

## SUPPORT NEW YORK'S NORCS & NEIGHBORHOOD NORCS

NORCs and Neighborhood NORCs (known collectively as N/NORCs) are multi-age housing developments, neighborhoods, or geographic areas that were not originally developed for older adults, but are now home to a significant number of older people. N/NORCs promote health and stability among older adults in concentrated apartment buildings and housing complexes, as well as in lower-density neighborhoods and rural areas, through contracts administered by the New York State Office for the Aging (SOFA).

### **5.4 Million**

*The number of New Yorkers who will be age 60 or older by 2030*

### **16,500**

*The number of older adults currently served by N/NORC programs statewide*

### **\$137,000**

*The average annual cost of a nursing home stay for one person in New York State. This is the same amount as a single N/NORCs contract, which helps hundreds of New Yorkers.*

### **38%**

*Average percent of a N/NORC program's SOFA contract spent to provide health and nursing services*

### **\$85**

*Typical hourly rate for N/NORC health and nursing services*

## FY 2019-2020 BUDGET REQUESTS

### **Invest \$775,000 to support health and nursing services in NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs**

Nurses provide services to N/NORC residents that might not otherwise exist in the community, such as medication education, diabetes testing, flu shots, mobility and balance screenings, and helping clients get in touch with doctors. Many residents rely on these services as a main source of health care and value the consistent, quality care they provide.

N/NORCs were previously able to secure nursing hours pro-bono by partnering with hospitals, retired nurses, or supervised student nurses. However, in the wake of recent Medicaid Redesign and billing changes, in addition to an aging population with increased needs, these arrangements are becoming unstable and many nursing services providers are cutting back on their pro-bono hours.

With many of these partnerships greatly diminished or fully terminated, N/NORCs must find funding to pay for hours that were previously free, essentially spending more to maintain the same level of service.

An additional \$775,000 would sufficiently cover the reduction in pro-bono hours over time across all 29 existing N/NORC programs.

### **Restore \$8.06 million to support existing and anticipated NORC and Neighborhood NORC programs**

In November 2018 SOFA released a new RFA to introduce approximately 13 new N/NORC programs throughout the State. The Executive Budget proposed restoring the N/NORC budget at \$8.06 million, which will support the ongoing success of the 29 existing programs and these 13 new programs—not including additional funding for nursing services.

## ABOUT NORCS AND NEIGHBORHOOD NORCS

Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) and Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (Neighborhood NORC) programs (collectively known as N/NORCs) coordinate a broad range of health and social services to help support older residents to age in their own homes. The intent of N/NORC programs is to facilitate and integrate the health and social services already available in the community, as well as organize those necessary to help meet the goal of enabling seniors to remain at home.

The overarching goal of a N/NORC program is to maximize the health of its community. They are proactive in their approach, seeking to expand and strengthen the connections older adults have in and to their communities before a crisis occurs.

N/NORC programs operate through multidisciplinary partnerships that represent a mix of public and private entities and provide on-site services and activities. At the core of each partnership are social service and health care providers; housing managers or representatives of neighborhood associations; and, most importantly, the community's residents, especially its older residents.

These core partners connect to the many other stakeholders in a community – local businesses; civic, religious, and cultural institutions; public and private funders; and local police and other public safety agencies. By harnessing these resources for a common interest, N/NORC programs help to transform the community into a good place in which to grow old.

In addition to supporting older residents to age successfully, the N/NORC program model also promotes community change. It offers new opportunities to empower older adults to take on new roles in shaping communities that work for them, weave a tighter social fabric and foster connections among residents, and maximize the health and well-being of all older adults in the N/NORC program.

N/NORC programs are built from the ground up, in response to what they learn about the community after assessing that community. Inevitable challenges to healthy aging often include environmental factors, health and social service gaps, transportation problems, lack of infrastructure, or a frayed social fabric. But, a N/NORC program identifies strengths to be harnessed and they are positioned to design and implement a responsive program that integrates community engagement (i.e. educational programming; community action initiatives and opportunities for seniors to take on new roles); social work services provided to individuals, caregivers, and groups of seniors; and health care-related services addressing both individual health management needs and the health of the community.