

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Greg Olsen
Acting Director



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Albany, New York
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Dear Friend,

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) would like to invite you to attend one of the regional ***“Roundtables on the Future of Senior Centers in New York State.”***

Your name was either given to me by the Director/Commissioner of your local office for the aging as someone who should be invited to share your experience, expertise and vision regarding the role senior centers are playing, and can play in communities throughout the state to help older adults remain as independent as possible and support caregivers, or, you are listed in our data base as a senior center. Given the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the move toward managed care for all under Medicaid, and other efforts to help individuals through community program and service support, there may be new and emerging opportunities for senior centers in the future.

Senior centers have a rich history in New York State and are a vital part of the fabric of our communities. They serve as community focal points and provide an array of important programs and services for older adults and their families as well as linking them to other services as appropriate and providing an important venue for socialization.

Senior centers generally offer a set of core services such as congregate meals and, over the years, some have evolved to provide other services, such as social adult day care, benefits and application assistance, and Evidence Based Interventions such as the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). NYSOFA recognizes that all centers are different and there is an assortment of programs and services offered at these centers in a variety of geographic locations. NYSOFA supports the role of senior centers in New York State and wants to help maintain a strong network of senior centers statewide.

To better understand the current state of senior centers in New York, NYSOFA conducted a comprehensive statewide survey in the summer of 2013 of senior centers. This survey instrument was designed to capture information about center operations, the activities and the services offered, as well as the roles that volunteers play within the centers. The results of the survey are the basis for discussion at the Regional Roundtables.

I ask that you focus your remarks on the following questions so that we are able to stay on topic, complete the Roundtables in a timely way and collect comparable data from each of the regions where a Roundtable will be held. There will also be an opportunity for you to offer guidance, suggestions and advice that may not be contained within the prepared questions below.

We welcome your responses to these questions in writing, verbally, or both.



PLEASE FOCUS YOUR REMARKS TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. If you had access to more volunteers, what types of programs, services, or activities would you assign them to – where is the need?
2. Have the number of volunteers increased, decreased or stayed the same over the past couple of years? What in your opinion is the reason for the increase or decrease in the number of volunteers?
3. If you had access to more staff, what types of programs, services, or activities would you assign them to – where is the need?
4. Is participation in your center rising, falling or staying the same? What in your opinion is the reason for the increase or decrease in participation?
5. What changes, if any, have you implemented in the past 3-5 years or are contemplating implementing to increase participation?
6. Have voluntary contributions increased, decreased or stayed the same?
7. Is the lack of transportation a barrier to accessing your centers services?
8. Are your participants older and frailer than they were 5-10 years ago? Do you expect that trend to continue?
9. What types of services and supports do your clients or their caregivers need that you are NOT able to offer?
10. What are the top 5 activities/programs that your center provides?
11. What are the top 3-5 activities/programs you wish you were able to offer or that there is a demand for?
12. What should the role of the senior center be in the future? What core programs and services should be institutionalized within the centers?
13. What services/supports do you offer to individuals caring for your participants (caregivers)?
14. What other information do you think NYSOFA should know?

Please contact Lori Sanders via email at Lori.sanders@ofa.state.ny.us or by phone at (518) 473-4275 to confirm that you or your representative can come. If you are unable to make it, please submit written responses to the questions above to Lori Sanders.

We look forward to seeing you in September at one of the Roundtables.

Sincerely,



Greg Olsen
Acting Director



NYSOFA's Regional Roundtables will be held:

Region	Location	Date	Time
Long Island - Nassau	Mitchel Field Athletic Complex 126 Charles Lindbergh Blvd. Uniondale NY	Tuesday September 17	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Long Island - Suffolk	Hampton Bays Community Center 25 Ponquogue Ave. Hampton Bays NY	Wednesday September 18	1-3 p.m.
Capital Region	Beltrone Living Center 6 Winners Circle Albany	Thursday Sept. 19	9 - 11 am
Hudson Valley	Mt. St. Mary's College 330 Powell Ave. Newburgh NY	Thursday September 19	10 a.m.- 12 p.m.(noon)
Leatherstocking	See Capital District, Southern Tier or Hudson Valley	TBD	TBD
North Country	TBD	TBD	TBD
Central New York	Madison County Office for the Aging 138 Dominick Bruno Blvd. Canastota, NY	TBD	TBD
Western NY	Amherst Senior Center 370 John James Parkway Amherst NY	Friday September 20	8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Southern Tier	Broome County Public Library 185 Court Street Binghamton NY	Friday September 20	10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon)
Finger Lakes	Seneca Falls Senior Center 1 DiPronio Drive Waterloo NY	Friday September 20	2 – 4 p.m.
New York City and Westchester	Selis Manor 135 West 23 rd St. (Bet. 6 and 7 Aves.)	Tuesday September 24	1 – 3 p.m.

****Individuals are encouraged to participate at whatever location is most convenient.**

Tentative Agenda – 2 hour Roundtable	
Welcome and introductions	5 minutes
Overview of Senior Center Project and Survey Results	25 minutes
Participant response to questions provided by NYSOFA	60 minutes
Additional Q and A, next steps	30 minutes
Adjourn	

