



TOMPKINS COUNTY
OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Aging Better, Together

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**Tompkins County Office for the Aging
Proposed 2020 Plan Abstract**

The 2020 Proposed Plan Abstract of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging/NY Connects is to be presented at two public hearings, 10:00 am, Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Brooktondale Community Center, 522-526 Valley Road, Brooktondale and at 4:30pm, Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at Lifelong, 119 West Court Street, Ithaca. The final Plan will reflect comments and suggestions made at the public hearings.

The Proposed Plan Abstract includes findings from the following sources: the 2012 Needs Assessment of Tompkins County Individuals Age 60+, the 2016 Age Friendly Ithaca and Tompkins County Action Plan, the 2019 Needs Assessment of Tompkins County Individuals Age 60+, direct consumer feedback, programmatic trends, program evaluations, satisfaction surveys, information from state agencies and community partners, literature in the field of aging and from the sage advice from the Advisory Committee of the Tompkins County Office for the Aging.

Mission: Our mission is to assist older adults and persons with long term care needs to live independently in their homes and communities with quality of life and dignity.

Current Services: For a complete list, please see our 2018 Annual Report at <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa> or contact our office directly to request a copy.

Directly Provided Services

- ❖ NY Connects Information, Referral and Options Counseling
- ❖ Health Insurance Counseling
- ❖ Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- ❖ Falls Prevention Home Safety Assessments
- ❖ Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- ❖ Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- ❖ Public Information and Outreach
- ❖ Caregivers Resource Center and Alzheimer's Support Unit
- ❖ Project CARE
- ❖ Telephone Reassurance Program
- ❖ Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program serving Tompkins, Chemung and Schuyler Counties

Subcontracted Services

- ❖ *Better Housing for Tompkins County/Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services:*
Small Home and Safety Repair Program
- ❖ *Foodnet Meals on Wheels:*
Senior Nutrition Program
- ❖ *Lifelong:*
Senior Circle Newsletter
Northside/Southside Program
Health Insurance Counseling
Aging Mastery Program
- ❖ *Finger Lakes Independence Center:*
Home Care Registry and Consumer Directed Personal Care Services
- ❖ *Stafkings, Caregivers, Home Instead Senior Care, Comfort Keepers.*
Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) Non-Medical Home Care Services
- ❖ *DSS Long Term Care Services:*
Long Term Care Information & Assistance, EISEP Assessment and Case Management
- ❖ *LAW NY Legal Services:*
Legal Assistance
- ❖ *Gadabout:*
Transportation Services

Tompkins County Office for the Aging Plan for 2020

Contracts—The Office for the Aging intends to maintain all its current contracts assuming continuing availability of funds.

NY Connects—The Office for the Aging will continue to administer the NY Connects Program. This program provides residents of all ages with objective and comprehensive information about long term care services and supports available in Tompkins County. The Office for the Aging will adhere to the NY Connects Program Standards.

Age Friendly Ithaca and Tompkins County— In 2015, Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca were welcomed into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, an initiative of the World Health Organization intended to help municipalities prepare for rapid population aging. The Tompkins County Office for the Aging leads the Age Friendly Community initiative, in close partnership with the Ithaca College Gerontology Institute, Cornell University, Tompkins-Cortland Community College, local human service organizations, municipalities and others.

In August of 2019, we applied for a 16-month Age Friendly Center of Excellence grant through the Health Foundation of Central and Western NY. The grant is for Tompkins County to become a Center for Excellence for Age Friendly Planning, which will assist us to further develop Age Friendly /Livable Community principles and projects and provide mentorship to others who are applying for the Age Friendly designation. The application included how our work will address the smart growth and sustainable development goals of the county and show how we will incorporate this into various levels of government. We also addressed how this work aligns with the Governor's prevention agenda and the Health Across All Policies framework. Our application was accepted, and we are anticipating this work to begin in late 2019 and end in 2021.

Unmet Needs funding: Addressing the unmet needs of our older residents has been a focus of the Governor and the Legislature over the past few years. Due to this attention, along with the recognition of the value of the services the AAAs and network provide, and how cost-effective they are while reducing future Medicaid spending, the Governor included \$15 million in his Executive Budget which was agreed on by the legislature. The purpose of these funds is to direct them to Area Agencies on Aging that reported unmet needs in order to significantly reduce or eliminate any reported unmet need. In 2018, The Tompkins County Office for the Aging reported a wait list for Case Management of In-Home Care Services (Personal Care and Housekeeping/Chore) as well as Home Repair. The unmet need reported was a snapshot in time and will fluctuate. Therefore, the funds have been provided with maximum flexibility to address this unmet need. The primary goal is to reduce or eliminate the number of people who are reported to be waiting for service. The Tompkins County Office for the Aging was allocated just over \$85,000 to address the reported unmet need. We will be using this funding to increase our ancillary funds to provide additional wrap around services while they wait and a part time case aide to manage these resources and assist clients on the waiting list with additional communication, contact and connections needed to remain safe and independent in their homes. We will also provide telephone reassurance through 2 weekly

phone calls at designated times to clients on the waiting list. This provides not only an opportunity for social interaction, but also a safety check-in to identify changes in client's status and connection with services they may need. Finally, we will use funding to subcontract with INHS to provide additional small home repairs and weatherization. The Small Repair program will continue to partner with COFA's Falls Home Safety Assessment Program. COFA's Outreach Workers will continue to provide valuable home visits to identify hazards and weatherization needs in the home.

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) Program— In 2015, the Office for the Aging contracted with Doyle Medical Monitoring to offer Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) to Tompkins County residents. The contract improved the technology used in people's homes, assuring compatibility with digital phones and cell phones. The Office for the Aging continues to maintain its involvement in the customer service aspect of the program, with staff continuing to install PERS units in clients' homes. In 2020, the Office for the Aging will focus on outreach to consumers and providers and work to increase the number of clients served through the PERS Program by 10%.

Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program- The Office for the Aging will continue to cultivate relationships and partnerships in Tompkins, Schuyler and Chemung Counties. We have recently committed to sponsoring the program for the 2020-2025 contract cycle. In 2020, the long term care ombudsman staff will continue to target their efforts on recruiting and training volunteers to expand our volunteer pool especially in Schuyler and Chemung Counties.

Policy Trends-- Through the Long Term Care Committee and Advisory Committee, the Office for the Aging will continue to monitor the effects of current policy and legislation on the lives of older adults. Examples include the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, improving health outcomes by addressing social determinants through home and community-based services, and the implementation of Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) 2.0 and waiver process. We will work with Care Compass Network and partnering community-based organizations to better align ourselves with Medicaid redesign and the shift from volume-based system to value based payments and services.

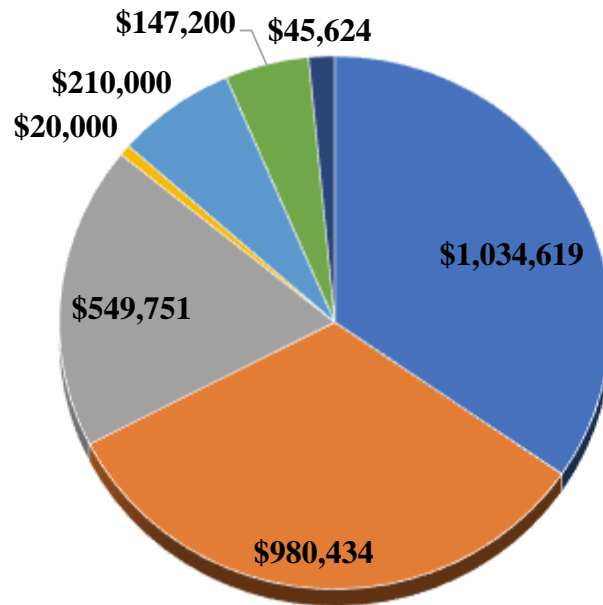
Client Satisfaction—In 2019-2020, the Office for the Aging will work with student interns to measure client satisfaction with the following services: NY Connects, Case Management, Caregiver Services, Home Safety Assessment Program, Legal Services, and the Project CARE Friendly Visiting Program.

Targeting—The Office for the Aging will continue its efforts to target its services to underserved populations including non-English speakers and racial/ethnic minorities, particularly the Asian community. The Office for the Aging will strive to maintain racial and socio-economic diversity on its Advisory Committee and include seniors from all parts of Tompkins County. Outreach staff members will continue to direct efforts to seniors of lower income, those who are isolated, and those living in rural portions of the County. The Office for the Aging will continue outreach efforts to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender seniors.

Unmet Needs: The Office for the Aging maintains a list of “unmet needs.” These are requests for services which are currently in short supply or unavailable in Tompkins County. Efforts are currently underway among service providers, including the Office for the Aging, to address several unmet needs on this list.

- ❖ Home health aides and certified nurse aides
- ❖ Affordable, accessible housing, both subsidized and private sector
- ❖ Transportation services on evenings and weekends as well as out of town medical appointments
- ❖ Transportation escorts (accompanying for appointments or after procedures)
- ❖ Additional funding for home repairs and re-weatherization for low income households
- ❖ Medicaid funded Assisted Living Program (ALP)/Enhanced Assisted Living option, including a dementia unit, for low- and moderate-income individuals
- ❖ Increase in the Medicaid personal needs allowance for residents of skilled nursing facilities
- ❖ Power of Attorney and Health Care Proxy representation for individuals who lack family & friends
- ❖ Assistance for de-cluttering homes for low income individuals
- ❖ Wheelchair ramps for renters/affordable ramps for short term use
- ❖ Geriatricians and geriatric nurse practitioners
- ❖ Legal assistance to assist low income individuals understand and address code violations
- ❖ Behavioral health care for older adults in long term care facilities, including the option of structured group activities, therapy and close medication management which is now only available short term at Charles Cole Hospital (PA) or Rome, NY.
- ❖ Assistance with bill paying/check book balancing services
- ❖ Public benches and resting spots for older adults who walk
- ❖ Portable ramps for individuals who can't afford retrofitting a van

SOURCES OF FUNDING 2020 COFA BUDGET



- County Funding
- State
- Federal
- Grants
- Matching Funds Contributed by Subcontractors
- Contributions
- Fees and Client Share

<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>2020 AMOUNT</u>
County Funding	\$1,034,619
State	\$980,434
Federal	\$549,751
Grants	\$20,000
Matching Funds Contributed by Subcontractors	\$210,000
Contributions	\$147,200
Fees and Client Share	\$45,624
	\$2,987,628

Comparison of Funding Sources 2019-2020	2019	2020
Alzheimer's Association of CNY Respite Grant	\$30,000	\$20,000
Care Compass	\$11,000	\$1,000
Health Foundation of Western and Central New York: Aging By Design Grant	\$27,497	-----
Federal Balancing Incentives Program: Expanded NY Connects	\$268,215	\$279,522
Federal Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program	\$32,077	\$33,721
Federal Home Energy Assistance Program	\$51,515	\$51,413
Federal Medicare Improvements Patients and Providers Act	\$13,321	\$13,376
Federal Nutrition Services for the Elderly Program	\$110,000	\$110,000
Federal Older Americans Act: Title IIIB	\$342,229	\$370,954
Federal Older Americans Act: Title IIIC	\$584,618	\$609,662
Federal Older Americans Act: Title IIID	\$4,944	\$5,843
Federal Older Americans Act: Title IIIE	\$49,520	\$58,291
Locally Funded Small Home and Safety Program	\$46,379	\$28,525
Locally Funded Personal Emergency Response Program	\$37,335	\$36,100
NYS Caregiver Resource Center	\$22,071	\$22,239
NYS Community Services for the Elderly Program	\$247,247	\$252,326
NYS Unmet Needs Program	-----	\$85,863
NYS Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program	\$476,165	\$472,389
NYS Ombudsman Program	\$162,545	\$150,465
NYS Wellness in Nutrition	\$344,857	\$385,939
TOTAL	\$2,861,535	\$2,987,628