue community based funding for **Transportation Services** and seek ways to coordinate and expand in underserved areas for seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- ❑ The **Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Program** will focus on increasing access to evidence-based programs such as Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Diabetes Self-Management Program to unserved areas.
- ❑ Continue, and expand, **Fall Prevention** programs.
- ❑ **Public Information** will continue to be distributed via a variety of venues, including social media, multimedia, printed outreach materials and on our continuously updated website: [www.ongov.net/aging](http://www.ongov.net/aging).



## **Resources for Older Adults**

### **Caregiver Services**

Information and Consultation for people caring for older persons.

- Caregiver Information & Assistance
- Caregiver Discussion Groups
- Public Education

### **HIICAP**

Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance

- Free, unbiased information on supplemental health insurance, Medicare and prescription coverage options.

### **EISEP**

Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program. Sliding Scale Fee

- In-home, non-medical care to help frail individuals age 60+
- In-home assessments & personal care services
- Respite/Social Adult Day Programs
- Consumer Directed Options

### **HEAP**

Home Energy Assistance Program

- Utility subsidy to those 60+ & income eligible

### **Community Service Programs**

- Home Repairs/Housing Counseling
- Legal Services/Neighborhood Advisors
- Senior Center Activities
- Social Work Services
- Referrals for Transportation Options

### **New York Connects**

Information & Assistance On:

- Long-Term Care services & supports - any age and any payer source
- Certified staff will provide Options Counseling to assist families in choosing appropriate, person-centered services

### **Long-Term Care Resource Center**

- Provides on-going, medically based care management for adults & children with disabilities
- Works with Adult Protective to provide nursing assessments
- Works with Medicaid Waiver Programs to provide personal & consumer directed home care services

### **Nutrition Services**

- Nutrition Counseling & Education
- Congregate Meals at County Dining Sites for age 60+
- Home Delivered Meals
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Coupons

### **Adult Protection Services**

**315-435-2915 [www.ongov.net/aps](http://www.ongov.net/aps)**

- Serves at-risk adults, who have a physical/mental impairment
- Services to keep persons safe due to their inability to care for themselves or due to neglect/abuse by others