

# Executive Summary

## Services for Older Residents of Onondaga County

### 2021

#### **The Onondaga County Office for Aging is seeking input on our 2021 Service Plan**

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

Usually we hold a Public Hearing for community input but this year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are unable to hold a public meeting. Your answers to this survey will serve as your input for our 2021 Service Plan. When we have compiled the data and finalized our plan we will be posting a video, on our website, [www.ongov.net/aging](http://www.ongov.net/aging), with the results.

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Seniors (60 or older) can complete a survey [here](#)  
Senior Service Providers (who work with seniors 60 or  
older) can complete a survey [here](#)

**Please respond by 5 pm on Friday 11/20/2020**

**STAY TUNED (Details to Come)**

**We will compile the data and report to the Community  
by Video (YouTube/Facebook)**

J. Ryan McMahan, II  
County Executive



JoAnne Spoto Decker  
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 2021 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 by survey:

**Seniors (age 60 or older) can complete a survey [here](#)**  
**Senior Service Providers (who work with seniors 60 or older) can complete a survey [here](#)**

**Please respond by 5 pm on Friday 11/20/2020**

If you cannot complete the survey you may write, email or fax us your input by 11/20/20 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)**

**If emailing or faxing please put PLAN2021 in the subject line**

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

# 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 Older Americans Act of 1965 is the principal piece of legislation responsible for creating an organized network of services for the elderly. This watershed social policy went beyond the boundaries of the income-insurance programs. It established an arm of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now known as the Department of Health and Human Services) to provide the basis for government financial aid to assist state and local communities in meeting the physical and social needs of seniors.

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 2021. Our office welcomes comments from consumers, as well as service organizations, about issues and needs our community faces as our citizens age.

**STAY TUNED (Details to Come)**  
**We will compile the data and report to the**  
**Community by Video (YouTube/Facebook)**

Thank you for helping us develop our 2021 Service Plan



# Partnerships and Priority Services in 2020

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 2020, we administered these mandated services in partnership with the following contracted agencies:

## Community Partners

### Legal Services:

Legal Aid Society of Mid New York, Inc.

### Access Services:

Alzheimer's Association of CNY  
Aurora of CNY  
Canton Woods Senior Center  
Catholic Charities  
The Centers at St. Camillus  
Central New York Services  
CNY Regional Transportation Authority  
Dunbar Association  
Ecumenical Council of Minoa, Bridgeport, Kirkville  
ElderCare Social Day Program  
Highland Patient Transport  
Huntington Family Center  
Jewish Community Center  
Laker Transportation Project, Inc.  
Meals on Wheels Eastern Onondaga County

Meals on Wheels of Syracuse  
North Area Meals on Wheels  
Northeast Community Center  
OASIS  
P.E.A.C.E., Inc.  
Silver Fox Social Day Program  
Suburban Transportation  
Syracuse Housing Authority  
Syracuse Jewish Family Service  
Syracuse Community Connections  
The Salvation Army Syracuse Area Services  
Town of Elbridge  
Upper NY Conference of the UM Church  
Visiting Nurse Association of CNY  
Westcott Community Center

### In-Home Services:

Access CNY  
All Metro Health Care  
ARISE  
CareGivers, Inc.  
Catholic Charities  
Franciscan Health Support

Response 4 Help  
Integrity  
Interim HealthCare  
Maxim Healthcare Services  
Menorah Park Home Care  
Nascentia Health

P.E.A.C.E., Inc.  
Self-Direct Inc.  
Stafkings  
Syracuse Jewish Family Service  
The Salvation Army  
TymeSavers, Inc.

## The Year Ahead - 2021

(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 updated website: [www.ongov.net/aging](http://www.ongov.net/aging).



# Onondaga County Office for Aging 315-435-2362 [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
- Take Out Meals at County Dining Sites for age 60+
- Home Delivered Meals
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Coupons