

FY 2025 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department for the Aging

Meeting Date:

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Community Board Members do not have expertise about funding sources and the process within agencies regarding funding of various programs and initiatives. However, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. General questions about program funding.

1. What programs will see a significant increase or decrease in funding overall? To what extent, if any, is the increase or decrease in funding related to non-recurring federal funding allocations?
2. Which programs will be new or eliminated entirely?
3. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?
4. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY25 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY26 ?

II. Considering the current migrant crisis in NYC, what do the impacted agencies expect regarding continued influx in FY 25 and what are plans to accommodate this.

III. What are the plans to accommodate a possible extension of PEGs into FY 25?

IV. Lastly, the agendas may include Boards' requests on district-specific budget questions that will not be included in district level consultations. We request that the agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

Please provide written responses or even a PowerPoint presentation that we can use to fully and accurately educate our Board Members.

AGENDA ITEM [1]: General Agency Funding Discussion

As Agencies continue to recover from the COVID 19 period to provide full services and relief funds from the Federal Government to states and municipalities begins to wind down:

1. What changes in federal funding have been instituted for FY 24? Will those changes continue into FY 25? What portion or percentage of the FY 23 and FY 24 budgets consisted of non-recurring federal funding?
2. What, if any, programs are affected by a change (decrease or increase) or end of COVID relief funds for FY 24?
3. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for FY 24 adopted budget compared to FY23 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 24, FY 25 or further out years after the non-recurring federal funding has been exhausted?
4. How will funding allocations be adjusted for impacts of inflation for fy 24 and what is planned for fy25?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. The only change in federal funding that the New York City Department for the Aging (NYC Aging) is currently anticipating is the expiration of the emergency COVID-19 Pandemic stimulus funds in FY 2024. NYC Aging anticipates that those changes will continue into FY 2025 as they were one-time emergency related programs. In FY 2023, 12% of the NYC Aging budget consisted of non-recurring federal funds, while in FY 2024, 8.9% of our overall funding consists of non-recurring federal funds.
2. As we move into FY 2024, NYC Aging is working to ensure the both the end of COVID-19 emergency stimulus funds and the difficult fiscal climate that the city is experiencing do not negatively affect programs and services for older adults. Currently, there is no impact to programs or services solely due to a loss of these funds.
3. NYC Aging works closely with our partners at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to fully fund programs that serve the needs of older adults regardless of changes in the city's fiscal realities. In FY 2023, NYC Aging had an adopted budget of \$540.6 million, and because of the difficult fiscal year and the Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG), which all agencies had to account for, ended the fiscal year with a budget of \$545.3 million. In FY 2024, the NYC Aging current adopted budget is \$521.8, which is \$18.8m less than the adopted FY 2023 budget. Currently, NYC Aging does not anticipate a shortfall in future years. However, we work with our partners at the OMB to manage adequate funding for

our programs and services during difficult fiscal years.

4. At NYC Aging, we understand the impacts of inflation that our contracted providers experience as they operate programs which serve the needs of older adults. Higher operating costs have been a concern for NYC Aging in the past two years, and we work with our providers to manage rising costs within their existing budgets. In FY 2023, the Administration provided funding to support the Workforce Enhancement Initiative, which provides additional funds for staffing in Health and Human Service contracts. This funding was awarded to nonprofit providers that already had active contracts with New York City agencies. While the WEI is only a small step in increasing worker pay, NYC Aging will continue to work toward greater pay parity in the aging services fields. Additionally, our new Case Management RFP includes a higher rate for our case management services, up from \$68.92/hour in FY22 to \$75.31/hour. Further, NYC Aging has coordinated with our Caregiver providers to align our contractual expectations with the available funding.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [2]: Senior Facilities Requiring Renovation

1. Please provide an updated list of names and community district facilities that require renovation as well as the funds and plans in place to improve these existing centers? Please update the 5-year plan provided last year.
2. What specific facilities have funding allocated from the budget for renovations?
3. Are there any operational changes planned and budget for these facilities?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. NYC Aging establishes contracts with providers who run Older Adult Centers (OACs) and maintains close relationships with those programs. However, OACs exist in a range of buildings or spaces which have differing occupancy agreements that determine levels of responsibility for improvements and repairs. Thus, NYC Aging works with the OACs to address needs and find opportunities for upgrades, repairs, or renovations on a case-by-case basis depending on the building-type.

- At NYC Aging, we are always looking for opportunities to help centers update their spaces to best serve older adult clients. This year, we were able to work with our Congressional partners to submit proposals for earmarks and grants which may allow some centers to complete necessary projects. Below is a list of projects currently planned or in-process for Manhattan.

Center Name	Project
Goddard Riverside	Lease Renewal Scope of Work
LaGuardia	AC Replacement
Leonard Covello	Code Compliance and Local Law 97 Upgrades
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Washington Lexington	AC Replacement

- As stated previously, no programs have been eliminated which would lead to planned operational changes at facilities.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [3]: Case per Case Worker Ratio

- Will DFTA continue to budget to support providers and maintain appropriate Case Worker Ratios?
- What is the current Ratio per Case Worker?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

- Ensuring appropriate caseworker ratios is vital to serving the needs of older adults and maintaining success in these critical programs. NYC Aging Case Management Agencies (CMA) provide necessary help to homebound older New Yorkers and meet the client where they are based on their unique needs. NYC Aging continues to budget to support providers and maintain appropriate Case Worker ratios year over year, and to manage increases in CMA clients as older adults are evaluated for programs like homecare or

home delivered meals.

2. As of the July 28, 2023, Terms and Conditions report which has been submitted to the New York City Council, the Case Manager to client ratio is 1:60.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [4]: Home Sharing Program

1. Will DFTA continue to partner with NY Foundation for Senior Citizens to operate the Home Sharing Program for FY25 and FY26
2. Is there a need to increase funding for this program due to the number of evictions post-COVID as well as the influx of Asylum Seekers?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. NYC Aging does not place older adults in housing, construct affordable housing, or operate housing assistance programs. Housing issues may be included in the many social services that NYC Aging provides to older adults, based on their unique individual needs, but we are not a housing provider. NYC Aging is always looking for innovative ways to best serve the needs of older New Yorkers and also direct resources to programs and services that directly meet the needs of older New Yorkers. That is why we work closely with HRA, HPD, NYCHA, PEU, and our Federal and State partners to help meet housing needs for older adults. Beginning in FY 2024, because of the fiscal landscape of the city, NYC Aging will no longer fund the small New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Sharing program in an effort to direct valuable resources to programs which assist a greater share of older New Yorkers. This does not mean that the Home Sharing Program no longer exists, rather, the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens will continue to operate this program, advertise, and find matches for older adults looking for housing.
2. As noted above, NYC Aging is no longer funding this program. Our goal is to assist older New Yorkers find housing which meets their needs by working with our partner agencies like Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) which provide direct assistance and housing supports to all New

Yorkers including older adults. It is our understanding that the majority of asylum seekers entering New York City are not older adults.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [5]: Funding for Home Delivered Meals Program(s)

1. Will funding be increased for homebound older adults to receive home delivered meals in Manhattan boards 1-12 for fy 25?
2. Are special diets and cultural preferences being continued in the contracts for HDM?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. NYC Aging remains committed to serving older adults who are most in need and require access to nutritious food and are unable to shop or cook for themselves. In the FY 2024 Adopted Budget, NYC Aging will see the HDM program funded at \$59.6 million, despite the \$5 million PEG identified for this program due to underutilization. Additionally, for the remainder of the HDM contracts, beginning in FY 24, NYC Aging announced an increase in reimbursement rates for home delivered meals. This funding brought the reimbursement rate for meals to \$12.78, following increases as well last year. This increase will continue to help in serving more older adults the meals they need to combat food insecurity.
2. NYC Aging requires that providers understand the cultural needs of their communities where they serve older adults. It is our ultimate goal to ensure that any older adult who needs a meal, can receive a meal that fits their specific cultural or religious needs. HDM contracts have larger catchment areas than OACs where meals are also provided, and therefore, have specific requirements to always provide options for varying meal types. This includes Halal, Vegetarian, Chinese, Latin, Russian, Mediterranean, and Kosher.

In our efforts to reduce food insecurity among older New Yorkers, for decades, the Department for the Aging has worked with our providers to serve nutritious meals. In the past few years, we have required that one vegetarian entrée be served at congregate meals at older adult centers and to homebound residents through our home delivered

meals program. With the new City Food Standards requiring one plant-based entrée be served, we worked with our providers to meet this new requirement.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [6]: Connecting Older Adults

With the increase in Telehealth mandates the need to educate and provide technology for medical needs as well as to combat social isolation is needed.

1. Will Funding be maintained in FY25 to secure tablets for seniors in NYCHA and other low-income dwellings (HDFC; TIL; SCRIE) who do not have tablets?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we learned how incredibly important internet access, devices, and education were to ensuring that older adults stay connected, combatted social isolation, and were able to participate in programs or services necessary to our everyday lives like telehealth services. In FY22, DFTA distributed more than 10,400 tablets to older adults across the City. Currently, NYC Aging is working to welcome more older adults into their local Older Adult Centers which offer case assistance, technology services, and congregate meals, and expanding internet access at older adults' homes through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Additionally, we work with our partners at NYCHA to inform more older adults living in NYCHA facilities about the Big Apple Connect program. This program provides free high-speed internet service to NYCHA spaces including our OACs which are located in NYCHA developments.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [7]: Home Care Funding

1. Will funding be continued and increased for Senior Home Care Programs in FY25?
2. What are the numbers of Seniors on the waiting list for Home Care Services in FY24?
3. Please provide a list of Home Care by District and the funding level.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. NYC Aging has secured funding for Fiscal Year 2024 to support the wages of Home Care attendants. For Fiscal Year 2025, NYC Aging continues to work with OMB to secure funding.
2. It is important to note that waitlist numbers reflect a point in time. In other words, based on the need/demand, waitlist numbers will constantly fluctuate – often daily. Our providers will work to prioritize anyone waiting for services and address any urgent needs during the intake process. We are committed to reducing waitlist numbers for key services, like Home Care, which is crucial to addressing the health needs of older adults. Often waitlists represent a revolving door of individuals who are being onboarded for services and are immediately replaced by another individual recently determined eligible for services. On August 1, 2023, there were 289 clients on the waiting list for home care services.
3. Manhattan homecare services are provided by the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens Home Attendant Services, Inc., and is funded at \$8.75 million in FY 2024.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [8]: Transportation for Seniors and Disabled

1. What is the status of the “My Ride” Pilot Program and when will it be expanded to all Manhattan boards?

2. Will the monthly ride allowance be continued after the Pilot Program has expired?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. DFTA “My Ride” was a pilot program federally funded in partnership with DOT and ended September 2022. NYC Aging is happy to report that we have just completed a successful Transportation Request for Proposal (RFP) process which has awarded contracts to providers in catchment areas citywide who will serve the transportation needs of older adults. These providers offer accessible transportation services within communities, connected older New Yorkers to grocery stores, medical appointments, social activities, community centers, houses of worship, and other vital needs. This is in addition to the individual transportation services which Older Adult Centers may provide as well. We are confident that this more robust transportation program will best serve the needs of older adults.
2. As stated above the DFTA “My Ride” Pilot Program has ended and our efforts at NYC Aging to provide transportation options for older New Yorkers has transitioned to our more robust transportation program with multiple providers in catchment areas across the five boroughs.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [9]: Protecting Food Programs for the Senior Population

1. Will the Home Delivered Meals (HDM) program continue to provide meals to older adults without interruption in fy 25?
2. Is funding adequate to maintain and replace or upgrade food delivery trucks?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. NYC Aging remains committed to serving older adults who are most in need and require access to nutritious food and are unable to shop or cook for themselves. In the FY 2024 Adopted Budget, NYC Aging will see the HDM program funded at \$59.6 million, despite the \$5 million PEG identified for this program due to underutilization. Additionally, for the remainder of the HDM contracts, beginning in FY 24, NYC Aging

announced an increase in reimbursement rates for home delivered meals. This funding brought the reimbursement rate for meals to \$12.78, following increases as well last year. This increase will continue to help in serving more older adults the meals they need to combat food insecurity.

2. In FY 2023, NYC Aging worked with the New York City Council to secure 44 Hot Shot vans (Food Delivery trucks) in the past year which allow our HDM providers to more easily and securely deliver meals to homebound older adults. As of August 2023, 43 Hot Shot Vans have been delivered and are being used by HDM providers. We are working with our providers to utilize current budgets to for the upgrade and replacement of aging food delivery vans. We always welcome your advocacy and support to the New York City Council which can help us replace or upgrade more food delivery vans in the future.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [10]: Maintaining Independence for the Homebound

1. Will continued case management be funded in fy 25 to connect homebound seniors to resources and benefits to maintain their independence while living at home (i.e. Home Care delivered meals; and medical care needs)?
2. Please give the status of Community Care Plan and funding allocation.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. Case Management Agencies (CMA) connect homebound older adults to resources and benefits so that they may continue to live independently and safely in their homes. Case Management will be funded at the current baseline levels in FY 2024 at \$44.1 million which can serve approximately 35,000 clients annually.
2. NYC Aging released a 5-year Community Care Plan in April 2021 to address the needs of a growing and diversifying older adult population so that they may remain at home in their communities in a state of health and well-being as long as possible. The goal is to make the city age-inclusive, providing access to a full spectrum of high-quality critical services, resources, and opportunities that will support older adults with their daily living activities, which then promotes the second goal of reducing institutionalization.

To date we have increased our older adult center network, expanded citywide and neighborhood-based marketing and outreach for services, increased transportation options, and strengthened funding for additional staff for the existing network of OACs. Total funding for the Community Care Plan in FY 2023 is at \$67.24 million.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [11]:

[Insert Question]

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [12]: [Title]

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AGENCY RESPONSE:

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NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [13]: [Title]

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AGENDA ITEM [14]: [Title]

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MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [15]: [Title]

[Insert Question]

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: