

## **Increase the State Portion of the Congregate Care Level 3 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Rate**

Currently, there are approximately 13,000 aging New Yorkers who rely on Congregate Care Level 3 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to pay for the services they receive in Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) and assisted living settings, at a rate of just over \$40 per day, per person. This is not a sustainable rate for the State's ACFs who serve SSI-level residents. As a result, ACFs are serving fewer low-income seniors and those low income-seniors that require the support of an ACF will likely enter into a nursing home.

Ultimately, an increase of \$15 per day is needed; along with an automatic cost of living adjust moving forward, so the rate keeps up with the cost of living. Please consider the following facts regarding the current SSI rate, and support an increase to the State Portion of the Congregate Care Level 3 SSI Rate in this year's budget.

- The current SSI rate pays approximately \$41 a day for *all of the services* that an adult care facility must, by regulation, provide; including but not limited to personal care, case management, assistance with medications, meals, monitoring and supervision.
- The State portion of the SSI benefit does not get any cost of living adjustment, despite the fact that costs are constantly going up, and new mandates are imposed that introduce new costs.
- There hasn't been an increase to the State portion of the SSI supplement in approximately 9 years.
- If ACFs are unable to care for SSI/Medicaid eligible individuals, those individuals are likely to go to a nursing home, at great cost to Medicaid.
- An increase in SSI will support the State's Olmstead objectives by enabling more people to live in the community.

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