

Donna M. Corrado, PhD Commissioner

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DFTA Details Major New Funding for Aging Services

Resources will Support Case Management, Food Costs, and Innovative Senior Centers

NEW YORK—New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Dr. Donna M. Corrado highlighted today additional funding to boost staffing at case management agencies that help senior New Yorkers access critical services available to them. DFTA's Fiscal Year 2015 budget also allocates funding to open six more Innovative Senior Centers (ISCs) around the city, and to address the budget gap between meals delivered and served at homes and senior centers and the true cost of food.

During testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Finance, Committee on Aging and Subcommittee on Senior Centers, Commissioner Corrado addressed the projected \$259.7 million in funding for DFTA, including \$2.6 million for case management services, \$2.3 million for the creation of six additional ISCs – which is a model of senior centers that provide enhanced programming and services, as well as flexible and expanded hours –, and \$3.3 million in increased funding for congregate and home delivered meals.

"We are very pleased with the additional funding—it will go a long way in addressing the challenges faced by our growing senior population," said **Commissioner Corrado**. "In the past, we have seen cuts to food programs and social services that have helped seniors to survive at the very minimum. This additional funding will increase food security for the elderly, hire new staff to address the dire concerns of our homebound population, and offer more robust and enhanced programming to older New Yorkers throughout the city."

"I am very happy that the city has committed new funding to reduce case management caseloads, expand innovative senior centers, and support congregate and home-delivered meals for our seniors. It's a welcome change from the cuts we have fought against in recent fiscal years," said **council member Margaret Chin**. "We still have a long way to go to addressing the needs of our seniors, and I look forward to working with the Mayor and the Commissioner to tackle this challenge."

"After years of relentless cuts to the Department for the Aging funded services, we are pleased that new funding has been added for case management and senior meals," said Bobbie Sackman, Director of Public Policy at the Council of Senior Centers and Services. "CSCS looks forward to working with the administration to ensure that senior services are funded commensurate with the growing need and population growth."

In addition to the increased funding, the overall budget for DFTA allocates \$107 million to support senior centers, \$31 million for home delivered meals, \$21.5 million for case management services, \$16 million to support home care for homebound seniors who are not Medicaid eligible, \$6.5 million for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community programs, and \$4 million for caregiver support services.

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