

ANNUAL REPORT

NYC Cabinet for Older New Yorkers

August 16, 2025

NYC Cabinet for Older New Yorkers

2025 Annual Report

Preface

Local Law 64 of 2024 codified the already existing Cabinet for Older New Yorkers in the New York City Charter outlining the 30 agency members, duties of the cabinet, and an annual report submitted herein. As part of the requirements of Local Law 64, NYC Aging records minutes of the quarterly meetings of the Cabinet for Older New Yorkers, attendance at these meetings, and any actions which are taken or proposed at these meetings. While meetings are not run similar to a parliamentary board and are meant to be more organic, there are clear agendas and updates from member agencies which are described in this report.

Introduction

In September 2022, the NYC Cabinet for Older New Yorkers (Cabinet) was launched by Mayor Eric Adams as an interagency collaborative established to realize and institutionalize an age-inclusive New York City through structural, legislative, and systemic solutions. Serving as a national model, the Cabinet builds upon New York City's foundation as the first Age-friendly City named by the World Health Organization, and further advances an age-inclusive agenda.

This multiagency collaboration was created to support services, projects, and policies that benefit older adults across New York City. As part of the Cabinet, city agencies collaborate to eliminate age-related barriers and inequities in services and develop cross-agency solutions to address the challenges facing older New Yorkers. The Cabinet also reviews current and future city initiatives and projects to ensure they are age-inclusive and accessible to adults over the age of 60.

The Cabinet is now comprised of 30 city agencies. Cabinet members cover multiple facets of city services and resources, including public safety, housing, transportation, health, and social services. Members of the Cabinet meet on a quarterly basis.

This annual report reflects the attendance, minutes and actions taken or proposed during four quarterly Cabinet meetings held throughout the reporting period in September 2024, December 2024, March 2025, and June 2025.

Further information about the Cabinet is available at nyc.gov/cabinetforoldernewyorkers.

Quarterly Cabinet Meeting – September 27, 2024

Minutes – This meeting marked the second anniversary of the Cabinet and highlighted the work of the Health Subcommittee. NYC Health + Hospitals presented an update on the Frontline Professionals Training initiative, which educates health care and other service providers engaging older New Yorkers and caregivers about community-based NYC Aging resources. The objective of the initiative is to help address social determinants of health and improve health outcomes for older adults through connections to other aging services and supports. NYC Health + Hospitals incorporated the Frontline Professionals Training module on NYC Aging services into their online training platform in spring 2024. The training has been completed by more than 1,400 NYC Health + Hospitals staff. Additionally, the online training was adopted by MetroPlusHealth.

NYC Health + Hospitals also discussed piloting a social isolation screening at the East New York Gotham Health Clinic and the Bellevue Geriatric Care Clinic. An isolation screening tool was selected, an NYC Aging services referral workflow was established, and in services for the clinic work group was completed.

The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) introduced a new initiative to increase access and decrease stigma around mental health services among older adults. While NYC Parks has historically provided an extensive network of recreational services for people of all ages, emerging from the pandemic, some older adult recreation center participants have inquired about resources to particularly address grief and loss. Through the Cabinet, a pilot to introduce geriatric mental health professionals in NYC Parks recreation centers to launch programming for older adults started in spring 2024. A licensed clinical social worker began leading weekly presentations and discussions at a recreation center in Brooklyn. The plan is to shift to an expanded hours model and explore options to pilot at additional NYC Parks recreation centers in other boroughs.

Cabinet members also received a primer on the universality of caregiving, including a presentation on NYC priorities, as well as programs and resources available citywide. The definition of a caregiver as someone attending to the daily needs of another person was discussed, and a distinction was made between informal and formal caregivers. NYC Aging Caregiver community-based programs provide information and referrals, long-term care planning, support groups, counseling training, respite care, and financial assistance for some types of assistive devices.

Actions Taken or Proposed – In addition to continuing progress on initiatives and advancing Cabinet milestones, next steps include the following:

1. As caregiving is a universal experience and it is eventual that people will either provide care, need care or know someone who is a caregiver or care receiver, identifying potential collaborations to educate others about caregiving and available NYC Aging Caregiver programs citywide is key. In recognition of National Family Caregivers Month in November, Cabinet member agencies proposed partnership opportunities to educate and support caregivers in the workplace and in communities.
2. Cabinet member agencies received copies of the [*Age-Inclusive American Cities*](#) guidebook issued in June 2024 by the National Age-Inclusive Working Group, led and convened by NYC Aging. Cabinet members will review the age-inclusive definition, as well as best practices and priorities nationally, and provide feedback on what can be potentially scaled locally.

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3. NYC Aging will be hosting BOOM! A Silver Dawning in American Cities Conference in Harlem from December 5 – 6, 2024. The two-day national conference will convene experts from the fields of aging, health, workforce, social services, and other areas to discuss how older adults of today as well as future generations can have a high quality of life along with longevity, and promote age-inclusive cities and communities across the nation. All Cabinet member agencies as well as their respective nonprofit networks and partners were invited to attend.

Meeting Attendance – NYC Department for the Aging (NYC Aging), NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC), NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), NYC Health + Hospitals, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Department), NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Housing Preservation & Development (HPD), NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA), NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), Office of the Mayor, Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks), NYC Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit (PEU), NYC Police Department (NYPD), NYC Public Schools (NYCPS), NYC Service, NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS), NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI), NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), NYC Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS), NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD)

Quarterly Cabinet Meeting — December 20, 2024

Minutes – The December meeting focused on the work of the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee. The Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities introduced an initiative in development exploring the overlap between aging and disability, underscoring the needs of older adults who were either born with disabilities or acquired a disability later in life or as part of the aging process. MOPD began with an overview of inclusive language and referenced that approximately 30 percent of older adults age 60 and older identify as a person with a disability. In collaboration with NYC Aging, MOPD filmed a facilitated discussion with Commissioner Christina Curry and Commissioner Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez discussing issues that older adults with either lifelong or acquired disabilities face. Topics included self-identification, workforce development, accessibility planning, technology, and resources available to the population. The discussion was moderated by the CUNY School of Professional Studies, and raised the challenges older New Yorkers with disabilities confront, along with programs that MOPD and NYC Aging have to help address the need. The objective of the initiative is to increase public awareness of programs and services for older New Yorkers with disabilities. MOPD previewed the video, *Aging & Disability: The Intersectionality*, with Cabinet members during the meeting.

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection provided an update on the Tax Preparation Skill Building for Older Workers initiative. In the second year of the initiative, older workers returning to the labor force participate in reskilling and training opportunities as tax preparers for the NYC Free Tax Prep program. NYC Free Tax Prep helps New Yorkers meet the full potential of their refunds, including valuable tax credits such as the enhanced New York City Earned Income Tax Credit, at no cost to them. The next training cycle is planned, offering opportunities for older workers to find meaningful employment and build a career network, as well as expand access to this valuable service. This initiative connected nonprofit providers who previously did not consider older workers for recruitment, nor were

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they aware of existing older adult workforce programs that serve them, to a new and experienced talent pool.

NYC Aging presented a recap of the BOOM! A Silver Dawning in American Cities Conference hosted from December 5 – 6, 2024. The conference convened national and international experts in aging and other fields focusing on a high quality of life as well as longevity for older adults today and tomorrow. There were nearly 300 attendees, including representatives from aging services, academia, advocacy, public health, elected offices, other city governments, and more. The conference opened with a plenary session on “Confronting Ageism: The Final -ism,” and also covered workshops on age-inclusive collaboration, national best practices, caregiver support, workforce development, and other topics, with the objective to highlight the challenges faced by the rapidly growing population of older adults and propose solutions.

Actions Taken or Proposed – In addition to continuing progress on initiatives and advancing Cabinet milestones, next steps include the following:

1. Cabinet member agencies provided feedback and recommendations for collaboration based on insights from both the *Age-Inclusive American Cities* guidebook and the BOOM! Conference. Following the age-inclusive best practices and highlights covered in the guidebook and during the conference, Cabinet member agencies considered what could be adapted or replicated.

Meeting Attendance – NYC Aging, DCWP, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), NYC Health + Hospitals, Health Department, NYCHA, HPD, HRA, CCHR, Office of the Mayor, MOIA, NYC Parks, MOPD, NYPD, PEU, NYC Public Schools, NYC Service, SBS, OTI, DOT, DVS, DYCD

Quarterly Cabinet Meeting – March 27, 2025

Minutes – During the first quarter of 2025, NYC Aging presented a preview of the findings from the Older New Yorker Service Needs Assessment conducted during the previous year. Nearly 9,000 older adults and caregivers participated in the citywide survey launched during Older Americans Month in May 2024 and conducted through September 2024, to better understand the needs of older New Yorkers age 60 and older and their caregivers. Key findings were identified related to financial insecurity, housing, social isolation and mental health, and caregiver services as some of the primary needs among older New Yorkers. About 40 percent of older adults reported having trouble paying at least one bill. Approximately 25 percent of older adults indicated that they do not have stable housing. One in five older adults responded that they do not speak with others as often as they would like, and 17 percent of older adults reported relatively high levels of loneliness. Nearly 56 percent of survey respondents are caregivers and almost 50 percent of older adults surveyed are caregivers. More than 40 percent of caregivers aged 60 and older did not self-identify as a caregiver. A report summarizing the Service Needs Assessment findings is forthcoming, in addition to further data analysis focusing on specific issues.

This meeting also highlighted the work under the Housing Subcommittee. NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development introduced a Resilient Community Spaces in Affordable Housing

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initiative. With more than 250 nationwide, Community Resilience Hubs are facilities designed to support residents and community members, coordinate communication, distribute resources, provide sustainable and continuous energy, and shelter from extreme weather and natural disasters. Each resilience hub functions according to the needs of that community. Following Hurricane Sandy in 2012, NYC was awarded \$4 billion in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. After Hurricane Ida in 2021, \$310 million in CDBG-DR funding was awarded to NYC. HPD received \$9 million to construct Community Resilience Hubs in Senior Affordable Rental Apartment (SARA) housing developments. Ten years after Hurricane Sandy, the Comptroller issued a report that assessed community-led climate resilience initiatives developed in the aftermath of the storm to identify best practices and provided actionable recommendations. The recommendations included investing in the resilience of community organizations' physical spaces and establishing them as "Community Resilience Hubs." SARA buildings are natural hubs for expanded community benefit, containing both accessible community space and social services, leveraging them to serve community needs and help connect these populations to their communities while providing benefits. Two SARA developments are underway with a planned Community Resilience Hub at each site.

Preparation for the upcoming 50th anniversary of NYC Aging on November 4th, 2025 was discussed. In celebration of this milestone, NYC Aging will commemorate about 1.8 million older adults and 1 million caregivers in NYC, including the 250,000 older adults who are currently engaged with the agency. Celebrations throughout the year will highlight the dedicated network of community-based service providers, recognize the committed NYC Aging team, and acknowledge the contributions of the NYC Cabinet for Older New Yorkers, stakeholders, partners, sponsors, advocates, and others who serve the aging population.

Actions Taken or Proposed – In addition to continuing progress on initiatives and advancing Cabinet milestones, next steps include the following:

1. In light of the Older New Yorker Service Needs Assessment findings, Cabinet member agencies will review and consider the implications of the data on our collective work. Several agencies expressed interest in examining further analysis of survey data focusing on specific issues, such as income, mental health, etc.
2. Upcoming Cabinet milestone events, such as culminating celebrations, etc., are potential collaborations to also recognize the upcoming 50th anniversary of NYC Aging and amplify the work of the Cabinet. Events such as the 32nd Annual National Older Adult Health and Fitness Day on May 28th, the Healthy Aging Fair on September 17th, and the Talent is Timeless finale on October 16th are additional opportunities to partner in commemoration.

Meeting Attendance – NYC Aging, Administration for Children's Services (ACS), CEC, Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health (OCMH), DCWP, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), NYC Health + Hospitals, NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS), NYCHA, HPD, HRA, CCHR, Office of the Mayor, MOIA, NYC Parks, MOPD, PEU, NYPD, NYC Public Schools, NYC Service, SBS, Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce Development (NYC Talent), OTI, DOT, DVS, DYCD

Quarterly Cabinet Meeting – June 30, 2025

Minutes – The June meeting highlighted the milestones achieved through the Intergenerational Subcommittee. NYC Public Schools, the largest public school system nationally, has implemented an Anti-Ageism Resource Guide to institute education to combat age-based discrimination. In its third year of implementation, the Anti-Ageism Resource Guide has expanded across the city to 24 schools this year covering kindergarten through 12th grade. This initiative was also awarded the Next50 Foundation’s Changing Aging grant to support citywide scaling. The Anti-Ageism Resource Guide was recognized as a Program of Merit that excels beyond the minimum standard of effectiveness by Generations United as well. NYC Public Schools hosted the first culminating event for participating schools on May 21st, 2025. More than 30 principals, teachers and other professionals received certificates of recognition. Brooklyn South High Schools received the first Anti-Ageism Champion Award for piloting the resource guide and for paving the way for other schools in 2023. Additionally, in June 2025, NYC Public Schools and NYC Aging presented on implementation of the Anti-Ageism Resource Guide at the Generations United conference in Louisville, Kentucky. There were both national and international attendees at the conference and workshop session, and several cities expressed interest in the resource guide from the United States and Australia.

Another initiative by NYC Public Schools is the Service in Schools Kids Action Team (KAT) Anti-Ageism Service-Learning, which incorporates community service with classroom education and focuses on anti-ageism, in addition to other topics. The objective is to instill anti-ageism learning in early elementary education to combat age-based discrimination from childhood. The KAT initiative on anti-ageism in partnership with K-3 elementary school teachers is in its second year, with teachers learning how to integrate service-learning into their instruction, implement and document a service-learning project with their students centering on a community need, and cultivate a service mindset. Six elementary schools focused on anti-ageism. Students from the participating schools conducted interviews and oral histories with older adults; created an anti-ageism advocacy campaign with posters, bumper stickers and a comic book; learned line dances from older adults through an information exchange; designed a public service announcement, “Don’t be mean with an ageism scheme!” along with an older adult basketball player character; and organized a Golden Guest Day with students and older adults based on parent-child events.

The NYC Department of Youth and Community Development provided a recap of the latest cycle of *My NY Story*, an intergenerational storytelling initiative in its third year. The objective is to cultivate community building while combating ageism and social isolation in high-need neighborhoods through intergenerational project-based learning activities. This initiative was implemented across the five boroughs in shared community spaces at NYC Housing Authority sites. *My NY Story* ran for eight weeks from March to May 2025 with 100 participants – 50 youth and 50 older adults. Each week, participants took part in storytelling sessions focused on building trust, celebrating lived experiences, and strengthening intergenerational bonds. According to survey data, monthly interactions with older adults for youth increased from 55 percent to 73 percent, and monthly interactions with youth for older adults rose from 58 percent to 80 percent. Positive attitudes toward the other age group also improved, with youth reporting an increase from approximately 40 percent to 70 percent and older adults showing an increase from about 35 percent to 90 percent. The *My NY Story* participants published a book called, *Stirring Stories: Poems, Letters & Recipes of Home*, with participant reflections, shared stories and family

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recipes. The culminating event took place on May 29th, featuring poetry readings, art displays, recipe sharing, hydroponic gardening, and book release and signing.

The NYC Department of Cultural Affairs introduced a new initiative to promote age-inclusive programming by cultural organizations with an Age-Inclusive Best Practices Guide. Under this initiative, DCLA will publish a best practice guide that highlights age-inclusive older adult programming by cultural organizations citywide across the creative arts. DCLA identified cultural organizations with age-inclusive older adult programming. Then a cross section of cultural organizations representing every borough and creative art form – literature, visual and performing arts – was engaged to conduct interviews to document best practices. Thirteen cultural organizations will be featured in the guide. The guide will be framed and anchored by the evidence and research on the impact of creative aging. Best practices will include the following: (1) Responding to a community need as an age-inclusive programming entry point; (2) Building operational programmatic infrastructure; (3) Adapting to evolving community needs and accessibility; (4) Curating age-inclusive programs; (5) Promoting the positive impact of creative aging; and (6) Developing a long-term sustainability plan.

Actions Taken or Proposed – In addition to continuing progress on initiatives and advancing Cabinet milestones, next steps include the following:

1. Cabinet member agencies should consider working collaboratively as a unified front to support joint advocacy efforts in response to the federal landscape. Potential collective strategies include legislative agendas, joint communications, and other coordinated strategies to ensure older New Yorkers and caregivers are not negatively impacted.
2. Explore Cabinet collaborations and shared events to commemorate NYC Aging 50.

Meeting Attendance – NYC Aging, ACS, CEC, OCMH, DCWP, DCLA, Health Department, NYC Health + Hospitals, DHS, NYCHA, HPD, HRA, Office of the Mayor, OTI, NYC Parks, MOPD, PEU, NYC Public Schools, NYC Service, SBS, DOT, DVS, DYCD, NYC Talent