



For Immediate Release:
February 15, 2022

**LEADINGAGE NEW YORK CALLS ON LEGISLATURE TO
PRESERVE CONSUMERS' LONG-TERM CARE RELATIONSHIPS AND
REJECT MEDICAID MANAGED CARE RFP**

LeadingAge New York is calling on the State Legislature to reject a proposal in Governor Hochul's budget that, if implemented, would disrupt the delivery of specialized Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) services to older adults and people with disabilities. These services enable over 250,000 New Yorkers to live independently in the community.

More specifically, the State is proposing to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for all of its Medicaid managed care plans, including MLTC – a program that serves individuals who need extensive assistance with activities of daily living, such as dressing, bathing, and moving from bed to a chair. Those relying on MLTC range from older New Yorkers with cognitive deficits or physical disabilities and chronic medical conditions to younger adults with neurodegenerative disorders or spinal cord injuries, nearly all of whom live in their own home, rather than a long-term care facility.

The RFP would reduce the number of MLTC plans to no more than five per region – in New York City, there are 16 MLTC plans today. Statewide, as many as 150,000 older adults and people with disabilities would have to change MLTC plans as a result. Based on the Department of Health's stated goal of selecting plans that offer multiple managed care products over wide geographic areas, the RFP would likely result in the closure of MLTC plans sponsored by long-term care providers that specialize in serving older adults and people with disabilities.

These plans develop longstanding relationships with the individuals they serve through dedicated and trusted care managers who respond to their concerns, connect them to the medical and supportive care they need, arrange transportation to appointments and delivery of supplies, and implement creative solutions to their challenges. In addition to traditional home care services, these solutions might involve home visits to set up Zoom calls, training to combat anxiety, counseling for informal caregivers, and virtual classes or social activities to reduce isolation.

Jim Clyne, President and CEO of LeadingAge New York, [testified](#) at the Legislative Health Budget Hearing on February 8, 2022 and shared his concerns regarding the proposal.

"This proposal is not carefully considered – it will frankly bring mayhem to individuals who have suffered disproportionately as a result of the pandemic and to a long-term care system that is fragile and frayed," said Clyne. "Those receiving essential long-term care services in their home are dependent on it for their survival. Losing a trusted care manager or home care provider can be devastating."

The proposal, which would be implemented as soon as next year, will raise anxiety levels at a time when the individuals served are more isolated and the uncertainty surrounding meeting daily care needs is an ongoing struggle.

During the Legislative Health Budget Hearing, LeadingAge New York also called on legislators to:

- Provide adequate funding for long-term care and aging services through a meaningful increase in Medicaid reimbursement that would cover rising costs;
- Support funding and policy changes to increase staffing for providers;
- Authorize the use of specially trained medication aides in nursing homes to relieve the pressure on nurses and create a career ladder for certified nurse aides;
- Ensure that all low-wage workers in all long-term care settings, including those who work in kitchens and housekeeping, are eligible for any wage enhancement program that may be adopted for health care workers; and
- Invest \$75 million in assisted living facilities, which were overlooked by the Governor's budget.

LeadingAge New York represents New York's not-for-profit and public providers of long-term care and aging services, including provider-sponsored Medicaid MLTC plans.

#