



Presented by

Ryan A. Murray
Executive Deputy Commissioner

on

Department for the Aging
Int. 238 and Int. 280

before the

New York City Council
Committee on Aging

on

Thursday, February 19, 2026
At 1:00 p.m.

Good afternoon, Chair Zhuang, and members of the Aging Committee. My name is Ryan Murray, and I am the Executive Deputy Commissioner and Chief Program Officer for the New York City Department for the Aging (NYC Aging). I am grateful for the opportunity to speak with you today about these two bills which are directly related to our meal programming and services for older New Yorkers, the ability for older adults to age-in-place in New York City, and our mutual goal of building an age-inclusive city centered around community-based care. As we frequently say, nearly two million New Yorkers are aged 60 or older, and that number is expected to increase significantly in the next decade. As the city's population ages, so does the need for expanded services to help older adults remain in their homes and communities with dignity. This includes functioning centers in up-to-date spaces where older adults can socialize and access services. We are committed to ensuring centers run by our network of providers are welcoming and safe places for older adults. Older adults are particularly vulnerable to challenges like social isolation, financial insecurity, and limited access to culturally competent care, which can worsen such conditions as depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline.

At NYC Aging we are particularly sensitive to the connection between financial insecurity and food insecurity. These two challenges for the growing population of older New Yorkers poses one of the most prescient threats to the ability for our city's population to age-in-place in the communities they have built with the dignity they deserve. It is clear to us that older adults experiencing food insecurity will, more than likely, also experience financial insecurity which affects other areas of their life. When we provide a meal for an older adult we are alleviating a specific concern which prevents them from meeting another basic need like housing, healthcare, buying prescriptions, or any basic facet of their life. That is why we view these two introductions we are discussing today as fundamental to the work of our agency.

OAC Types & Ownership Structures

As we have said in past hearings, OACs occupy a range of building types and ownership structures. A requirement of the OAC RFP is that providers retain site control of their location at the time the contract is registered. For OACs in private buildings, this may be a lease or a written agreement if that OAC is not paying rent to the organization which owns the building. For NYCHA based OACs, we have operating agreements in lieu of leases which define terms of how a center will operate on that site. Some OACs are part of larger organizations which own the buildings where they are located. Additionally, there are some OACs which operate in city-owned buildings. This range of OAC facility type mean that capital improvements take a different form based on what type of building or ownership exists for the OAC. While our partners at NYCHA are not here today, we do take our role in NYCHA spaces—roughly a third of our OAC portfolio—very seriously and work closely with them to address issues. In our last hearing on this topic in January 2025, we were joined by NYCHA to discuss our partnership regarding programs located in developments they own. We are happy to continue our conversations with you about NYCHA based OACs but would like to have them at the table for the benefit of Council.

Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Programming

Two of NYC Aging's core services are Older Adult Centers (OACs) and the Home Delivered Meals (HDM) program which are intrinsically connected to providing meals and nutrition assistance to older adults. In recent years we have altered our own thinking and clearly see congregate or home delivered meals as programs which provide "food as medicine." These are essential services for healthy living and preventing social isolation affect older adults at a very basic level. The work done by OACs, HDM programs, and our CMA providers combat poverty and financial insecurity which address their needs when struggling with activities of daily living. For older adults experiencing food insecurity, it is typically represented by financial insecurity, and we are continually working to meet those two distinct needs within our network of providers.

We continue to meet significant levels of need in meal delivery, with a current record of more than 10 million meals served to older New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs. This includes 6.1 million meals served at the 300-plus OACs in the network and 4.2 million meals delivered by our HDM providers. We fully anticipate that we will match that number again at the close of this fiscal year, and are confident that as the aging population grows in New York City, NYC Aging will continue to serve more than 10 million meals annually in the years to come. This is an incredible achievement when considering the dollar-for-dollar impact of meals provision as an anti-poverty measure in the lives of older adults. When the Older Americans Act (OAA) was passed in 1965, a reason for creating that pivotal legislation was to address older adult poverty nationwide through nutrition and supportive services. While much has changed about being an older adult since the 1960s, the basic human needs for dignified aging—meals, health, agency, and income—remain the same.

Legislation

The purpose of today's hearing is to address Introduction 238, a bill to establish a grab-and-go meal program and Introduction 280, a bill to require home delivered meals every day of the calendar year. Regarding these introductions, we agree that these bills could improve meal delivery and nutrition programs for older adults, but want to highlight operational challenges which can be addressed during the negotiation phase as these bills age. Particularly regarding grab-and-go options at OACs, we are mindful of the federal requirement in the Older Americans Act in Title III C-1 congregate meal funding necessitates that congregate meals provided at OACs and services happen at the same locations. Without consideration of this OAA mandate, or changes to federal law, there will be funding implications to Int. 238, which diminishes the role of the federal government in reimbursing those meals. Similarly, Introduction 280, would necessitate 7-days of daily meal deliveries, and is currently achieved through public-private partnerships to supplement NYC Aging HDM contracts. Nonetheless, the daily meal delivery requirement is difficult to achieve given labor needs and will need to carefully consider various models and their associate costs.

We look forward to discussing these bills further with you in the future as these are important topics to older adults and to NYC Aging. I also want to say that I greatly appreciate both sponsors of today's Introductions, Councilmembers Hudson and Lee, who have been so collaborative and forthright with us on these bills. We are always grateful to have a relationship with Council where can find solutions that work for our agency, providers, clients, and the shared goals with Council which we are already aligned.

Conclusion

At NYC Aging we are pleased to provide services to older New Yorkers through our OACs, monthly home delivered meals distributed to homebound older New Yorkers. We look forward to continuing these efforts to address the needs of growing population in New York City. I want to thank all of you for your commitment to older adults over the years. That partnership, that alignment, those shared goals have truly made the work of this agency more successful. Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.



February 19, 2026

Testimony of Amanda Raikes-Williams, Budget & Policy Analyst
On behalf of The New York City Independent Budget Office
To the New York City Council Committee on Aging and
Subcommittee on Senior Centers and Food Security

Good afternoon, Chair Zhuang and members of the Committee on Aging. I am Amanda Raikes-Williams, Budget and Policy Analyst at the New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) and I am joined by my colleague Jacob Berman, Assistant Director for Social and Community Services. IBO is a nonpartisan, independent government agency mandated by the New York City Charter. IBO's mission is to enhance public understanding of New York City's budget, public policy, and economy through independent analysis.

Today we will discuss older adult population trends in NYC, the budget structure for the Department for the Aging (NYC Aging), and trends in usage for older adult centers and meals (both delivered to homes and in congregate settings). Understanding how programs are funded, and how NYC Aging contracts with providers for each service, is important context as you consider Intro 0238-2026, which will allow New York City to establish a grab-and-go meal program at older adult centers, and Intro 0280-2026, which will require home delivered meals providers to deliver meals each day of the calendar year.

Aging in New York City

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the share of the NYC population that is 65 and older has increased from 15% in 2020 to 17% in 2024. The share of older adults living in poverty has also increased from 18% in 2020 to 20% in 2024, now a higher share than the total NYC population (18% in 2024).

On the other end of the spectrum, when considering the share at or above 150% of the poverty line, 70% of older adults fall at or above that threshold, slightly lower than the 74% of the total NYC population. In other words, just as there are more older adults living below the poverty line, there are fewer older adults living more comfortably above the poverty line.¹

Relatedly, a larger share of older adults receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or food assistance, compared with the

total NYC population (27% vs. 21% in 2024, with consistent shares since 2020). A larger share of older adults is also classified as being rent burdened (spending 30% or more of their income on rent) than the total NYC population (58% of older adults compared to 49% of the total NYC population in 2024). It is clear that income and food insecurity continue to be a concern for older adults.

NYC Aging Budget

NYC Aging has a \$618 million budget for fiscal year 2026 (as of the November Plan), funded mostly by the City. Its budget is split at 80% City, 13% federal, and 7% state funds, and it offers services mostly through contracted non-profit providers. While these services include case management, transportation, and other services, the main program areas related to the Intros are:

- older adult centers (OACs), which provide opportunities for socializing and provide meals; and
- home delivered meals.

These two areas account for \$348 million, 56% of NYC Aging's total budget in 2026. This spending has grown over time: in 2026, these two areas were budgeted at roughly twice as much as actual expenditures in 2021 (see Figure 1). However, amounts have fluctuated over the years. In 2022 through 2024, federal pandemic relief funds were used for home delivered meals, and those funds were replaced by City funds for 2025.

Figure 1

Actual and Budgeted Expenditures for Older Adult Centers and Home Delivered Meals, 2021-2027

Dollars in Millions

	Actual Expenditures					Budget	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Older Adult Centers	\$126	\$195	\$176	\$199	\$249	\$265	\$241
Home Delivered Meals	\$42	\$46	\$66	\$61	\$74	\$83	\$83

SOURCE: IBO analysis of Financial Management System data



OACs were [subject to reductions](#) in November 2023 and January 2024 before those funds were ultimately restored by the Executive budget the following year, in April 2025. Funds were initially reduced by \$13 million each year for 2027 and 2028 in November 2024, and an additional \$18 million for 2024 and \$2 million for 2025 through 2028 in January 2025. Though the Adams administration cited underutilization as the reason for both reductions, the Mayor's Management Report (MMR) indicates that participation steadily increased and recovered since the pandemic, especially since 2022.

Centers and Meals Usage

The [Preliminary MMR](#) shows that for 2022 through 2024:

- **Demand for and utilization of OACs has increased as measured by total number of participants and average daily participants.** The number of participants has increased by 65% (from 92,600 in 2022 to 153,220 in 2024) and average daily participants has increased by 39% (from 18,967 in 2022 to 26,358 in 2024).
- **Demand for meals in OACs has also increased** as the total number of meals served doubled from three million in 2022 to more than 6 million in 2024. The total number of OAC meal participants has also increased by 34% (89,230 in 2022 to 119,321 in 2024).

On the other hand, fewer home delivered meals were served in 2024 compared with 2022 (4.2 million vs. 4.3 million) and fewer clients were served (24,572 vs 26,852). While this could be interpreted as decreased demand for services, IBO's analysis of Census data indicating greater reliance on SNAP benefits suggests that perhaps the way the program is designed may not align with client needs.

In analyzing City financial data and in talking to providers, we have learned that providers experience challenges with the frequency of procurement and segmented service provision. Furthermore, there is a strong desire for more community-centric and integrated program design and implementation. For example, when an older adult enquires about home delivered meals at an OAC, the provider that runs the OAC may have no information about who serves home delivered meals in that area. It is common for a provider to be awarded contracts for certain services within an area but not others.

As the need for meals has grown, Intro 0280-2026 would establish a year-round home delivered meal requirement that aligns with recent funding increases. Additionally, Intro 0238-2026, will allow grab-and-go meals as an option for participants who may not need other OAC services, expand



flexibility to allow participants to take additional meals home, and more broadly support nutrition access for older New Yorkers.

Conclusion

Finally, IBO is proud to serve as a resource to the community, advocates, journalists, and elected officials alike. IBO takes requests from the public to explore specific research questions, and to lead budget trainings at community meetings (see our website to request). We thank you for the opportunity to testify and are happy to answer any questions you may have.



To see more of IBO's work and to follow IBO on socials scan here:

SCAN ME

¹ United States Census Bureau, S0103 Table of Population 65 Years or Over, ACS 5-year averages. For context, a household of one individual living at 150% of the poverty line in 2024 had an income [of \\$22,590](#) and a household of four had an income of \$46,800.



Testimony of
The Legal Aid Society

on

Oversight: Conditions at Older Adult Centers; Int 0238-2026 and Int 0280-2026
presented before

The New York City Council's Committees on Aging, jointly with the
Subcommittee on Senior Centers and Food Security

Jeannine Cahill-Jackson
Director of Elder Law
Civil Practice
The Legal Aid Society

February 19, 2026

The Legal Aid Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on the subject of the Conditions at Older Adult Centers, Int 0238-2026 and Int 0280-2026 and thanks the Committee on Aging and the subcommittee on Senior Centers and Food Security for convening this hearing.

Who We Are

The Legal Aid Society (LAS), the nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit legal services organization, was founded in 1876 to provide free legal representation to marginalized New York City families and individuals. The Legal Aid Society's legal program operates three major practices – Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Rights – and through a network of borough, neighborhood, and courthouse offices provides comprehensive legal services in all five boroughs of New York City for clients who cannot afford to pay for private counsel. With a caseload of nearly 200,00 cases and legal matters for clients, The Legal Aid Society takes on more cases for more clients than any other legal services organization in the United States.

Our Civil Practice works to improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers by helping vulnerable families and individuals to obtain and maintain the necessities of life- housing, health care, food, and self-sufficiency. We serve as a “one-stop” legal resource for clients with a broad variety of legal problems, ranging, among others, from government benefits and access to health care, to immigration and domestic violence. Our depth and breadth of experience is unmatched in the legal profession and gives LAS a unique capacity to go beyond any one individual case to create more equitable outcomes for individuals, and broader, more powerful systemic change at a societal level. Our work has always taken an explicit racial and social equity lens, and the current housing crisis has further focused our efforts to advocate for the needs of New York's marginalized communities.

The Legal Aid Society has a long history of providing eviction defense services to seniors in the Bronx and Brooklyn. In 2023, the Legal Aid Society created a city-wide Elder Law Unit (ELU), combining the Brooklyn Office for the Aging and the Bronx Assigned Counsel Project. Currently, the ELU is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team specializing in eviction defense for seniors in the Bronx and Brooklyn. By specializing in eviction defense for seniors, the ELU recognizes that the preservation of housing for a senior often involves many intersecting medical, financial and social issues. The ELU seeks to assess and address the needs of our senior clients to not only prevent their eviction but to alleviate the underlying causes that lead them to be at risk of eviction.

Support for Proposed Legislation: Int 0238-2026

The Legal Aid Society supports Int. 0238-2026, which would require the Department for the Aging to establish a daily grab-and-go meal program at Older Adult Centers. This expansion to include Grab and Go Meals at Older Adult Centers could meaningfully increase the accessibility of food for older new Yorkers who may not be able to attend meals as currently scheduled at the OACs.

Providing older adults with the option of grab-and-go meals is an affordable option for older adults that have a limited income but may not qualify for meal delivery. It can enable older adults to still be able to get their meal if they are not able to stay at the center due to a doctor's or other appointment. At the Legal Aid Society, we work with our clients to schedule appointments around their meal schedules if needed. However, we know that all appointments cannot be that flexible for older adults, which can force them to choose between going to the doctor or getting the meal that day. Accordingly, we recommend that the Older Adult Centers make the grab-and-go meals available both before and after lunchtime (i.e. 11am-3pm) which would enable more

older adults to access the food they need while also making it to the appointments and other things that they may need to attend to.

Additionally, older adults may have health concerns regarding eating in a congregate setting because of an acute or chronic health issue. Grab and Go Meals would allow those older adults to still benefit from the meal while being able to minimize their exposure to possible illnesses.

Lastly, it could be greatly beneficial to older adults participating in this program if they could also take a second meal to eat at home for dinner as well when needed. This could play a crucial role for older adults especially if they have an acute food shortage particularly at the end of the month after their SNAP and other benefits may have been exhausted.

Support for Proposed Legislation: Int 0280-2026

The Legal Aid Society supports Int. 0280-2026, which would require the Department for the Aging funded meal programs to provide home-delivered meals each day of the calendar year. This is an extremely important bill to ensure access to food for homebound older adults. Most older adults that require meals delivered during the week also do not have access to prepared food on the weekends. Accordingly, this is a crucial expansion of the meal program.

The Legal Aid Society proposes that there be an option created for older adults to elect to receive up to 3 prepared meals per day, so they are able to have proper nutrition required for an adult if they are not able to access other food options or meal preparation assistance.

Additionally, The Legal Aid Society proposes that eligibility be expanded such that older adults who receive 8 hours or more of home care could still qualify for the meal delivery program. Currently, older adults who apply for meal delivery and are homebound are being

denied meal delivery services if they receive 8 hours or more of home care. The rationale as has been provided to Legal Aid, is that meal delivery for those individuals would be a duplication of services. This rationale operates under the presumption that during 8 hours of homecare, an aide could shop and cook for the whole week for the older adult, as well as assist them in any other personal care or other tasks that are needed such as bathing and dressing. In our experience, 8 hours of home care, or even slightly more, does not provide sufficient time for the aide to address the food access and meal preparation needs for a whole week for the older adult as well as all their other needs. Accordingly, The Legal Aid Society strongly recommends that the eligibility criteria be expanded beyond older adults with 8 hours or more of homecare.

Additionally, many of our clients share that the delivery of the meal is their only source of social interaction in a day. As the program expands, we recommend incorporating a weekly social component that includes an in-person visit for the older adult. The visit may be conducted by the delivery worker or coordinated with a friendly visiting volunteer to provide interested older adults with increased opportunities for social interaction.

Lastly, regarding the delivered meals, we recommend that medically appropriate meals, such as low sodium or low glycemic meals, be provided to address additional health issues as well as more consistently amongst the meal providers.

We further propose that a grocery delivery program be developed for homebound older adults and those with limited mobility, to be able to use their SNAP benefits to buy groceries and have them delivered further increasing the access to nutrition. There is currently a small pilot program for grocery delivery run by City Meals called Mobile Grocery. There is also a program administered by NYC Health and Hospitals through NYC Care. However this program only

applies to those without health insurance. Accordingly, there is an enormous unmet need for grocery delivery.

Conclusion

Thank you for reviewing our testimony and for the opportunity to comment.

For more information, please contact Jeannine Cahill-Jackson at jcahilljackson@legal-aid.org, or at 646-856-0189



**UNITED
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSES**

45 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10006
212-967-0322 | www.unhny.org

**Testimony of United Neighborhood Houses
Before the New York City Council Committee on Aging and
Subcommittee on Senior Centers and Food Security
Susan Zhuang, Chair, Committee on Aging
Darlene Mealy, Chair, Subcommittee on Seniors Centers and Food Insecurity**

**Oversight - Conditions at Older Adult Centers
Submitted by Anita Kwok, Policy Analyst
February 19, 2026**

Thank you for convening today's hearing on social isolation among older New Yorkers. United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is a policy and social change organization representing neighborhood settlement houses that reach over 840,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels.

UNH members provide a wide variety of services to over 100,000 older New Yorkers each year by operating programs such as older adult centers (OACs), Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), home delivered meal (HDM) programs, Geriatric Mental Health, case management programs, and others, often funded and contracted by NYC Aging and the City Council. UNH and its settlement house members employ the philosophy that older adults are valued members of our neighborhoods, whose wisdom and experience are important to the fabric of our communities.

Capital Improvements for Older Adult Centers

NYC Aging-funded programs often face major difficulties with aging buildings and equipment upkeep. Systemwide needs include infrastructure upgrades, HVAC repairs, accessibility upgrades, technology systems, kitchen equipment, bathroom repairs, and more. Providers frequently express problems with leaks and flooding after storms, and note that these are becoming more frequent as climate change accelerates the rate and intensity of weather-related disasters.

Capital funds play an important role in high-quality service provision by keeping buildings and equipment in a state of good repair. Unfortunately, aging services programs have a number of

long-standing capital needs that continue to grow. These issues vary by provider and include building repairs, renovations, kitchen equipment, HVAC units, vehicle repairs and replacements, and more. Without sufficient capital funding streams available, these repair needs are exacerbated, and can result in interrupting service delivery when buildings or equipment become unsafe. For example, HVAC units may break down, meaning a cooling center may not be able to open and keep older adults safe in a heat wave. Tumultuous weather may cause a roof to leak, leaving spaces inoperable until repairs can be made.

Funding for many of these needs has been challenging to be approved by the City, and providers report that NYC Aging in particular is slow to get projects and funds approved, with numerous bureaucratic hurdles such as being passed around between numerous City agencies.

Aging programs located in NYCHA spaces have their own unique set of challenges. Despite a law passed by the City Council in 2019 requiring that NYC Aging have a NYCHA liaison on staff, providers report numerous hurdles in getting any projects approved. NYC Aging programs at NYCHA must submit tickets, but tickets are often closed without resolution. Sometimes, projects have been paused for years due to lack of funding, leaving centers operating without critical systems. This poor bureaucratic process results in prolonged repair timelines and uncertainty for providers trying to serve older adults safely. Site control issues have also been a barrier toward funding, and we urge the City to fund needed NYCHA community center repairs regardless of who holds the lease. Some of our settlement house members have been asked to take on capital utility investments or sign leases without corresponding City funding to cover rent and infrastructure costs. Providers cannot be expected to assume significant capital responsibilities when they do not control the NYCHA site and are not funded to cover those costs.

We also recognize that tenant apartments in NYCHA developments can be in dire stages of disrepair, and repairs and renovations to community centers should not come at the expense of renovating tenants' homes. This is why creative solutions are needed from other government agencies so that NYCHA can focus on tenant apartment repairs.

In many cases, nonprofits pursue capital funding from City Council discretionary and state and federal member item funding, because these funds can be easier to access. However, these funds are never stable or consistent, and not every organization is able to access them. Organizations cannot continue to contract with the City to run services if the City cannot commit to paying for the resources needed to execute the contract. Only a fully-funded capital services funding stream can meet the various needs and keep the aging services network operating successfully.

We were incredibly grateful that in the FY26 Budget, the Council allocated \$5 million in expense funding to fund repairs to older adult center infrastructure across the city. We hope that the Council will maintain the \$5 million emergency infrastructure fund to ensure that critical infrastructure issues keep centers accessible. Our older adults deserve dignified spaces to provide them with healthy meals, fun activities, classes, fitness programs and social services.

Intro 238 - Grab and Go Meals

Grab and go meals were a tremendous innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic, initially serving as an interim solution before the Get Food program was set up and later serving as an

option for older adults who were ready to go outside but not to spend time eating indoors in a crowd. We were disappointed to hear NYC Aging ended the grab and go option in 2022, unless providers included grab and go meals in their most recent OAC contracts. Since then, many centers continue to report that grab and go remains a popular option, with some older adults still hesitant to be unmasked and eating congregate meals indoors, and others eager to bring a meal home for their homebound loved ones. Providers report that older adults are still concerned about public health and this is affecting their utilization numbers for congregate meals. At the same time, food insecurity remains high among older adults, and anything the City can do to address these needs should be embraced. The City must ensure grab and go meals continue to be a viable option at all older adult centers that offer them – and not only those that had the foresight to include grab and go in their contracts.

UNH members are interested in this bill and agree there is a need for grab-and-go meals, but at the same time have concerns about implementation. One of our members reported NYC Aging being inconsistent with telling some providers that they could budget for grab-and-go meals and other providers that they couldn't. Another UNH member similarly indicated strong interest, but would need another staff person to implement the program. Several of our members note that older adults sometimes will go around to various older adult centers looking for grab-and-go meals or an additional lunch to pack up because of how high food insecurity is among older adults.

We continue to support Intro 238 by Council Member Hudson to allow all OACs to provide grab and go meals if they want to, which would help alleviate food insecurity while providing flexible options for older adults who do not feel comfortable eating in public due to public health concerns.

Intro 280 - Home Delivered Meals

Nonprofit home delivered meals (HDM) providers deliver a daily nutritious meal to homebound older adults who are unable to prepare their own food, while also providing case management and regular in-person wellness checks for those at risk of social isolation. Eight UNH members currently provide home delivered meals in their communities, either as lead contractors or subcontractors. The HDM program recently underwent a new procurement that began in fall 2024. Several private vendors were selected to carry out this work for the first time instead of nonprofits, and we are monitoring the impact of this change and whether meal reimbursement rates are appropriate. We deeply appreciate the Council's support over the last few years in securing funding for a higher reimbursement rate for the HDM program. Since 2021, the per-meal reimbursement rate has increased from \$9.58 to \$14.78 per meal. This is a significant and essential improvement.

Older adult hunger is at a crisis level. For many homebound older adults, the HDM program is the only food they are receiving for all of their nutritional needs, and they will stretch the meal to last all day. We need to look toward expanding this system and providing more meals to those who need them. We continue to call for a **\$27 million investment to operationalize Council Member Lee's Intro 280, which requires the City to pay for meals 7 days a week.** Currently, weekend and holiday home-delivered meals are provided through a public-private partnership with Citymeals on Wheels. Intro 280 shifts the responsibility from Citymeals on Wheels to regular NYC Aging home-delivered meal contracts, allowing Citymeals to provide additional meals per day. Expanding home delivered meals is critical to addressing food insecurity among older adults and ensuring homebound seniors receive nutritious meals.

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I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

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Name: Kristel Samson

Address: 593 Columbus Ave

I represent: Guddard Riverside

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I represent: Lincoln NY

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Name: Jeannia Chill-Jackson

Address: 260 E 161st St Bx NY

I represent: The Legal Aid Society

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Name: KHRISTEL SIMMONS

Address: 415 EAST 93rd ST NY, NY

I represent: Goddard Riverside Community Center

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