

December 13, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Thank you for being a long-time and steadfast champion for older adults in New York State, and for continuing to demonstrate your dedication to building strong, healthy communities for all New Yorkers.

We are at a critical moment in New York's history. By 2030, it is estimated that one quarter of New Yorkers will be 60 or older. Together, we can affirm that all people are valued, respected, and deserve to live in healthy, safe communities that meet their needs, across their lifespan.

The coalition of the undersigned represent more than 80 organizations serving the community health needs of people in our state. We respectfully ask that you take a visionary, bold stand for healthy aging and a stronger long-term care system by issuing an executive order that commits New York to developing the process for a Master Plan for Aging.

A Master Plan for Aging is a comprehensive roadmap for system-wide changes in how services are coordinated, delivered, and financed to better meet the needs of the state's older adults and their families. It serves as an outcome-oriented blueprint for all sectors to promote healthy aging and prepare New York for future demographic changes. States such as Colorado, California, Texas, and Massachusetts have taken the bold step to develop a clearly articulated Master Plan for Aging.

There is significant, admirable age-friendly work happening across our state—led by elected officials, advocates, and community organizations. A Master Plan for Aging is the opportunity to build on, strengthen and coalesce the existing efforts happening in our state, especially at a time when community health efforts and enhancing support services for older adults are key priorities.

A recent informational session about Master Plans for Aging in other states, and New York's potential as a candidate for this type of effort, was attended by over 200 people representing a wide variety of sectors across the state, including public, private, philanthropic, and community-based organizations. The conversation surrounding this session was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. There is clear interest in learning more about how a Master Plan for Aging could help us better meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Our coalition is ready and willing to support these efforts, and to continue this conversation with you and your team as needed. Governor Hochul, will you commit to announcing an executive order to develop the process for New York's Master Plan for Aging?

Sincerely,

Nora OBrien-Suric, PhD, President
Health Foundation for Western and Central
New York

Beth Finkel, State Director
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Pastor George F. Nicholas, MDiv, Chair,
African American Health Equity Task Force
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Christopher Smith, Region 12 Director (New
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Randall Hoak, Commissioner
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