

#### TESTIMONY: UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

Before the Joint Fiscal Committees of the New York State Legislature Human Services Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

# Submitted by: Ariel Savransky, UJA-Federation of New York

**February 2, 2022** 

On behalf of UJA-Federation of New York, our network of nonprofit partners and those we serve, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of maintaining and expanding support for the human services sector, particularly as our state is still fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Established more than 100 years ago, UJA-Federation of New York is one of the nation's largest local philanthropies. Central to UJA's mission is to care for those in need—identifying and meeting the needs of New Yorkers of all backgrounds and Jews everywhere. UJA has more than 50 thousand engaged donors in the New York area, supports an expansive network of nearly 100 nonprofit organizations serving those that are most vulnerable and in need of programs and services, and allocates over \$150 million each year to strengthen Jewish life, combat poverty and food insecurity, nurture mental health and well-being, and respond to crises here and across the globe.

# **Human Services COLA**

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically and disproportionately impacted the lives of all New Yorkers, particularly those living in poverty, further lifting-up the effects of systemic inequality and the real challenges New York State faces. In response to these needs, UJA's network of human services partners has been on the front lines since the pandemic hit, assisting New Yorkers of all backgrounds throughout the five boroughs of New York City, Westchester, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. UJA's network provides a wide range of services, including childcare, mental health supports, case management services, older adult programming, and access to food.

The pandemic has exacerbated the fiscal challenges faced by human services nonprofits who have fronted the costs of personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, and technology enhancements to ensure continued service delivery. Related to these costs are staff retention challenges, which are aggravated by low wages in state contracts.

UJA is supportive of Governor Hochul's proposed \$500 million to fund a 5.4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for state contracted human service workers. However, clarifying language must be incorporated to ensure that all eligible human services are funded. As it is currently written, in both the Aid to Localities and Article VII bills, only certain human services programs within certain agencies are authorized to provide the COLA. State agencies should review their portfolios to ensure that all human services programs are provided a COLA. Having this COLA implemented across-the-board and inclusive of all human services nonprofits under contract with New York will help achieve better pay equity across the State.

# **Services for Holocaust Survivors Living in Poverty**

New York State is home to nearly 40,000 Holocaust survivors, 40 percent of whom are living in poverty. A survivor is an individual, Jewish or non-Jewish, who experienced persecution at the hands of the Nazi regime. They were targeted due to race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disabilities, and political ideology. They survived concentration camps or were forced to flee their homes and countries. More than sixty percent of Holocaust survivors emigrated from the former Soviet Union before coming to the United States; they receive little-to-no Social Security income and are extremely poor.

As New York continues to support its immigrant communities and address the rise of anti-Semitism and hate crimes, it is imperative that we not leave Holocaust survivors behind. In FY 2021-2022, the Executive and Legislature jointly invested \$1.5 million to support case management services for Holocaust survivors. This year, Governor Hochul provided \$1 million in her Executive Budget proposal. UJA asks the Legislature to match Governor Hochul's historic investment and bring the total funding for case management services for Holocaust survivors to \$2 million in FY 2022-2023.

Today, the youngest survivors are in their mid-70s, and as they age, they require even more care. The terrible trials and traumas they suffered in their earlier years show dire effects with age. While every year the number of Holocaust survivors decline, the cost of care significantly increases.

COVID-19 has been particularly painful for Holocaust survivors, many of whom already suffer from post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and other mental health complications, and the trauma Holocaust Survivors experience due to their childhoods is exacerbated by the pandemic. Survivors feel they are being locked up in their homes. They feel cut off from their social supports and lifelines. An increasing number of survivors are suffering from Alzheimer's and other dementias. Their family caregivers or professional home health aides' access to their homes is further complicated by COVID-19 precautions, and many of them have experienced the sudden loss of family and friends.

Over the past two years, survivors have turned to social service providers more than ever to support their physical, emotional, and financial needs. Similarly, providers have had to quickly pivot to provide survivors with programming and resources they can access from their homes, while still feeling the support of their communities.

# A total investment of \$2 Million will support case management services for Holocaust survivors statewide, and provide access to:

- **Benefits and support** through Case Managers who are specially trained in the psychological impact of the Holocaust.
- Mental Health Services including home visits to help survivors work through the traumas that now manifest in sleep disturbance, anxiety, depression and inability to trust
- **Trauma Informed Care** provided by professionals who recognize and avoid possible triggers, thereby reducing the potential for re-traumatization
- **Crisis Prevention** to help stave off eviction and hunger
- Legal Services and entitlement counseling
- Emergency Financial Assistance for food, housing, prescriptions, medical and dental care
- Socialization Programs to reduce isolation
- Training & Support for Caregivers and home health aides working with survivors
- End of Life Care including hospice and ethical wills

New York must increase its commitment to Holocaust survivors. It is crucial to provide specialized care and support programs for survivors to enhance their quality of life and allow them to live out their remaining years with dignity. We ask that the 2022-2023 budget allocate \$2 million to support Holocaust survivors living in poverty throughout New York State.

# **Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities**

UJA thanks the Legislature for supporting N/NORCs, particularly the \$1 million enhancement secured in FY 2022 to address the cost of mandated healthcare management and assistance in N/NORC contracts.

N/NORCs were established with the ultimate goal of transforming residential complexes and neighborhoods to meet the needs of older residents and enable them to remain living independently in their homes; thrive in their communities, and delay hospitalization or nursing home placement. The density of older adults and their proximity to each other further fosters creative approaches to providing health and social services. N/NORC programs provide case management services, nursing services, recreational, social, and cultural activities, and ancillary services tailored to meet the needs of each community.

A key component of the N/NORC program model is health care management and assistance. Most programs employ nurses to fulfill this requirement. Nurses provide services to N/NORC residents that might not otherwise exist in the community, such as medication education, diabetes testing, flu shots, mobility, and balance screenings, and helping clients get in touch with doctors. Many residents rely on these services as a critical source of health care and value the consistent, quality care they provide. Despite this service being required by NYSOFA contracts, it remains an unfunded mandate.

N/NORCs were previously able to secure nursing hours pro-bono by partnering with hospitals, retired nurses, or supervised student nurses. However, in the wake of Medicaid Redesign and billing changes, in addition to an aging population with increased needs, these arrangements are becoming unstable, and many nursing services providers have cut their pro-bono hours. With many of these partnerships greatly diminished or fully terminated, N/NORCs must find funding to pay for hours that were previously free, essentially spending more to maintain the same level of service.

The Legislature's \$1 million support for the N/NORC healthcare requirement is crucial to programs' ability to fulfill this unfunded mandate. However, this investment was not included in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal. We ask that the Legislature restore \$1 million in FY 2022- 2023 to support the N/NORC healthcare mandate. This will provide funding for N/NORC programs that have struggled with the loss in probono nursing services over the last several years.

As New York's population ages, the demand for N/NORC programs is also increasing statewide. The N/NORC program last underwent an expansion in 2019, and at that time there were more applicants to the program than the State could afford to fund. **UJA requests a \$1.5 million investment to allow NYSOFA to create six to eight new N/NORC programs across the State**. NYSOFA has expressed their support for this expansion, and if funding is available, they will issue a competitive procurement to select the new programs.

# Fair Pay for Home Care

New York is facing a home care workforce crisis. Systematically low wages have led to a shortage of home health aides. According to PHI, workers are paid an average of \$13.20 per hour in most regions, and 57% rely on public assistance. Governor Hochul's proposed one-time \$3,000 bonus does not move workers out of

poverty in the long term—and for some puts them over the benefits cliff in the short term. Funding and policy reforms are urgently needed to increase workers' salaries and ensure homebound individuals can continue to receive care. UJA is supportive of "Fair Pay for Home Care" (S.5374/A.6329), which would establish a base wage for home care workers at 150% of the regional minimum wage, bringing the average annual salary to \$35,000.

# **Home Delivered Meals for Older Adults**

The home delivered meals (HDM) program, often referred to as "Meals on Wheels," offers crucial support for older adults across the state. Nonprofit HDM providers deliver a daily nutritious meal to homebound older adults who are unable to prepare their own food, while also providing support to combat social isolation. HDM has been significantly underfunded for many years, with the COVID-19 pandemic yielding significant increases in the number of eligible recipients and putting greater strain on the system. Challenges include difficulty hiring drivers and delivery staff at low wages, rising costs of raw food, significant growth in the state's 65+ population, difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers, and higher food insecurity. UJA requests \$14.1 million to alleviate the pressures on this system and ensure older adults can continue receiving meals and social supports. These funds should be allocated through NYSOFA's Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) or Wellness In Nutrition (WIN) budget lines.

# **SYEP (Summer Youth Employment Program)**

UJA supports the Executive budget proposal to fund SYEP at \$46.1 million- a \$1.1 million increase from FY22. The additional funding will be used to cover minimum wage increases outside of New York City. UJA is grateful for the Administration's continued support of this program.

Since September 2019, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has required new extensive background checks for staff and volunteers working in School-Age Childcare (SACC) licensed programs. SACC licensed programs include (but are not limited to) SYEP and after school programs. The background checks are required by rules in the Federal Childcare and Community Development Block Grant that was reauthorized and revised in 2014. While UJA supports rigorous background checks to help ensure the safety of children and youth, this process continues to be challenging, particularly in New York City.

As the local regulator, the background check process is managed in New York City by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). Throughout the pandemic, DOHMH has continued to struggle to complete the background checks in a timely manner causing delays in the hiring process for staff members in SACC licensed programs. When providers send inquiries about the status of pending background checks to the DOHMH mailbox designated for receiving completed background check paperwork, they often receive delayed responses with little information. Programs have reported having to wait between *two and twelve months* to get staff fully cleared. In some instances, providers reported receiving notifications of successfully completed background checks up to six months after they were completed by the DOHMH. OCFS allows prospective staff to work in programs if they are supervised by fully cleared staff. However, this only works when there are enough cleared staff to oversee the prospective staff awaiting their clearances. When fully cleared staff test positive for Covid and need to quarantine, many programs are left scrambling to meet staffing quotas.

The SYEP is a six-week program, making the current waiting period for background check approvals untenable. Youth over the age of 18 participating in the SYEP, as well as the staff who oversee the program, will both be required to complete and clear the comprehensive background check process before they can work. If these

individuals must wait two months for their clearance packets to be processed and cleared, they will miss the entirety of the SYEP.

Before the new regulations were in place providers waited approximately two weeks for completed background checks. Due to the complexity of the new background checks, OCFS and the local registrars at the county level (like the New York City DOHMH) who oversee this process require additional resources and staff to be able to perform the background checks in a timely manner. Providers of SACC licensed programs also require more guidance on the background check process. Specifically, if the process is not expedited before hiring for summer programs begins, OCFS must provide communication to SACC licensed summer programs, like the SYEP, that acknowledges the backlogs in the comprehensive background check system and provides guidance on how to properly staff their programs while waiting for the completion of the comprehensive background checks.

# **After School Programs**

Three of UJA's nonprofit partners receive funding through Advantage After School. Using this funding they provide after school programming for youth in areas not covered by the Empire State After School initiative. One of UJA's nonprofit partners also receives funding through the Empire State After School initiative. Since the beginning of the pandemic, children and youth have experienced high rates of trauma due to the impact of Covid on their communities. This impact has been felt harder in low-income communities where children and youth attend after school programs funded by the Advantage After School and Empire State After School Initiatives. After school programs have helped children, youth and their families during this difficult time by expanding learning opportunities for students and offering a safe and stimulating place for children and youth when their parents and guardians are at work or unable to supervise them. After school programs will continue to support families through the pandemic and beyond.

The Executive Budget funded the Advantage After School program at \$28.041 million, a \$5 million decrease from the 2021-2022 enacted budget. **UJA urges the Legislature to restore \$5 million to the Advantage After School program.** If this funding is not restored, 2,500 children and youth across New York State will lose access to after school programs. UJA appreciates the inclusion of \$55 million for the Empire State After School program in the Executive's proposal. This investment funds programs for youth living in school districts with high poverty and student homelessness rates.

Additionally, **UJA urges the Legislature to include \$40.4 million (\$73.4 million total) for Advantage After School and \$87.5 million (\$142.5 million total) for the Empire State After School Program.** According to the After School Alliance, every dollar invested in high-quality after school saves approximately three dollars through increasing youth's earning potential, improving school performance and engaging youth in enriching activities. The highest per student rate for providers in the Advantage After School or Empire State After School Program of \$2,000 falls \$320 short of what it should be if the rate accounted for minimum wage adjustments while keeping everything else constant. The additional investment of \$40.4 million in Advantage After School and \$87.5 million in Empire State After School would increase provider rates to \$4,350 per student strengthening these programs to continue to provide vital services to youth across New York State.

The Youth Development Program (YDP) allows counties to determine programming that will best meet their local needs. In New York City, the YDP partially funds COMPASS and SONYC after school programs. The YDP was funded at \$13.4 million in the Executive Budget, \$2.2 million less than it was funded in the FY21-22

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Afterschool Alliance: Print

enacted budget. UJA urges the Legislature to restore this funding and include an additional \$4 million for a total investment of \$20.6 million, bringing the funding for this program back to its FY 2011 level.

### **Child Care**

The ongoing pandemic has highlighted the need for families to have access to safe, affordable, and reliable child care as well as the financial struggles facing New York's child care sector. Low-income families specifically struggle to maintain care for their families, forcing them to choose between working and providing care for their children. Without child care, parents and guardians are unable to work effectively while at home or are unable to participate in work outside their homes. The child care workforce is largely under-compensated which directly impacts a provider's ability to retain staff and maintain quality care. Any pandemic recovery plan is inadequate if it does not address how to support families who need child care and the providers who oversee child care services in New York State.

While the Executive Budget made modest investments in child care (increasing eligibility for child care subsidies to 300 percent of the Federal poverty level and including \$75 million for child care worker wages) more transformative measures must be taken to ensure every child has access to high-quality child care and every child care worker is compensated fairly. UJA urges the state to make the following investments/policy changes implemented simultaneously, to put New York on the path to a strong universal child care system:

- 1. Invest \$2.8 billion to provide universal, guaranteed access to child care of the family's choice for all children regardless of parental work status, income, or immigration status. \$2.8 billion is the cost for the first year of universal access to child care, with a start date in September 2022, a sliding scale fee for families with income higher than 75% of the Standard Median Income during the phase-in period and a 30% increase in usage of licensed, registered, and legally exempt child care.
- **2.** Invest \$500 million to increase compensation for the child care workforce without raising child care costs for families. New York could draw upon the \$200 million in federal child care stabilization funds it currently has to support this investment in the short-term while the state pursues a long-term strategy to raise child care workforce salaries.
- 3. Invest \$800 million to continue the stabilization grant program using leftover stabilization and other Covid relief funds to meet immediate, urgent staffing needs.
- 4. Invest \$600 million to increase child care provider reimbursement rates to reflect the true cost of care.

These investments will create a sustainable universal child care system, allowing children to be engaged in high quality care while their families are supported to remain in the workforce.

### **Preventive Services**

New York State's child welfare system provides preventive services to families to prevent placing children into foster care. During the pandemic, preventive services provided increased supports when more families needed access to food, housing, experienced intimate partner violence, had mental health crises and/or substance use issues. The state committed to strengthening preventive services through the provision of open-ended reimbursement to counties. However, for several years, the state budget has reduced the state share for prevention services to 62%, even though there is a statutory requirement of 65%, leaving counties to increase their expenditures to simply maintain a flat level of program funding. The state must enhance preventive services, helping to keep children safe at home with their families. **UJA urges the Legislature to increase reimbursement to counties for uncapped preventive services to the statutorily required 65%.** 

# **Increasing Financial Support for Foster Parents**

UJA urges the Legislature to include the increased financial support for foster parents indicated in Part O of the Education, Labor and Family Assistance Bill in the enacted budget. Foster parents care for children in foster care. It is imperative that New York State provide the financial resources these individuals require to provide quality care for children and youth.

# **Foster Care-Maximum State Aid Rate**

The Maximum State Aid Rate (MSAR) supports expenses related to the care of New York's children in foster care, including the salaries of direct care and clinical staff. The MSAR is developed and approved after the state budget is adopted and passed. Although due on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the rate is not automatically increased each year. Annual increases to the MSAR cover the increasing costs of providing services to children in foster care. UJA urges the state to issue Maximum State Aid Rates on July 1<sup>st</sup> and increase the rate annually, so agencies can cover the increasing costs of operating their programs.

# Providing a Career Pathway for the State's Child Welfare Workforce

Child welfare agencies continue to struggle with recruitment and retention of staff. The salaries that agencies are able to pay are simply not enough to compete with what the public sector can pay, as well as the benefits that are offered. Agencies report losing caseworkers to public schools, hospitals, and Managed Care Organizations. Programs all too often act as a "training ground" for employees, as they receive excellent training and experience in trauma-informed approaches that then make them marketable to other organizations. This constant churn of worker turnover causes longer lengths of stay for children in foster care. **To combat staff turnover, UJA recommends investing in this workforce by including \$17 million for the next three fiscal years to raise salaries for workers in foster care programs.** 

In addition to salary increases, child welfare staff also report needing support in pursuing higher education. The NYS Child Welfare Worker Incentive Scholarship and the NYS Child Welfare Worker Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program help the child welfare workforce attain their higher education goals. **UJA is grateful for the Executive budget including \$50,000 for each of these programs but recommends the Legislature increase funding to \$2 million (\$1 million for each of these programs) in the enacted budget.** 

Many staff members working in child welfare programs struggle each month to pay their student loan bills, often amounting to several hundred dollars—comparable to a rent or mortgage payment. Increased state investment into the child welfare workforce's higher education pursuits will not only assist in staff recruitment and retention efforts but will also create the next generation of child welfare leaders in the field.

# **Adult Literacy Education (ALE)**

ALE funds English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Adult Basic Education (ABE) and High School Equivalency (HSE) preparation classes and is one of the few state funding streams able to address the needs of lower-level learners. In New York State, there are 3.9 million individuals who lack their high school diploma, English language proficiency, or both.

UJA thanks the Governor for including \$7.8 million in ALE funding in the FY23 Executive budget for existing ALE programs, thus keeping ALE programs whole by providing level funding. UJA respectfully requests support for the investment of an additional \$15.6 million in ALE programs for a newly proposed ALE Stabilization and Enhancement Fund. This supplemental funding stream would be allocated to all programs

currently receiving ALE funding, effectively tripling the funding for each contract. Increased investment in perstudent funding in Adult Literacy Education, when strategically invested by programs in resources, services, and supports, will lead to greater outcomes and a wider range of impacts for adult literacy students, their families, and their communities. Proposed uses of this funding include: upgrading the program's own technology, internet, and digital access; upgrading the program's classroom facilities and infrastructure; increasing the number of full-time staff and teaching positions and increasing the pay, benefits, and working conditions of teachers to achieve greater parity with K-12, and to cultivate a strong, stable adult education workforce.

Limited skills make it difficult for individuals to support their children in school, access health care, secure and maintain living-wage jobs, advocate for their rights as workers, and fully participate in the political process. The majority of adults in NYS with limited literacy skills are women and people of color; a majority are immigrants, including many who are undocumented; others are BIPOC who were born and raised in the US but do not have a high school level education. Many of these adults are currently on the frontlines of the pandemic, performing essential work that is sustaining our communities.

Adult literacy education is the key to economic security and social mobility. Median wages for adults with a high school diploma or its equivalent are 24% greater than for those without a diploma. Furthermore, higher levels of literacy are associated with greater health knowledge, more efficient use of healthcare services, and the ability to manage chronic health conditions and communicate with healthcare providers.

Over the past year, adult literacy programs have quickly and effectively pivoted to remote learning and support for their students, adapting class activities, providing information on the rapidly changing health crisis, and transforming programming to ensure that adult learners do not get left behind. Using online platforms like Zoom and Google Classroom, students are continuing to build their reading, writing, and math skills, preparing for their high school equivalency exams, and increasing their English conversational skills. Parents are being supported by their programs to take on a greater role in the education of their school-aged children, a role that has become critical during these times. The educational gains made over this time could prepare these adults to help restart the economy and ensure greater security for themselves and their families, rather than leaving them even more vulnerable and marginalized.

An investment of \$15.6 million in the ALE Stabilization and Enhancement Fund would allow providers to better serve the over 5,600 New Yorkers enrolled in state funded ALE programs and UJA request the legislature's support.

# **Addressing Food Insecurity**

Food access continues to be a concern among New Yorkers. As a result of the pandemic and the ensuing economic downturn, 11 percent of New York households experience food insecurity. As rates of food insecurity remain high and federal aid has ceased, more New Yorkers are relying on food pantries. According to a survey conducted by Hunger Free America, almost 50 percent of food pantry and soup kitchen respondents in NYS reported serving more people in 2021 than in 2020.

Although UJA's nonprofit partners quickly shifted their operations to better support New York's emergency food efforts by expanding their food pantry operations; helping clients gain access to SNAP and other benefits and raising private dollars to deliver meals to homebound older adults, there is still tremendous unmet need.

UJA-Federation submits the following recommendations to ensure that the local food system and supply chain remains intact, that all families are able to access the food and support they need, and that front line community-based organizations (CBOs) can continue to respond effectively to this crisis:

- 1) Increase funding for the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) by \$19 million for a total of \$54 million to adjust for rising food costs and increased need.
  - a. HPNAP provides supplemental food which is distributed through the NYS Emergency Food Program (EFP) network of over three thousand soup kitchens, shelters and pantries. These organizations provide over 200 million meals a year to low-income people across the state. Even as food insecurity has increased and pantries are seeing an increase in the number of visitors, HPNAP has remained flat funded. Furthermore, the current funding amount, as is, does not meet the standards established by the state, which requires that pantries distribute a total of nine meals per guest (three meals a day for three days). To ensure the program meets its nine meals standard, account for an increase in food prices and work towards meeting the increased need, UJA urges the legislature to fund HPNAP at \$54 million.

In addition to a funding increase, emergency food providers have highlighted a number of changes to the administration of HPNAP that would ensure the program could run more effectively. Among these changes are: Opening up the bidding for more contractors in HPNAP (currently contracts are renewed every 5 years) to allow additional providers as well as smaller food banks to acquire HPNAP contracts and distribute food through the program; Change HPNAP rules to prioritize procurement of more local produce and produce from BIPOC farmers; More flexibility to allow food banks and pantries to spend HPNAP funds on staffing, program administration, nutrition education and infrastructure, including funding for pantries to acquire cold storage equipment; and less frequent reporting to NYS (biweekly at most).

- 2) Expand the Executive Budget proposal to increase funding for the Nourish NY program by \$35 million for a total investment of \$85 million.
  - a. UJA thanks the Governor for including \$50 million for the Nourish NY program in the Executive Budget, as well as for signing legislation to make the program permanent. The Nourish NY program connects food banks to New York's food manufacturers and famers directly, not only benefiting food insecure families but also providing an economic benefit to the communities where this food is coming from. Since its launch in 2020, Nourish NY has funded the purchase of over 40 million pounds of food, which equates to over 35 million meals. This program has benefitted millions of households and four thousand farms, serving as a lifeline for New York's farmers and families left struggling due to the pandemic. UJA urges the legislature to further increase funding for this program by \$35 million to ensure stability for farmers and food banks, as well as the continued support of New York's food insecure families.
- 3) Increase funding for the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP) by \$2 million
  - a. Many New Yorkers are unaware of, or hesitate to apply to, the nutrition assistance programs for which they may be eligible. They may also be unaware of the benefits to which they are entitled. NOEP offers free and confidential services to connect New Yorkers to food assistance programs including SNAP and school meals. Through a NOEP coordinator, a family receives guidance throughout the application process to the endpoint of receiving the benefits. As more New

Yorkers qualify for federal nutrition programs, it is important that the funding for NOEP is increased so that all qualifying New Yorkers access the benefits they need. SNAP is not only the first line of defense against hunger but also has the potential to generate economic activity - in a weak economy, \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.70 in economic activity. UJA urges the legislature to continue to fund NOEP so that participation is maximized in these vital nutrition assistance programs.

# Conclusion

UJA-Federation of New York respectfully urges your consideration and support of these vital programs that assist our state's most vulnerable and neediest individuals and the organizations that serve them. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact Ariel Savransky at <a href="mailto:savranskya@ujafedny.org">savranskya@ujafedny.org</a> or 212-836-1360 with any questions.