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| Committee Staff: | Christopher Pepe, *Senior Counsel*  Chloë Rivera, *Senior Policy Analyst*  Chima Obichere, *Finance Unit Head*  Daniel Kroop, *Senior Finance Analyst* |

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**The Council of the City of New York**

Committee Report of the Human Services Division

Andrea Vazquez*, Legislative Director*

Smita Deshmukh, *Deputy Director*

**Committee on Aging**

Hon. Crystal Hudson, Chair

September 7, 2022

**Oversight: Improving Older New Yorkers’ Access to City Services**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Preconsidered Int. No. 673** | Council Members Hudson, Richardson Jordan, Lee, Schulman, Brewer, and Avilés | | **Title:** | In relation to promoting housing stability for seniors by entitling any person who is 60 years of age or older to full legal representation in eviction or termination of tenancy proceedings in housing court, expanding rental arrears assistance for persons 60 years of age or older and establishing a housing support program for persons 60 years of age or older who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure | | **Preconsidered Int. No. 674** | Council Members Hudson, Schulman, Lee, Richardson Jordan, and Avilés | | **Title:** | In relation to requiring a know your rights pamphlet for older adults | | **Preconsidered Int. No. 672** | Council Members Hudson, Lee, Schulman, Richardson Jordan, Brewer, and Avilés | | **Title:** | In relation to diversity programming at older adult centers | |

1. **Introduction**

On September 7, 2022, the Committee on Aging, chaired by Council Member Crystal Hudson, will hold an oversight hearing on *Improving Older New Yorkers’ Access to City Services.* Additionally, the Committee will hear Preconsidered Introduction Number (Int. No.) \_\_\_, sponsored by Council Members Hudson, Kristin Richardson Jordan, Linda Lee, Lynn Schulman, Gale Brewer, and Alexa Avilés, in relation to promoting housing stability for seniors; Preconsidered Int. No. \_\_\_, sponsored by Council Members Hudson, Schulman, Lee, Richardson Jordan, and Avilés, in relation to requiring a know your rights pamphlet for older adults; and Preconsidered Int. No. \_\_\_, co-sponsored by Council Members Hudson, Lee, Schulman, Richardson Jordan, Brewer, and Avilés, in relation to diversity programming at older adult centers. Witnesses invited to testify include the New York City (“NYC” or “City”) Department for the Aging, older adult advocacy groups and organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

1. **Background**

***New York City Department for the Aging***

In NYC, the Department for the Aging (DFTA) provides support and information for older adults.[[1]](#footnote-2) This includes, but is not limited to, promoting public awareness of resources available for older adults; cooperating with and assisting local neighborhoods in the development of programs and the establishment of local offices; serving as a clearing house for information relating to the needs of older adults; disbursing available City, State, and federal funds to programs throughout the city; and promulgating rules and regulations for the operation of facilities, services, and programs under its jurisdiction.[[2]](#footnote-3) Additionally, DFTA engages in work to support caregivers through service, advocacy, and education.[[3]](#footnote-4) DFTA carries out these responsibilities with the mission “to eliminate ageism and ensure the dignity and quality of life of diverse older adults,”[[4]](#footnote-5) and all New Yorkers may access DFTA and City services regardless of immigration status.[[5]](#footnote-6)

Within DFTA, the Senior Employment Services Unit (SESU) helps older adults 55 and older prepare for and find work while paying them.[[6]](#footnote-7) SESU trains older adults to use computers, look for work, and write résumés; as the unit also offers career counselors to give advice.[[7]](#footnote-8) Older adults may access SESU via its website, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/services/older-adult-employment.page>, or by calling 311 or Senior Employment Services at 212-602-6958.[[8]](#footnote-9)

DFTA’s Caregiver Resource Center provides free counseling and assistance to New Yorkers caring for persons with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia.[[9]](#footnote-10) DFTA funds 12 community-based caregiver programs across the five boroughs that can provide: information & referrals; long-term care planning; support groups; counseling; training; respite care; and financial assistance for some types of assistive devices (e.g., medical alert systems, limited home modifications, and caregiving supplies).[[10]](#footnote-11)

DFTA’s Elderly Crime Victims Resource Center helps older victims of crimes committed by strangers.[[11]](#footnote-12) Such crimes can be financial, physical, or emotional, and include neglect - the same crimes that are committed in elder abuse cases.[[12]](#footnote-13) DFTA partners with a community-based programs in each borough to provide elder abuse victims with crisis intervention and safety planning.[[13]](#footnote-14) The programs also help victims compile evidence, work with authorities, and seek compensation through the New York State Office of Victim Services.[[14]](#footnote-15)

DFTA’s Grandparent Resource Center aims to help older adults adjust to their role as a kinship caregiver.[[15]](#footnote-16) Available services include workshops on legal issues, benefits and entitlements, nutrition, budgeting, and other topics; referrals and information; peer support groups and guidance on starting individual groups; expanded outreach at Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety[[16]](#footnote-17) sites; Parenting a Second Time Around classes; and “Grandparent sensitivity training” for professionals.[[17]](#footnote-18) These services are accessible by calling 311.[[18]](#footnote-19)

DFTA’s Foster Grandparent Program is a volunteer-based program that offers New Yorkers age 55 and older, who meet income eligibility requirements, a paid non-taxable stipend to serve as mentors, tutors, and emotional support for children and youth with special and exceptional needs.[[19]](#footnote-20) Volunteers serve a minimum of 15 hours per week, and are placed in a variety of community settings, such as Head Start Programs, day care centers, schools, hospitals, and family courts.[[20]](#footnote-21) Those interested in being a Foster Grandparent volunteer can contact Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469).[[21]](#footnote-22)

DFTA’s Bill Payer Program partners older New Yorkers with a financial-technology company to help them manage their household bills.[[22]](#footnote-23) For eligible clients, a Bill Payer representative will make a one-time visit to their home to help with their budget and enroll them in the program.[[23]](#footnote-24) After that, the program will continue to review and process the payment of their bills each month and inform them of any discrepancies or potential fraud.[[24]](#footnote-25) For a referral, older adults may call Aging Connect.[[25]](#footnote-26)

Aging Connect, which is DFTA’s information and referral contact center for older adults and their families, can be accessed by calling 212-Aging-NYC (212-244-646) or by sending a message via <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/about/contact-aging-connect.page>.[[26]](#footnote-27) It also includes a search tool to find older adult centers (OACs), services, programs, and more by zip code or borough.[[27]](#footnote-28)

DFTA funds more than 300 OACs and affiliated sites through community partnerships in every borough.[[28]](#footnote-29) OAC membership is free and open to anyone age 60 or older, without restriction on center choice.[[29]](#footnote-30) OACs offer both in-person and virtual activities, and while not all services are available at all sites, popular activities and services include:

* Art, music, and dance classes;
* Walking clubs, yoga, and tai chi (that can help assist with falls prevention);
* Chronic disease self-management classes for people with arthritis, diabetes, and high blood pressure;
* Nutrition and other workshops;
* Benefits screenings (Medicare, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and other programs);
* Technology classes;
* Recreational trips;
* Transportation;
* Lunch (some centers also serve breakfast and/or dinner); and
* Holiday and birthday celebrations.

DFTA partners with hundreds of community-based organizations to provide services through older adult centers (OACs), naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs), case-management and home-care agencies, home-delivered meal programs, and mental health and friendly visiting programs in each borough.[[30]](#footnote-31) Some OACs also provide mental health services through the Mayor’s Office of Community Mental Health Geriatric Mental Health Initiative.[[31]](#footnote-32)

DFTA also funds OACs for special populations, including SAGE centers (in every borough) and the Queens Center for Gay Seniors, which support LGBTQIA+ older adults, as well as VISIONS at Selis Manor Senior Center, which is an adapted center that offers an array of services for blind and low-vision older adults.[[32]](#footnote-33)

In addition to the Geriatric Mental Health Initiative at OACs, DFTA offers a free in-home Friendly Visiting Program through the Mayor’s Office of Community Mental Health.[[33]](#footnote-34) Friendly Visiting is for traditionally homebound older adults who have ongoing health challenges that make it difficult for them to go out.[[34]](#footnote-35) Volunteers visit the older adult in their home to talk about shared interests and experiences, forming friendships in the process.[[35]](#footnote-36) According to DFTA’s website, due to the pandemic, volunteers are currently maintaining social distancing guidelines and are connecting with their matches by phone and video calls.[[36]](#footnote-37) Similarly, the Friendly VOICES program, which is based on the Friendly Visiting model, is for older adults who are isolated for other reasons (such as COVID-19).[[37]](#footnote-38) Volunteers are matched with older adults and keep in touch with them by calling them via phone or video calls.[[38]](#footnote-39) Older adults also have the option to join a virtual group, or be matched with a peer closer to their age.[[39]](#footnote-40) In partnership with NYC Service, DFTA also has a Volunteer Resource Center, which recruits, trains, engages, and hosts individuals who are interested in learning about Aging services.[[40]](#footnote-41)

Lastly, DFTA partners with Older Adult Technology Services (OATS) to offer free online classes every week through their website, Senior Planet (<https://seniorplanet.org/>).

1. **Issues & Concerns**

***Older Adults’ Access to Legal Services, Financial Assistance, and Housing Support***

1. *Legal Services for Older Adults Facing Eviction*

Older adults face a high risk of homelessness, and often live on fixed incomes or are rent burdened, even for those enrolled in programs to freeze their rent, such as the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE).[[41]](#footnote-42) Older adults are more likely to spend in excess of 30 percent of their income on housing than the total population, whether they rent or own.[[42]](#footnote-43)

DFTA partners with legal services organizations to assist older adults with a variety of legal issues, including landlord-tenant issues.[[43]](#footnote-44) According to DFTA’s website, the agency currently contracts with three organizations: Legal Services NYC for older adults in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island; Mobilization for Justice for older adults in Manhattan; and the Jewish Association Serving the Aging for older adults in Queens.[[44]](#footnote-45) Additionally, DFTA partners with the Civil Court of the City of New York in operating the Assigned Counsel Project (ACP).[[45]](#footnote-46) This program is available to older adults aged 60 or above who live in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, or Queens, and are tenants in housing court facing eviction due to nonpayment of rent or holdover allegations.[[46]](#footnote-47) ACP assigns an attorney and a social worker or social work intern to each older adult accepted into the program.[[47]](#footnote-48) Accepted older adults then receive free legal representation in housing court, as well as free assistance with obtaining financial assistance to cover past due rent, obtaining protection from rental increases, obtaining healthcare benefits, and other related services.[[48]](#footnote-49) At a Committee on Aging hearing in December 2021 on housing New Yorker’s older adult population, DFTA Commissioner Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez testified that ACP worked with 415 clients each year,[[49]](#footnote-50) and acknowledged that demand for this specialized program outweighs the available resources.

The Human Resources Administration (HRA) Office of Civil Justice (OCJ) Universal Access (UA) initiative makes full legal representation available in eviction proceedings to all New Yorkers at or below the 200 percent federal poverty level (FPL). According to OCJ’s 2021 Annual Report, under UA, approximately 27,000 clients received full legal representation with $136 million. However, legal service providers report that they are understaffed and under-resourced, and they argue that tenants facing eviction are not getting adequate representation under the city's Right to Counsel law.[[50]](#footnote-51) Amid rising caseloads in the city’s housing courts during the pandemic, legal service providers have reportedly struggled to take on additional clients.[[51]](#footnote-52) As of March 2022, there were more than 219,335 active eviction cases in NYC, more than 65 percent of which were filed before the coronavirus pandemic, according to Office of Court Administration data compiled by groups including the Right to Counsel Coalition and the Housing Data Coalition.[[52]](#footnote-53)

Given these capacity concerns, it is crucial that older adults are prioritized and given the resources they need to obtain competent legal counsel to ensure they can remain in their homes. DFTA, in partnership with the Council, legal services providers, and HRA, should explore additional avenues in securing legal representation for older adults with landlord-tenant issues, especially as rents hit record highs and the city’s affordability crisis deepens.[[53]](#footnote-54)

1. *Financial Assistance & Housing Support*

Improved collaboration between City agencies, as well as additional outreach efforts, are essential to ensuring that older adults are aware of their potential eligibility for financial assistance and housing supports, including the City’s rental assistance program, CityFHEPS,[[54]](#footnote-55) and HRA Homebase,[[55]](#footnote-56) which provides homeless prevention services to individuals experiencing housing instability. The NYC Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Housing Ambassadors program partners with community-based organizations to provide assistance to affordable housing applicants.[[56]](#footnote-57) Existing programs and resources, such as this program and OACs, could be leveraged to connect older adults with housing assistance.

DFTA offers its own programs to help older adults afford their housing needs. For example, the agency partners with the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens to operate a Home Sharing Program for older adults,[[57]](#footnote-58) which pairs individuals aged 60 or older with other older adults, younger adults, or individuals with developmental disabilities into homes owned by a non-profit organization or an individual. DFTA also connects older adults to other City resources, such as HRA’s one-shot deal, an emergency assistance program which helps people who can't meet an expense due to an unexpected situation or event. [[58]](#footnote-59) One of the most common uses of the one-shot deal is for rental assistance to prevent or forestall an eviction.[[59]](#footnote-60) Older adults may also be eligible for SCRIE, which is administered by the Department of Finance (DOF). This program protects low-income tenants aged 62 and older from certain rent increases in rent regulated apartments and certain types of cooperative apartments.[[60]](#footnote-61) Advocates and elected officials have called for the State Legislature to reform SCRIE so that eligible older adults are automatically enrolled into the program, rather than having to apply for assistance, in order to reach eligible adults who may not be aware of the program or may have difficulty completing an application.[[61]](#footnote-62)

Eviction rates are generally up since January 2022, and Housing Court is seeing hundreds of new eviction cases filed each week.[[62]](#footnote-63) HRA has shifted from offering in-person to virtual help, now provided by a mobile application.[[63]](#footnote-64) However, the app does not approve all rental assistance applications, particularly for aid programs that most contribute to housing stability. Prior to recent staff cuts, HRA placed representatives in Housing Court and other locations, allowing for one-shot deal emergency rental assistance applications to be processed immediately.[[64]](#footnote-65) These on-site resources are no longer available, and with agency staff less accessible, many households eligible for rental assistance are not aware of such assistance.[[65]](#footnote-66)

***Informing Older Adults of Their Rights***

Older adults have certain special rights in New York, and all DFTA-funded centers are required by City law to post and honor the Senior Center Bill of Rights.[[66]](#footnote-67) These rights are enumerated in the law, pertain specifically to the rights of older adults while using OACs, and must be posted conspicuously in or near the entrance to each OAC.[[67]](#footnote-68) The law currently only applies to OACs, however, and does not currently require that older adults be given materials to proactively inform them of their legal protections and other special rights.[[68]](#footnote-69) DFTA also informs older adults of their rights and options when they are the victims of elder abuse or crime.[[69]](#footnote-70)

Additionally, the NYC Commission on Human Rights posts information on its website regarding legal protections for older adults from discrimination on the basis of age, immigration or citizenship status, color, disability, gender, gender identity, marital status, national origin, race, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran.[[70]](#footnote-71) Further, the New York State Division of Homes and Community Renewal provides information and guidance regarding older adults’ rights with respect to rent protections, including SCRIE and certain eviction protections.[[71]](#footnote-72)

Whether or to what extent DFTA partners with other agencies or organizations to offer informational sessions or distribute know-your-rights materials to older adults in their communities, and whether DFTA promotes available resources to assist older adults in protecting their rights, is not clear

***Increasing Older Adults’ Access to Diverse and Culturally Relevant Programming***

A core function of DFTA is its funding of more than 300 OACs and affiliated sites through community partnerships in every borough. OACs offer in-person and virtual activities for older adults.[[72]](#footnote-73) While some OACs serve special populations, such as centers for LGBTQIA+ older adults and visually impaired older adults, others offer programming reflecting the cultural diversity of the communities they serve. For example, the Fort Greene Council’s 13 neighborhood OACs offer culturally specific programming catering to the largest African-American and Caribbean population in NYC.[[73]](#footnote-74)

Studies have shown that increasing the representation of diverse programming in OACs increases the level of participation of diverse elders in those centers.[[74]](#footnote-75) Where cultural competency is addressed in older adult center programming, attendance improves and outcomes among diverse participants improve, especially when multilingual programming is offered.[[75]](#footnote-76) Satisfaction levels are typically lower for older adults who attend culturally diverse OACs because multicultural programs are not sufficiently present.[[76]](#footnote-77)

Many OACs have committees or councils which, among other duties, set the programming calendars at their centers.[[77]](#footnote-78) In expanding access to culturally diverse programming, advocates have encouraged local aging networks to include representatives of diverse communities and diverse backgrounds in the planning process.[[78]](#footnote-79)

1. **Analysis of Preconsidered Introductions**

***Preconsidered Int. No. \_\_\_\_***

This bill would provide any person 60 years of age or older facing eviction or termination of tenancy in housing court with full legal representation at no cost. This bill would also require DFTA to provide financial assistance to persons 60 years of age or older for the purpose of paying rental arrears when such persons are not eligible to receive other forms of rental arrears assistance. This bill would further require DFTA to establish a housing support program for the purpose of providing tailored advice and support, through case management services, to persons 60 years of age or older who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure.

***Preconsidered Int. No. \_\_\_\_***

This bill would require the DFTA to create and maintain a know your rights pamphlet for older adults who are 60 years of age and above, to inform them of their rights on various topics. The pamphlet would describe each topic and older adults’ related rights and provide the name, address, contact information, and website of the relevant agency and community-based organization that an older adult may contact to obtain information to address such rights. The bill would also require such pamphlet to be posted on DFTA’s website and other City websites and platforms. DFTA would also be required to conduct outreach on the pamphlet and annually report on such outreach efforts.

***Preconsidered Int. No. \_\_\_\_***

The proposed bill would require DFTA to require senior centers to expand their programming to include linguistic and cultural programs relevant to the local communities in which they are located.

1. **Conclusion**

At this hearing, the Committee is interested in understanding the landscape of City services available to older adults in NYC. This includes the rate at which older New Yorkers access such services, and how. The Committee is also interested in learning how the City educates and assists older New Yorkers on accessing available services. Lastly, the Committee is interested in learning how the City is preparing to adapt to the aging population. This includes understanding the City’s plan to respond to the changing demographics of the City on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis, especially as it relates to creating safe and affordable housing; developing livable communities; ensuring equitable access to services; and supporting the well-being of older New Yorkers.

Preconsidered Int. No.

By Council Members Hudson, Richardson Jordan, Lee, Schulman, Brewer, and Avilés

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to promoting housing stability for seniors by entitling any person who is 60 years of age or older to full legal representation in eviction or termination of tenancy proceedings in housing court, expanding rental arrears assistance for persons 60 years of age or older and establishing a housing support program for persons 60 years of age or older who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. The definition of the term “income-eligible individual” in section 26-1301 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 136 for the year 2017, is amended to read as follows:

Income-eligible individual. The term “income-eligible individual” means a covered individual who is 60 years of age or older or whose annual gross household income is not in excess of 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated periodically in the federal register by the United States department of health and human services pursuant to subsection (2) of section 9902 of title 42 of the United States code.

§ 2. Chapter 2 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-210 to read as follows:

§ 21-210 Financial assistance for rental arrears. a. Subject to appropriation and any applicable requirements of the social services law, the department shall provide financial assistance for the purpose of paying rental arrears to persons 60 years of age or older who are ineligible to receive other forms of rental arrears assistance. Such assistance shall be given at the discretion of the commissioner upon consideration of need and other factors the commissioner determines are relevant to an applicant’s inability to pay rent.

b. The commissioner shall make rules to carry out this section, which shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions establishing eligibility criteria for persons applying for financial assistance, whether and under what circumstances any financial assistance provided must be repaid, and any other terms and conditions of receiving financial assistance.

§ 3. Chapter 2 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-211 to read as follows:

§ 21-211 Housing support. a. The department shall establish a housing support program for the purpose of helping persons 60 years of age or older who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure identify and access relevant aid and other support to remain in their residence.

b. Such program shall provide case management services designed to provide situation-specific advice and support to each participating person. Such services shall be provided at no cost and, at minimum, include:

1. An intake session, which may be conducted at the participating person’s residence, for the purpose of identifying and assessing the factors contributing to such person’s risk of eviction or foreclosure, and how such factors could be addressed under relevant assistance, services or programs;

2. Referrals for assistance, services or programs that could address factors contributing to such person’s risk of eviction or foreclosure;

3. Assistance completing applications for financial assistance or enrollment in services or programs; and

4. Ongoing support to monitor such person’s risk of eviction or foreclosure, the effect of referred assistance, services or programs on reducing or eliminating such risk and any factors contributing to such risk that could be ameliorated with further advice and support.

c. In assessing a person’s risk for eviction or foreclosure to administer the program required in this section, the department shall consider any relevant factor, including, but not limited to, such person’s health status and whether other persons, including family members, also live in such person’s residence.

d. In administering the program required in this section, the department shall:

1. Maintain an online portal, accessible to program participants, for the purpose of tracking events and progress of individual cases and storing information relevant to each case;

2. Operate a help center, accessible to the public, for the purpose of providing in person assistance to persons seeking to enroll or enrolled in such program; and

3. Establish a phone number for the purpose of taking questions about the department’s housing support services and providing assistance to persons seeking to enroll or enrolled in such program.

e. The department shall conduct ongoing outreach and education to promote awareness of the program required in this section. Such outreach shall include, but not be limited to, an annual mailing to persons who may benefit from enrollment in such program or who may care for or serve such persons.

f. The department shall administer the program required in this section in accordance with section 23-1102.

§ 4. This local law takes effect immediately.

NC

LS #6713

8/22/22

Preconsidered Int. No.

By Council Members Hudson Schulman, Lee, Richardson Jordan and Avilés

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring a know your rights pamphlet for older adults

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 2 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-210 to read as follows:

§ 21-210 Older adults know your rights pamphlet. a. Definitions. For purposes of this 3 section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Designated citywide languages. The term “designated citywide languages” means (i) the top six limited English proficiency languages spoken by the population of New York city as determined by the department of city planning and the office of the language services coordinator, based on United States census data; and (ii) the top four limited English proficiency languages spoken by the population served or likely to be served by the agencies of the city of New York as determined by the office of the language services coordinator, based on language access data collected by the department of education, excluding the languages designated based on United States census data.

Naturally occurring retirement community. The term “naturally occurring retirement community” means an apartment building, a housing complex or a housing development, as identified by the department, (i) that was not originally built for older adults, (ii) that is not restricted in admissions solely to older adults and (iii) where at least 2,500 older adults reside or at least 50 percent of the dwelling units are occupied by one or more older adults.

Older adult. The term “older adult” means an adult who is 60 years of age or older.

Relevant agencies. The term “relevant agencies” means the commission on human rights, the department of consumer and worker protection, the department of health and mental hygiene, the department of housing preservation and development, the department of parks and recreation, the department of social services, the department of youth and community development, the mayor’s office for people with disabilities, the mayor’s office of immigrant affairs and any other agency that the commissioner deems relevant.

b. Pamphlet. The commissioner, in consultation with relevant agencies and relevant community-based organizations, shall create and maintain a culturally appropriate pamphlet written in plain English to educate older adults about their rights in topics including, but not limited to, age discrimination, deed theft, digital resources, elder abuse, emergency preparedness and response, food security, health care and insurance, home care, housing accommodations, living wills and transportation. Such pamphlet shall (i) describe each such topic and the rights of older adults regarding such topic and (ii) provide the name, address, contact information and website of the relevant agency and the relevant community-based organization that an older adult may contact to obtain additional information to address such rights. The commissioner shall post, and update as necessary, such pamphlet on the department’s website and make it available in the designated citywide languages. Such pamphlet shall also be posted on the website of each relevant agency, the 311 citizen center website, and other city websites or platforms as appropriate.

c. Outreach. Beginning no later than 30 days after the commissioner publishes the pamphlet as required by subdivision b of this section, and continuing thereafter, the commissioner, in collaboration with relevant agencies and relevant community-based organizations, shall conduct culturally appropriate outreach on such pamphlet in the designated citywide languages. Such outreach shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Mailing such pamphlet to each older adult in the city who receives services from a relevant agency, to the extent feasible;

2. Conducting informational sessions on such pamphlet;

3. Providing such pamphlet to organizations and institutions in the city serving older adults, including, but not limited to, community centers, food pantries, medical facilities, naturally occurring retirement communities, New York city housing authority buildings, relevant agencies, relevant community-based organizations and older adult centers; and

4. Conducting targeted outreach regarding such pamphlet to paid care workers and informal caregivers of older adults.

d. Report. Beginning no later than one year after the commissioner publishes the pamphlet as required by subdivision b of this section, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall report on the department’s outreach efforts as required by subdivision c of this section. The commissioner shall submit such report to the mayor and the speaker of the council and post such report on the department’s website. The annual report shall include, but need not be limited to, the following information for the previous year:

1. The number of downloads of the pamphlet from the department’s website;

2. The number of pamphlets mailed to older adults;

3. The number of informational sessions conducted on the pamphlet;

4. The number of pamphlets provided to organizations and institutions serving older adults;

5. The targeted outreach regarding the pamphlet to paid care workers and informal 20 caregivers of older adults; and

6. Any recommendations to improve such outreach efforts.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 60 days after it becomes law.

NLB

LS #7944

7/1/2022

Preconsidered Int. No.

By Council Members Hudson, Lee, Schulman, Richardson Jordan, Brewer and Avilés

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to diversity programming at senior centers

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 2 of title 21 of the administrative code 1 of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-210 to read as follows:

§ 21-210 Diversity programming at senior centers. a. The commissioner shall require each senior center to conduct a survey of the languages spoken by seniors within a one-mile radius of such center every three years. The format and distribution of such survey shall be determined by the department.

b. The commissioner shall require each senior center to develop and conduct specific programming for seniors in each language spoken by 20 percent or more of the seniors responding to the survey required by subdivision a of this section. Such programming shall be culturally responsive to the communities represented by each program. For purposes of this section, “culturally responsive” means including cultural and ethnic events relevant to linguistic communities.

§ 2. This local law shall take effect 120 days after enactment, except that the commissioner of the department for the aging may take all actions necessary for its implementation, including the promulgation of rules, prior to such effective date.

Session 12

IP

LS #8450

6/14/22 3:30pm

Session 11

ARP

LS #1079

Int. #493-2018

1. N.Y.C. Charter §2402. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. N.Y.C. Dep’t for the Aging, Commissioner’s Message (n.d.), *available at* <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/about/commissioners-message.page>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. *Id.*; see also N.Y.C. Mayor’s Off. of Immigr. Aff., Our Programs: Immigrant Enforcement (n.d.), *available at* <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/immigrants/programs/social-economic/immigration-enforcement.page>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. ACCESS NYC, Job training and placement for older adults (n.d.), *available at* <https://access.nyc.gov/programs/senior-employment-services-ses/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. N.Y.C. Dep’t for the Aging, Caregiving: Caring for Adults (n.d.), *available at* <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/services/caregiving.page>. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
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