



Dear Members of the New York State Legislature,

On behalf New York's older adults, both those living in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) or Neighborhood NORCs and those who would like to, we urge you to include statutory updates and funding increases for these vital programs, as proposed in Assembly bills (A. 9007-B and A.9006-B), in the final SFY 2016-17 enacted budget. This proposal updates N/NORC¹ legislation and modernizes the program after 20 years of provider experience. It also calls for an additional \$2 million in funding to support current N/NORCs and allow for the establishment of new programs statewide.

The Assembly's proposal accounts for the experiences and testimony of N/NORC directors, residents and advocates, many of whom have lived in or worked with these programs since their inception. The statutory updates will increase eligibility for these essential services statewide and the proposed infusion of funds will more adequately finance existing programs.

N/NORC programs help older adults stay in their homes and communities, and bring critical social and health services on site. Through a partnership among residents, management companies, health care and social service providers, N/NORCs support older residents and their services enhance the surrounding community. They are proactive; providing programs and resources to help enable low and middle-income New Yorkers age in place, thrive in their communities and delay and avoid hospitalization or nursing home placement. N/NORCs also play an important role in helping residents settle back home if they do need to be treated in a hospital or rehab setting.

As New York's senior population grows and individuals live longer, an increasing number of residents will require the vital programs and resources provided by N/NORCs. To ensure that this model can be expanded statewide and existing programs can continue to assist New York's seniors, N/NORC legislation must be updated and funding must be enhanced.

Thank you for your consideration.

¹ N/NORC indicates both NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs