



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

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Governor Hochul's Budget Investments a Game Changer

By Greg Olsen January 25, 2025

New York's population is aging. Today, 1 in 4 New Yorkers is over the age of 60 – and counting.

At this moment of demographic change, it's now more important than ever to fund services that support their independence, and stay healthy in their communities.

As Director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA), I'm proud to say that Governor Hochul has led this through historic investments in aging services while advancing an affordability agenda for older adults.

The Governor's FY26 executive budget proposal includes an additional game-changing \$4 billion to address determined needs for older adults who need services like personal care, home-delivered meals, and more.

The Governor's bold affordability agenda for New York families presents opportunities at the state and community. Middle class tax cuts will also put more money back into the pockets of older adults. The budget will provide a payment of \$300 to \$500 for 8.6 million tax filers, including millions of older adults. It also expands benefits assistance already available to income-eligible older adults through the Governor's nutrition and home energy assistance programs, and others.

The Governor's proposals for consumer protections and increases in victim-services claims will provide relief to many older adults who face cumulative losses of \$28 billion annually due to financial exploitation.

Housing remains among the most serious concerns for older New Yorkers. The Governor has committed to building 100,000 affordable homes statewide while pursuing housing innovations that will provide more housing options while opening up more housing stock for larger families.

Seventy-two percent of older adults consider their overall health to be excellent or good, according to a [survey of older adults](#) issued by NYSOFA. Our job is to keep it that way and make even greater progress to avoid higher-cost service use while maintaining independence. The Governor's agenda accelerates this commitment with services, obesity drugs, dental care, and air conditioners for individuals with chronic conditions to help reduce drug costs.

These are among the Governor's many historic investments and bold ideas for older New Yorkers. In the upcoming release of the state's Master Plan for Aging, a blueprint to help all New Yorkers live well in their later years.

As the first state in the nation to achieve an Age-Friendly designation from AARP, Governor Cuomo's State agenda accelerates this commitment and puts New York on a truly transformational path to support older adults and the people who care for them.

The writer is the Acting Director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and former

Important for NYSARA Monday Alerts

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Second set of Part D Drugs Includes Blockbuster Di

By Lindsey Copeland and our Friends at Medic

Drug Name	Commonly Treated Conditions*	Total Part Gross Cov Prescript Costs from 2023-Oct
Ozempic; Rybelsus; Wegovy	Type 2 diabetes; Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease; Obesity/overweight and cardiovascular disease	\$
Trelegy Ellipta	Asthma; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	\$
Xtandi	Prostate cancer	\$
Pomalyst	Kaposi sarcoma; Multiple myeloma	\$
Ibrance	Breast cancer	\$
Ofev	Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis	\$
Linzess	Chronic idiopathic constipation; Irritable bowel syndrome with constipation	\$
Calquence	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma; Mantle cell lymphoma	\$
Austedo; Austedo XR	Chorea in Huntington's disease; Tardive dyskinesia	\$
Breo Ellipta	Asthma; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	\$
Tradjenta	Type 2 diabetes	\$
Xifaxan	Hepatic encephalopathy; Irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhea	\$
Vraylar	Bipolar I disorder; Major depressive disorder; Schizophrenia	\$
Janumet; Janumet XR	Type 2 diabetes	\$
Otezla	Oral ulcers in Behçet's Disease; Plaque psoriasis; Psoriatic arthritis	\$

On January 17, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the price negotiations under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The negotiations are set to occ

Drugs Selected for Negotiation

The medications were chosen based on prescriptive criteria outlined in the IRA. The law r... spending and no competition, among other factors. The [resulting list](#) includes the followin... rely to treat conditions such as cancer, asthma, and diabetes.

Estimated Savings

HHS estimates over the last year, nearly 5.3 million Part D enrollees used these medicatio... While the exact savings realized by the second cycle of the IRA's negotiation program will... wide.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) previously anticipated the IRA's negotiation prog... decade [as well as](#) reduce expenses for beneficiaries and taxpayers. By lowering drug prices... changes will help people with Medicare adhere to their treatment plans, improving health... interventions.

IRA Drug Price Negotiations So Far

The first round of negotiations suggests the program is on track. Those talks concluded in... 38% to 79%. In 2026, the first year those prices take effect, people with Medicare are proje... Medicare will save at least \$6 billion. These savings will grow over time. Under the IRA, H... in [future years](#), allowing more people to afford care and the number of drugs to accumulat...

Medicare Rights Supports IRA Drug Negotiation Program

Medicare Rights strongly supports the IRA's negotiation program. It is a critical step towa... sustainability, beneficiary health and financial security, and taxpayer costs. If implemente... negotiations will multiply as more drugs have prices that better reflect their value.

President Trump Halts Efforts to Lower Prescription Drug Prices for Seniors

On Monday President **Donald Trump** [rolled back a Biden administration](#) initiative to lowe... treatments more affordable for people with Medicaid, and strengthen the Affordable Care... for generic prescription drugs at \$2 for Medicare beneficiaries and directed Medicare and...

Monday's action did not affect the Inflation Reduction Act, which capped insulin copays at... \$2,000 a year, and made recommended vaccines free for Medicare beneficiaries. But that y...

Key Republican members of Congress and the Trump Administration's Project 2025 blueprint. Senate Finance Committee Chair **Mike Crapo** (ID) confirmed that he wants to repeal Medi

"President **Trump** sent a clear signal by blocking a plan to lower drug prices for seniors on President of the Alliance. "We are ready to fight to protect the progress we have made and healthy."

Supreme Court Set to Hear Case Challenging Key Affordable Care Act Provis

Last week, the Supreme Court [agreed to consider](#) a lawsuit seeking to eliminate the Afford



The Texas employers who filed the lawsuit argue the mandate should be overturned because preventive services that should

be fully covered under the ACA – consists of unelected officials and is therefore unconstitutional. free preventive care for Americans will be in jeopardy – including annual wellness checks a

"The Affordable Care Act is important for older Americans and losing the free preventive services is a blow," said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. "We will pay close attention to these health benefits."

President Trump Takes Aim at Federal Workers

This week President Trump also issued an executive order [reviving Schedule F](#), a plan from from federal workers by reclassifying them, making it easier for his administration to fire a who will do his bidding.

“Let’s be clear about who these federal workers are that **Trump** wants to be able to remove AFL-CIO. “They are the people who care for our veterans at Veterans Affairs centers, make disability checks, protect our airports and passengers, inspect our food to ensure it’s safe Carolina floods or California fires—get the support they need to rebuild.”

Everett Kelley, President of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), [a](#) stop Schedule F. Every American has a stake in ensuring that federal employees remain fre them without fear of political interference.”

AFGE, along with Public Citizen and the State Democracy Defenders Fund, filed a federal la

Long-Term Care Industry Prepares for Fallout from Immigration Plans

CNN reported this week that long-term care facilities [are bracing](#) for increased staffing sh anti-immigration plans proceed as expected.

Immigrants make up a large portion of the long-term care workforce, accounting for 42.4% of non-direct care workers such as housekeepers and dietary services staff. 84% of certifie such as escorting patients to the bathroom, dressing and feeding them, giving them medi

The number of Americans 65 years and older is expected to [increase 47% by 2050](#), eventu care is also expected to double by that time, threatening to exacerbate problems with den workers.

“Vulnerable patients and their families should be very concerned about the threat of mass facilities in their communities,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance

Alliance Allies Named to Key Positions at PBGC

Davey Grubbs, Vice President of the National United Committee to Protect Pensions (NUPP) and a member of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) Advisory Committee. A retired Teamsters truck driver, Grubbs has been at the center of the pension crisis and served as director of the North Carolina Committee to Protect Pensions and on other matters.

PBGC [also selected Anne Henderson](#), who has presented at several Alliance retirement seminars as a Pension Plan Sponsor Advocate. In this position, she will work with private sector defined benefit pension sponsors to ensure their benefits. Previously, she served as senior advisor in the PBGC Office of Policy and External Affairs.

“We congratulate Davey and Anne and look forward to working with them to make sure that the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is in the best position to serve the needs of the President Roach. “We are proud to have supported Davey’s appointment to this position by the PBGC. Both Davey and Anne bring experience and expertise that the PBGC can rely on as it works to protect the benefits workers have earned.”

KFF Health News: The Growing Inequality in Life Expectancy Among Americans **by Amy Maxmen**

The life expectancy among Native Americans in the western United States has dropped below that of the Republic of the Congo and Haiti. For many Asian Americans, it’s around 84 — on par with the life expectancy of the Republic of the Congo and Haiti.

Americans’ health has long been unequal, but [a new study](#) shows that the disparity between the health of different groups has doubled since 2000. “This is like comparing very different countries,” said Tom Bollyky, director of the Office of Global Health and Foreign Relations and an author of the study.

Called “Ten Americas,” the analysis published late last year in *The Lancet* found that “one’s life expectancy depends on where one lives, the economic conditions in that location, and one’s racial and ethnic identity.” The study found that the country’s [overall life expectancy](#) — at 75 years for men and 80 for women — is the shortest in the world.

To deliver on pledges from the new Trump administration to make America healthy again, the country must improve life expectancy across all populations.

