



NYS ASSEMBLY

Committee on
Aging

SHELDON SILVER, SPEAKER * JEFFREY DINOWITZ, CHAIR * SUMMER 2010



Message from the Chair

Dear Friend,

This has been an extraordinarily difficult year for New York State. Given the tough economy, the enormous budget deficits, and the need to make significant cuts in government spending, tough decisions were necessary. In every area of the budget it was important to rein in spending but, at the same time, work to insure that the important needs of New Yorkers, especially those who are most vulnerable, are not ignored.

This is the message I have been trying to convey this year as Chairman of the Aging Committee. The fastest growing segment of the population in New York State is those age 65 and above. In the face of difficult financial circumstances, we have been doing everything in our power to maintain the quality and amount of services available to older adults in New York State. The 2010-2011 budget will keep the base appropriations for Aging services unchanged from the previous year, which will preserve the community-based services network in New York State.

While I am pleased that Aging programs were, for the most part, held harmless in this budget, I am deeply concerned about the future of Aging services in our state. We are facing a substantial increase in the senior population, especially older seniors, at a time when funding for these programs is in serious danger. Rest assured that as Chairman of the Aging Committee, I will continue to be a strong advocate for the needs of older adults in New York State.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Dinowitz
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Aging

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Assemblyman Dinowitz and Colleagues Save Senior Centers and Other Programs Throughout New York State

The Assembly successfully restored \$37 million to the Title XX program that was cut in Governor Paterson's budget proposal. The Title XX block grant provides federal funds to the states for Adult Protective Services, Domestic Violence Prevention Programs, and a litany of social service programs including child care and senior programming.

In the past, New York has received approximately \$100 million in Title XX funding, with \$63 million dedicated to mandated services and \$37 for discretionary purposes, which is used in New York City to fund senior centers. Governor Paterson's budget proposed redirecting the discretionary funds to other parts of the budget, which put senior programs throughout New York State in jeopardy. Most notably, 50-75 senior centers in New York City were at risk of closing because of this massive cut proposed by the Governor.

The New York City delegation of the Assembly, led by Aging Committee Chairman Jeffrey Dinowitz, immediately expressed their outrage against the Governor's plan and began working to reverse it. After 62 other members of the Assembly from New York City joined Assemblyman Dinowitz to voice their opposition to this proposal, the Legislature and the Governor finally agreed to fully restore funding for these programs for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.



Assemblyman Dinowitz received an award, presented by NYC Department for the Aging Commissioner Lillian Barrios-Paoli, from the Sadin Institute on Law and Public Policy and the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging Longevity of Hunter College. He was recognized for his extraordinary efforts to improve the lives of older New Yorkers.

In the current fiscal year the City of New York's funding for senior programs through the Title XX program is unchanged from the previous year. The Legislature has done its part to maintain the quality and level of senior programs in New York City and the state. Any reductions in services funded by the Title XX program will be a direct result of actions taken by local officials who do not support community-based senior programming. Thanks to this restoration, the City of New York no longer has the excuse to close 50 senior centers. The City must make keeping these centers open a top priority.

Assembly Honors 2010 Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chairman of the Assembly Aging Committee, proudly presented Grace Denniston of Albion, New York with the 2010 Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen Award at the Annual Senior Citizen's Day Celebration on May 5, 2010.

Grace embodies everything that is right about seniors in New York State. Since her retirement in 2004, she has volunteered weekly at a local Head-Start Program and the Community Action Angels in Albion. She is also a Past-President of the Albion Rotary Club and is an active member of the Carlton United Methodist Church. Grace continues to give her time working with terminally ill patients and their families as a volunteer with a local Hospice organization.



Assemblyman Dinowitz with 2010 Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen Award winner Grace Denniston of Albion, New York in the New York State Assembly Chamber on May 5, 2010.

Her compassion, dedication, and willingness to participate in her community are a testament to the people of the State of New York. The Assembly Aging Committee was extremely proud to present this award to Grace and we wish her nothing but continued health and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

Significant Committee Legislation

A.1962 (Benjamin) – Provides for the creation of a drug guide for seniors regarding the drugs commonly used by people over 55 years of age; functions and drug interactions.

A.1968-A (Clark) – Authorizes department of transportation to conduct a statewide survey to determine areas with a high incidence of pedestrian accidents involving senior citizens.

A.3397-A (Englebright) – Requires model zoning and planning guidelines that foster age-integrated communities to include provisions to allow for accessory senior citizen

units in areas zoned for single family residences and for mixed-use development accommodating senior citizen residential housing.

A.3733-B (Dinowitz) – Establishes a senior dental services grant program; authorizes the director to establish the program and, upon the availability of appropriations, provide grants to eligible elderly persons who are in need of such services.

A.5864 (Lifton) – Authorizes the director of the office for the aging to establish a long term care worker training pilot program for the purpose of expanding access to enhanced education and training

for health care and social service practitioners who provide services to elderly persons across the state.

A.8233 (Dinowitz) – Requires the provision of guides containing best practices for retaining employees who are informal caregivers; such guides shall be available on the websites of the state office for the aging, the department of labor and the department of state.

A.9841 (Dinowitz) – Allows consideration of in-kind support when determining grantees of the naturally occurring retirement communities supportive service program.