

ONONDAGA COUNTY ADULT AND LONG TERM CARE SERVICES

2027 EXECUTIVE BUDGET WRITTEN STATEMENT

SECTION 1:

2026 INITIATIVES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Adult and Long Term Care Services staff scheduled and participated in more than 70 presentations, training and outreach events throughout the community. Presentations, training and outreach addressed specific topics relevant to the audience/attendees including access to needed Senior Services, Farmers Market Coupons, Adult Protective Services and Health Promotion Programs.

Adult and Long Term Care Services held our Annual Senior Celebration Luncheon at Drumlins Country Club to recognize and honor older adults who have gone above and beyond for their community

In 2026, the Office for Aging expanded its nutrition, outreach, and health promotion services for older adults facing significant social and economic challenges. By leveraging county resources and state and federal support, we strengthened food security, promoted healthy aging, and enhanced independence across Onondaga County.

Over 419,000 congregate and home-delivered meals were provided, ensuring food security and supporting older adults, especially those who are homebound or vulnerable, in maintaining their independence in the community. A new congregate dining site was established at Southern Missionary Baptist Church in the City of Syracuse, improving access for an underserved community

We distributed 1,440 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupon booklets, valued at \$35,000, to income-eligible older adults. The initiative increased access to fresh, locally grown foods and supported local agriculture. A total of 11 SNAP-Ed workshop series and 40 individual workshops were held to help older adults make healthier choices on a limited budget. Nutrition education was offered in Arabic, Pashto, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Afrikaans to address language and cultural barriers and reach Onondaga County's diverse older adult population. Partnerships with the Rescue Mission and other community organizations expanded food access and helped reach older and homebound residents during periods of heightened need.

From January through August 2026, Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP) has provided 13,374 hours of in-home care to frail and disabled older adults thereby allowing them to continue living at home. An additional 13,265 hours of in-home care through our Consumer Directed Personal Assistance service was provided to older adults by a chosen caregiver. EISEP Case Managers provided 2,280 hours of case management provided to 278 low-income older adults.

Caregiver training classes held this spring provided training to 22 caregivers of older adults in our community. Thanks to the support of Onondaga County, Alzheimer's Association of CNY and NYSOFA, 2,545 hours of in-home respite care and 1,510 days of out-of-home respite care were provided to caregivers of older adults. This vital support provides caregivers with a much-needed break to care for themselves so that they may continue caring for their loved one.

Adult Protective Services Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (EMDT) was successfully reestablished and continues to meet monthly. Adult Protective Services collaborates regularly with local hospitals and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to find solutions to the most complex cases. Adult Protective Services participates in High Utilizer Case Review meetings to coordinate services for individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and substance use issues.

New York Connects has increased the number of In-Home visits by 87% during the first 7 months of 2026 as compared to that same period in 2025, as face-to-face assessments provide a more holistic approach to service delivery. New York Connects had a 14% increase in the number of telephone, in-person and electronic contacts from community members seeking assistance with long term care services and support in the first 7 months of 2026 compared to 2025. During that same period, the number of adults looking for residential/housing options and supports increased by 67%, inquiries regarding home modification and repair programs increased by 77%, and options for transportation increased by 16%.

As admissions to Skilled Nursing Facilities continue to increase, coupled with the reduction of agencies providing in-home care services, the Long Term Care Resource Center administered 23% more Patient Review Instrument (PRI) evaluations on potential

nursing home residents during the first 8 months of 2026 as compared to the same period in 2025. Evaluations by Community Health Nurse staff are offered free of charge to county residents.

2026 BUDGET REVIEW

The Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services is forecast to finish 2026 within budget.

SECTION 2:

2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2027 Budget includes standard salary and wage increases consistent with the baseline budgeting approach.

The 2027 Budget also includes increased costs in Maintenance & Utilities and Supplies due primarily to inflation and contractual escalators.

The 2027 Professional Services appropriation increases by \$9,000, primarily due to increased costs associated with domestic violence services. The account also supports preventive and protective adult services, case review services provided by SUNY, and interpreter services. Contractual Services remains flat from 2026 and supports programs and services related to the prevention of and response to elder abuse.

The 2027 Travel and Training appropriation increases by \$15,411. The account primarily supports required employee mileage reimbursement and parking associated with the delivery of services in the community. The account also supports professional development related to food safety, aging services, new employee development, leadership, and elder law, including conferences and leadership programs.

The 2027 Adult and Long Term Care budget includes \$250,000 in the Transfer to Grant line to establish a Senior Center Capital Grant Program. The program will provide capital support for facilities serving older residents, allowing for needed improvements. The account also continues to support the required local match for State and Federal grants that fund programs and services for the County's aging population.

State and Federal Aid revenues increase modestly in 2027 based primarily on the reimbursement of eligible administrative expenses.

SECTION 3:

2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES: Adult and Long Term Care Services is committed to ensuring that individuals, families, and caregivers have equitable, timely, and meaningful access to the programs, services, and benefits that support healthy aging, independence, and quality of life. The Department will strengthen education and outreach strategies to increase awareness, reduce barriers, and proactively connect residents with the resources and support available to them.

The Department will deepen and expand partnerships with community organizations, local committees, coalitions, and other stakeholders serving adults in need of assistance. Through active collaboration and coordinated engagement, Adult and Long Term Care Services will strengthen the community network of support, improve communication and service coordination, and ensure that residents and their families are better informed about available resources.

In keeping with our mission, those in greatest social and economic need continue to be our priority.