

Investing *in the* Future of Care

The New York Caring Majority calls for greater investments in home care that: allow people to live independently in their homes, make care work a dignified, family-sustaining job, and support family caregivers and our communities.

We applaud the Governor for introducing a Women's Agenda. A true Women's Agenda must include investments in home care, the fastest growing sector in which 93 percent are women, disproportionately women of color, and in which workers are most vulnerable to harassment and abuse. A true Women's Agenda would protect women across lifespan and ability, addressing the waiting list of over 16,000 older New Yorkers desperate for home care and other critical services. A true Women's Agenda would value care work and caregiving by investing in the future of care.

WE RECOMMEND THESE INVESTMENTS IN FY2019:

Clear the waiting lists to make New York a "No Wait State." We can do better to meet the needs of older adults. We should ensure that no one needs to wait for home care services. Waiting lists disrupt families, people's ability to work, and add stress. Investments in our home care workforce and programs can help to make us a "No Wait State." We recommend the NY Connects program be fully funded at \$33 million annually and Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) be funded at \$24 million to address the current wait list.

Fund the Home Care Jobs Innovation Fund. Create a pilot project, the Home Care Jobs Innovation Fund, which would test job supports that impact worker recruitment and retention. This fund would identify strategies, in addition to training, that attract and keep workers in the field, such as innovative methods for finding the right applicants, new hire orientation strategies, or novel worker investments (e.g., transportation fund, scholarship program, or retention bonuses). The funding of these pilot projects would help the state craft a comprehensive strategy to address the home care workforce shortage. We recommend the Home Care Jobs Innovation Fund be funded at \$15 million.

Expand the Rural Home and Community Based Services Study. This survey would provide important insight about how to address challenges facing the HCBS system in rural areas of the state. However, we believe this should be amended so that it is a statewide study. Findings from the study can be helpful in establishing HCBS baseline rates for Medicaid Managed Care. We applaud the legislature for allocating \$289 million last year for the developmentally disabled programs. We must ensure that this level of support is given to programs and the workforce across the entire sector, including those for older adults and people with other disabilities.

Ensure funding equity for community and social services. We must ensure that all New Yorkers who want to remain at home and living within the community are able to do so. Those who choose to live in nursing homes or institutions should also receive quality care. We should invest in and incentivize for community based services to ensure that people have viable and strong alternatives to institutional care.

Ensure workers are paid for all hours worked. Paid caregivers work hard and are essential to providing quality home care for all New Yorkers but too often they are victims of wage theft. The system needs to change to ensure that they are treated fairly and paid for all hours worked.

In New York State, there are about 326,000 home care workers, including home health aides and personal care assistants. That is expected to grow by almost 125,000 by 2024 – a growth of 38 percent. We don't want our fastest growing jobs to be some of the lowest paid. NY should invest economic development dollars in the home care workforce, where we know there will be growth, and the jobs go to support our local economies AND the people we love. We should ensure that all New Yorkers are able to access the supports and services they need to stay at home, where they want to live.



**All New Yorkers
deserve the care
we need to live
full and healthy
lives. Now is the
time to change
the way we care.**

NEW YORK CARING MAJORITY

Who We Are

The New York Caring Majority is a movement of seniors, people with disabilities, family caregivers, and domestic and home care workers from all across the state. We advocate for a more sustainable and just caring economy that will help all New Yorkers who give and who receive care live fuller and healthier lives.

We're working to change the way New York Cares

Community based long-term care is the fastest growing sector of health care. However, while New York's goals are aligned with community based care, our society has no plan for how to effectively provide for this increasing demand.

Our policies and programs have yet to catch up with our state's changing realities, and as a result, our families are struggling.

Those of us who cannot pay out-of-pocket for care are often sent against our will away from our homes and communities to nursing homes; our families are spending down generations of savings to pay for care for our loved ones and grappling with increasing caregiving responsibilities; and the people we often rely on to care for our family members struggle to get by on poverty wages.

It's time to change the way we provide care for our loved ones.

Our goals are:

- To make long-term care services and supports affordable and accessible to all New Yorkers who require additional support to live independently;
- To improve the quality of long-term care jobs and create the caregiving jobs we will need to meet growing demand; and
- To protect essential programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, the Older Americans Act, and the Affordable Care Act.

The New York Caring Majority is:

A Better Balance

Caring Across Generations

Consumer Directed
Personal Assistance
Association of New York State

Hand in Hand: the Domestic
Employers Network

Jews for Racial &
Economic Justice

LiveOn NY

National Domestic
Workers Alliance

National Employment
Law Project

New York Statewide Senior
Action Council, Inc

PHI New York

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