

## Public Hearing Information for 2020-2021 Yates Office for the Aging Programs

Pro Action Yates Office for the Aging with offices at 417 Liberty Street, Suite 1116, Penn Yan, NY will hold a Public Hearing on:

- Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's Terrace, Chapel Street in Penn Yan at 11 am;
- Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark's Terrace Millard Street in Dundee at 3 pm; and
- Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am PM at the Penn Yan County Office Building in Penn Yan.

The hearing will be on the 2019 Budget and Annual Implementation plan, funding applications for services covering Titles III-B, III-C-1, III-C2, III-D, and III-E of the Older American's Act of 1965 as amended, and the Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly, Community Services for the Elderly and Wellness in Nutrition Program.

The hearing will provide senior citizens, caregivers and other beneficiaries of senior programs or other interested parties with an opportunity to comment on programs and services. The hearing will also provide an opportunity for discussion. Public testimony, comments and written statements are encouraged.

Each site is accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. Every effort will be made to accommodate all individual's needs, including providing copies of materials in large print or braille, audio copies, or language translation services. If you need any accommodations, including the need for an assistive device, please contact Donna O'Connell at 315-536-5515 in the Yates Office for the Aging at least 72 hours prior to the hearing date. Individuals who are unable to attend may submit written comments to Pro Action Yates Office for the Aging, Attn: Amey Rusak, Interim Aging Services Manager, 417 Liberty Street, Penn Yan NY 14527, or by email at [rusaka@proactioninc.org](mailto:rusaka@proactioninc.org).

### **YATES OFFICE FOR THE AGING PUBLIC HEARING ABSTRACT for 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Pro Action Yates Office for the Aging is the Yates County Area Agency on Aging, and as such, fulfills the State and Federal duties of an Area Agency on Aging.

The Office for the Aging is responsible for planning, coordinating, funding and advocating for programs and services which meet the needs of Yates County residents age 60 and over, as well as providing information and assistance for individuals with disabilities and caregivers of any age. Services are targeted to individuals with the greatest social and/or economic need, placing emphasis on serving those older adults who are low-income, minorities and/or those with disabilities.

In the 2018/19 program year, Yates Office for the Aging had contact with 80% of the seniors or their caregivers in Yates County. Most contact was through our bi-monthly newsletter which is mailed to more than 4,000 homes of seniors in Yates County. In addition to using the U.S. postal service, we email our newsletter and other announcements and updates to more than 500 individuals, advocacy groups, human service agencies, local health care providers, public officials and government agencies, faith-based organizations and local media serving Yates County. This is done in an effort to expand our outreach of services and to help us reach minority and underserved seniors. To expand our reach, we maintain and update the Yates Office for the Aging pages on the Pro Action agency website and also post frequently using our Yates Office for the Aging social media site.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to present proposed action under the Older American's Act and to seek input for the planning process outlined by the New York State Office for the Aging. The Yates Office

for the Aging is mandated by New York State Office for the Aging to provide a list of priority services which the local Area Agency on Aging will address in 2019-2020.

The Office for the Aging remains strong in its commitment to assisting individuals to remain in their homes and community for as long as they choose and can safely do so with supports. The priority services listed below are the majority of the programs we have in place to achieve this goal.

#### **PRIORITY SERVICES:**

1. Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP): Provides non-medical services and support to help frail seniors remain in their home. Services include information and referral, maintaining a private care registry, case management, housekeeper/chore services, personal care services and support for family members and caregivers. Costs for in-home aide services are shared with the customer using a sliding fee scale. The largest number of clients utilizing this program are between the ages of 79 and 88 years, and the most requested service is nearly equal between housekeeping and personal care.
2. Senior Nutrition: Pro Action Yates OFA prepares and serves hot lunches in Dundee and during various senior events throughout the year in Penn Yan. These meals are available to any senior in Yates County. In addition, we prepare and deliver meals to homebound seniors throughout Yates County. Participants receive a lunch and, if necessary, weekend meals are available. All meals provide 1/3 of the recommended dietary intake for seniors. We request a \$3.50 donation per meal, but no one is denied services if he or she cannot afford to pay. In addition to meals, we provide nutrition counseling and education for seniors to provide them with the knowledge and ability to maintain good nutritional health. We also distribute Farmer Market Coupons to up to 560 senior households each summer, providing up to \$11,200 in spending on locally grown produce sold at Farmer Markets in Yates County.
3. Transportation: This program provides Yates County residents with door to door transportation to medical appointments, local stores / pharmacies, senior nutrition events and other activities in the local community. We request per trip donations, but no senior is denied services if he or she cannot afford to pay, as this service is truly the lifeline that allows them to remain living independently in their own home.
4. Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program: We provide unbiased information and counseling to Medicare beneficiaries and their family or caregiver, regarding Medicare, Medicare supplemental policies, HMO's, Medicare Part D, Long Term Care Insurance, and policy comparisons. Seniors can receive assistance with understanding correspondence or announcements from Medicare, private insurance companies, physicians or hospital, as well as assistance in applying for EPIC. There are not fees or income eligibility requirements for this service.
5. Personal Emergency Response System (ERS) and Project Lifesaver: Pro Action Yates OFA provides and maintains personal transmitting devices, or ERS, to help seniors remain independent in their own homes by enabling immediate access to the 911 emergency system. Seniors pay \$30 per month for the service and there are no installation or equipment fees. Monitoring of the systems is provided through a Sentry Call Center. All revenues from this program are re-invested in OFA programs and services. Project Lifesaver is a locator system for seniors with dementia who are at risk for wandering and getting lost. This program is offered in partnership with the Yates County

Sheriff's Office. Seniors pay \$25 per month for the service and there are no installation or equipment fees charged. Given the high-risk population served by Project Lifesaver, no senior is ever denied services due to inability to pay the monthly fee.

6. Caregiver Support: Caregiver services include individual counseling, support groups, caregiver training, in-home safety assessments, the Alzheimer's Safe Return program, information and assistance, referrals and linkage to community resources. We provide brochures, books, video and audio tapes to assist caregivers. Caregiver support works in concert with our EISEP, Senior Nutrition, ERS and transportation programs to provide a menu of services to help ease the burden of caregivers caring for frail seniors.
7. Legal Assistance: This program provides legal assistance, representation and advice through a contract with Legal Assistance of the Western New York regarding civil law and entitlement benefits for seniors. Typical legal assistance referrals include debt issues, social security appeals, and wills. There is no income eligibility requirement for this service and referrals are made on targeted basis to ensure highest needs are served first. Funds for this service are limited.
8. Tax Assistance Program: Volunteers tax counselors work with Yates County residents to prepare tax returns for either electronic or paper submission. Volunteers make home visits to anyone not able to come into the OFA office.
9. Yates NY Connects (Long Term Care Point of Entry Program): We provide a single point of entry for information and assistance on long term care services and options. There are no age, income or insurance restrictions on this service. The NY Connects Program supports a "No Wrong Door" point of entry program to provide a greater depth of services, program screening and application assistance to all Yates residents seeking long term supports and services, including those with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health needs.
10. Prevention Services Exercise Programs: We provide prevention programs to frail and at-risk seniors focused on preventing falls, improving balance, strength and endurance. Programs include group classes of Chronic Disease Self-Management, Matter of Balance, Eat Better Move More, Tai Chi and Bone Builders.

#### **2018/19 YATES OFFICE FOR THE AGING PROGRAM OUTCOMES:**

Transportation: Pro Action Office for the Aging provided 191 Yates County seniors with 5,064 one-way trips to medical providers, community businesses, and other community events.

Nutrition Programs: 136 seniors received 17,781 home delivered meals enabling them to remain living at home while improving their nutritional status. An additional 50 seniors were served 3,600 meals in our congregate site in Dundee.

Information and Assistance: 1,892 seniors or their family members were provided with information and assistance by Pro Action Yates Office for the Aging staff.

Personal Emergency Response System: 261 seniors were provided with monitoring and emergency assistance through our ERS program. This support allowed these seniors to remain safe and independent in their own homes.

In-Home Services for the Elderly (EISEP, Caregiver Support and CSE): (80 received case management)114 frail seniors were provided with case management, personal care, housekeeping and respite services to maintain them in their homes. (24 in caregivers)42 caregivers were served in our caregiver support programs and (104 in-home) 114 seniors received in-home contact and support services.

Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program: 545 seniors or other Medicare eligible individuals received one on one counseling and assistance relative to their health insurance options, including assistance in signing up with a health insurance plan or drug coverage plan that best meets their needs from a coverage and cost perspective.

Yates NY Connects (Long Term Care Point of Entry Program): 321 individuals needing information or assistance with accessing benefits, programs, services or housing to maintain independence in the community were served during the 2018/19 program year.

### **2019/20 FUNDING:**

Yates County tax payer support is needed as required matching funds so that we may access State and Federal programs to support the senior residents of Yates County. Yates County's investment of \$93,661 will leverage nearly \$1.1 million in State, Federal and outside funding to support the Office for the Aging services to Yates County residents. Our detailed 2020/21 funding projection is attached at the end of this abstract

### **SUMMARY**

Our goals, service projections and program outcomes for 2020/21 are largely the same as our 2019/20 outcomes. The reason for this is that our funding is largely unchanged from the 2018/19 and 2019/20 funding years. We anticipate no significant changes in funding, programs, services or goals in 2020. A special pool of unmet needs funding from NYSOFA is being used to assist about 10 seniors with EISEP homecare needs. We report those cases separately as this funding is very limited in scope and duration.

Attachment: 2020 Pro Action Yates Office for the Aging projected Funding.

	<u>PROJECTED</u> <u>FED / STATE</u> <u>ALLOCAT. (*)</u>	<u>PROPOSE</u> <u>D YATES</u> <u>COUNTY</u> <u>FUNDING</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u> <u>INCOME &amp;</u> <u>OTHER</u> <u>MATCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>LEVERAGED</u> <u>DOLLARS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b><u>GRANTS &amp; SERVICES</u></b>					
IIIE Family Caregiver Support	\$43,880	\$7,131	\$100	\$43,980	\$51,111
IIIB Information & Assistance In-Home Services Legal Assistance	\$46,135	\$5,674	\$5,000	\$51,135	\$56,809
CI – Senior Nutrition	\$80,285	\$7,577	\$7,000	\$87,285	\$94,862
CII – Senior Nutrition	\$29,956	\$4,104	\$3,500	\$33,456	\$37,560
WIN – Senior Nutrition	\$140,947		\$20,000	\$160,947	\$160,947
CSI – Prevention Services	\$1,000	\$334		\$1,000	\$1,334
IIID – Prevention Services	\$3,357	\$373	\$3,000	\$6,357	\$6,730
CSE – Transportation	\$82,412	\$16,675	\$7,500	\$89,912	\$106,587
State Transportation Program	\$5,600			\$5,600	\$5,600
EISEP – In-Home Services	\$178,749	\$51,793	\$13,124	\$191,873	\$243,666
HIICAP – Health Insurance Counseling	\$33,121		\$100	\$33,221	\$33,221
MIPPA – Medicare Savings & Extra Help –	\$13,257			\$13,257	\$13,257
NY Connects Expanded & Enhanced	\$182,777			\$182,777	\$182,777
Personal Emergency Response & Project Lifesaver	\$0	\$0	\$39,600	\$39,600	\$39,600
CSBG					
Planning/Implementation	\$ 103,198				
Dundee Mobile Food Pantry	\$3,493				
Yates Transportation	\$17,296				
Total CSBG	\$123,987	\$0	\$0	\$123,987	\$123,987
<b>TOTALS as of 5/30/19</b>	<b>\$965,463</b>	<b>\$93,661</b>	<b>\$98,924</b>	<b>1,064,387</b>	<b>\$1,158,048</b>

