



MONDAY ALERT

New York State Alliance *for* Retired Americans

800 Troy Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 | 518-783-6231 | www.newyorkstateara.org

November 24, 2025

Did You Know???

The economic contribution of volunteers in New York 55+ is **\$13.24 billion** consisting of 892,523 volunteers and 474 million hours.

The economic contribution of caregivers in New York 50+ has an economic value of **\$32 billion** with 4.1 million caregivers spending 2.68 billion hours

That the NYS Office for the Aging Offers the Following Services Delivered through 55 County Agencies and 1,200 community based organizations:

1. Home delivered meals
2. Congregate and portable meals
3. Nutrition Counseling and Education
4. Recreation and Education Programming
5. Health Promotion and Wellness Programs
6. Volunteer Opportunities
7. Caregiver and Respite Supports and Services
8. Legal Services
9. Home Modifications and Repairs
10. Elder Abuse Intervention, Prevention and Mitigation
11. NY Connects - Info and assistance person-centered options counseling
12. Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance

Program

13. Personal Care
14. Case Management
15. Assistive Devices
16. Social Adult Day Services
17. Transportation
18. Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

For more details on these programs call your County Office for the Aging

Details on the NY Connects Program coming in the next Monday Alert

New York Fiscal Policy Institute Offers Important Perspective on Reckless Injustice of Trump/MAGA Policies Gutting Health Care Essential Social Safety Net to Benefit Billionaires

In the wake of the Trump/MAGA federal government shutdown, the respected Fiscal Policy Institute has fresh perspective on the impact of the misnamed “One Big Beautiful Bill” on New Yorkers.

FPI analyzes what the legislation means for New York billionaires while it undermines health care, increases food insecurity and creates overwhelming state and local challenges across the state.

<https://fiscalpolicy.org/new-yorks-millionaires-will-get-a-12-billion-federal-tax-cut-next-year>

2026 Medicare Premiums Announced, Last Weeks of Open Enrollment

By Casey Schwartz and our friends at Medicare Rights

These premium increases are lower than some [projections](#), but they still

represent a significant increase of 10%. Combined with an [average COLA](#), this hike could put added strain some beneficiaries' [budgets, or at least dampen excitement about the raise](#).

Certainly, premium costs, alongside expected out-of-pocket spending at the doctor's office, pharmacy, and hospitals are top of mind as people with Medicare approach the last weeks of the Fall Open Enrollment period, where they can compare and make changes to their Part D or Medicare Advantage Enrollment. Ending December 7, this period marks the best opportunity for people to ensure they are enrolled in the right plan for their health and financial needs in 2026.

Further Reading

[Read the CMS fact sheet.](#)

NYS AFL-CIO Union Strong Podcast Focusses on New State Unemployment Benefits

On the latest edition of the NYS AFL-CIO Union Strong Podcast, host Darcy Wells speaks with NYS Labor Commissioner Roberta Riordan about newly enacted NYS Unemployment benefits. The package of benefit improvements were a top priority for the Labor movement and are important security for working people across the state.

[NYS AFL-CIO Union Strong Podcast](#)

Alliance/AFL-CIO Symposium Focused on the Looming Retirement Security Crisis



The Alliance and the AFL-CIO held their annual Retiree Security Symposium, *The Looming Retirement Security Crisis*, on Wednesday. Presenters discussed how to protect pensions, strengthen Social Security, and recognize financial scams increasingly powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AFL-CIO President **Liz Shuler** kicked the day off, highlighting how the fight for retirement security is a labor movement priority.

"Everyone here knows that this work around retirement security is right at the center of what everyone is thinking and talking about and it matters to me personally," said President **Shuler**. "Retirement security was what drove my pathway to union activism. I had a front row seat and experienced how corporate greed can destroy that hard earned promise of a retirement. I know that everyone has their own motivation, their own story. "

AFL-CIO Deputy Director of Corporations and Capital Markets **Brandon**

Rees moderated a panel discussion entitled “Private Equity and Retirement Security - Hero or Villain?” In video remarks, Senator **Amy Klobuchar** (MN) drew attention to how the Department of Government Efficiency’s (DOGE) dismantling of the Social Security Administration is hurting older Americans and emphasized the need to fully staff the agency.

Rep. **John Larson** (CT) discussed how Social Security is vital for local economies. He urged attendees to demand action from lawmakers to strengthen Social Security and make sure they know how many beneficiaries are in their legislative districts. This information is available on the [SSA website](#) and updated each year.

National Institute on Retirement Security Executive Director **Dan Doonan** and Research Director **Tyler Bond** educated attendees about how Social Security drives economic output and the history of polling on Social Security. Then Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta** and Legislative Representative **David Simon** discussed the future of Social Security and an overview of legislative proposals related to the earned benefits program.

“Retirement security is very important – we all have to do something,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance, in his closing remarks. “We have to have legal, peaceful action and we should join together and get this done. It’s a big deal for seniors and their families, for your children, your grandchildren, to ensure retirement security for all.”

Presentation materials from the symposium are posted [here](#). Video will be added soon.

The Alliance issued the [following statement](#) in response to the recent decision to suspend a planned revamp of Social Security Disability Insurance eligibility rules:

In the wake of overwhelming criticism from members of Congress, seniors organizations, and disability rights advocates, the Trump Administration this week [reversed course](#) and ended its plan to overhaul Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) eligibility rules. The change would have made it significantly harder for millions of older Americans with disabilities to receive the benefits they have earned.

The Alliance raised serious concerns about the proposal, which would have raised the age threshold for disability evaluations to 60 years old or eliminated age as a factor entirely. That change would have ignored the realities older workers face in the job market and threatened to cut eligibility by as much as 20 percent overall and up to 30 percent for older applicants.

“This is a victory for every American who has worked hard, paid into Social Security, and counted on the program to be there if they became disabled,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans. “These benefits are earned. They are not handouts or political bargaining chips. Americans deserve a disability system that recognizes the challenges of aging. We will always fight alongside workers, retirees, and our allies in Congress to strengthen Social Security — not weaken it.”

KFF Health News: Complaints About Gaps in Medicare Advantage Networks Are Common. Federal Enforcement Is Rare.

By Susan Jaffe

Along with the occasional aches and pains, growing older can bring surprise setbacks and serious diseases. Longtime relationships with doctors people trust often make even bad news more tolerable. Losing that support — especially during a health crisis — can be terrifying. That’s why little-known federal requirements are supposed to protect people with privately run Medicare Advantage coverage when contract disputes lead their health care providers and insurers to part ways.

But government documents obtained by KFF Health News show the agency overseeing Medicare Advantage does little to enforce long-standing rules intended to ensure about 35 million plan members can see doctors in the first place.