

Department for the Aging Awards Contracts To 10 Community Agencies for Caregiver Services

Federal Funding Provides Assistance and Services to Caregivers to the Elderly

The New York City Department for the Aging has awarded contracts to 10 community agencies in all five boroughs to operate caregiver services programs that assist individuals caring for the elderly.

“Family members and other informal caregivers are the foundation of the health care system,” said Department Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago. “There is a growing need for services that benefit the elderly directly and also provide support for their caregivers. We are pleased to work with our community partners to help address these needs.”

In 1998, one in four adult Americans provided some level of caregiving. In New York State, the number of caregivers is estimated at over 1.7 million. In New York City, there are approximately one million unpaid family caregivers. On average, caregivers reported providing 20.5 hours of care a week.

Title III-E of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000 established a new program, the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), an important model for recognizing and supporting caregivers. The program provides basic services for family caregivers and grandparents caring for grandchildren.

Through the NFCSP, the Department for the Aging received \$3.2 million in funding to provide assistance and services to caregivers. The funding will be used for information, counseling, support groups, and training for caregivers to the elderly, as well as grandparents caring for grandchildren. In addition, the funding will support services that offer respite for caregivers to the elderly, such as home care and social adult day services. These services will be available at agencies conveniently located around the city.

Based on a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the Department for the Aging, the following agencies have been awarded a contract to provide Caregiver Services:

Bronx

- Presbyterian Senior Services
2095 Broadway, Suite 409
New York, NY 10023
(212) 874-6633
- Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)
132 West 31st Street
New York, NY 10001
(212) 273-5270

- Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)
132 West 31st Street
New York, NY 10001
(212) 273-5270

Manhattan

- JASA
132 West 31st Street
New York, NY 10001
(212) 273-5270

Brooklyn

- Park Slope Geriatric Day Center
199 14th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 499-7701

more.....

- Mount Sinai Medical Center Caregivers & Professionals Partnership
Box 1252, 1 Gustave L. Levy Place
New York, NY 10029
(212) 241-0170

(718) 661-9313

- Services Now for Adults Persons (SNAP)
Bldg. 4, CBU #29
80-45 Winchester Blvd.,
Queens Village, NY 11427
(718) 454-2100

Queens

- Sunnyside Community Services
43-31 39th Street
Sunnyside, NY 11104
(718) 784-6160
- Northern Queens Health Coalition
39-01 Main Street, Suite 611
Flushing, NY 11354

Staten Island

- Jewish Community Center of Staten Island
475 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, NY 10301
(718) 356-8113 ext. 116

To be eligible for the program, caregivers should be providing care to persons who are 60 years of age or older and who suffer from a chronic illness or disability.

Commissioner Méndez-Santiago described the program at the 18th Annual Mayoral Conference on Alzheimer's Disease held at the Brooklyn Marriott on October 22nd. Endowed by the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation, the conference is hosted by the Department for the Aging's Alzheimer's & Long Term Care Unit in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association New York City chapter.

Current and future caregivers of the elderly, particularly those caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders, constitute a group with specific needs for high quality, consumer-oriented information about resources and access to professional guidance.

The conference, the largest of its kind in the nation, gives professionals in the field and caregivers alike access to the latest information on Alzheimer's disease and a preview of innovations such as the Fisher Center's new alzinfo.org website.

Alzinfo.org is a source of comprehensive, accurate, up-to-date information about all aspects of care, treatment and research related to Alzheimer's disease. A special "Geo-Search" feature enables users to find relevant resources in their local communities where they can go for additional help, simply by entering their zip code.

For information about the Department for the Aging's Alzheimer's & Long Term Care Unit, call 212-442-1000.

###