



# Supporting NYC’s Seniors

## Expanding Access to Home Care Services for NYC’s Low-Income Seniors

Demand for home care in New York City is growing as Baby Boomers reach their 60s and as life expectancy rises.<sup>1</sup> Two-thirds of people over the age of 65 will need some form of long-term care at some point in their lives, and over 90 percent of aging New Yorkers would prefer to receive home-based care, instead of institutional care.<sup>2</sup> With the New York City senior population projected to reach 1.4 million by 2030,<sup>3</sup> close to one million New York City seniors could soon need home care.

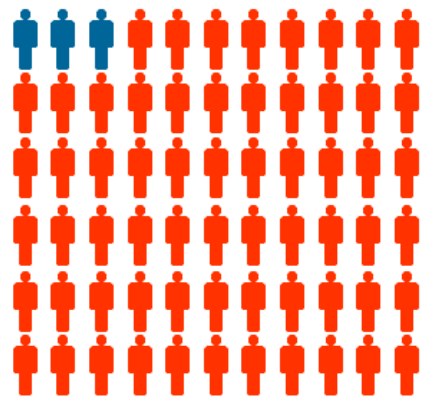
### PROBLEM: THOUSANDS OF LOW-INCOME SENIORS NEED SUPPORT

Unfortunately, too many New Yorkers are unable to access the home care they need. While some low-income seniors are able to access home care through Medicaid, many low- and moderate-income seniors who do not qualify for Medicaid still cannot afford to pay for the care they need out-of-pocket and cannot access unpaid care from family members. A survey of over 1,200 New Yorkers conducted by the New York Caring Across Generations campaign revealed serious care affordability concerns: inability to afford home care was the most frequently-cited reason for seniors having unmet care needs. We estimate that there are over 77,000 low-income seniors with care needs in New York City.<sup>4</sup>

### Small City Program Offers Seniors Hope

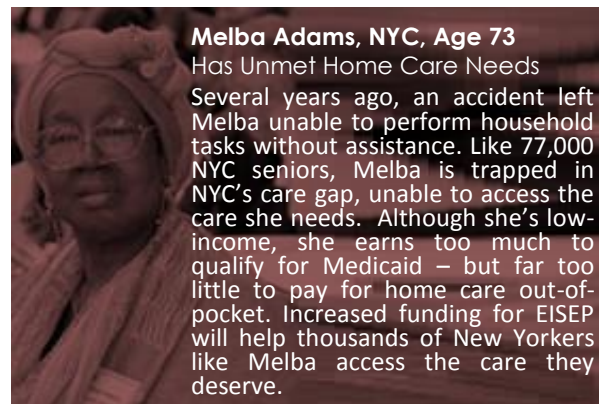
The Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) was designed to provide part-time home care services to non-Medicaid-eligible low-income seniors 60 years and older—including those who are undocumented. Client income and expenses are used to determine the level of subsidy for services. A Department for the Aging (DFTA) case manager determines need for EISEP services.

Low-Income Non-Medicaid-eligible Seniors with Care Needs 77,000  
EISEP Home Care Recipients 3,000



### Limited EISEP Reach, Cuts in City Funding

Unfortunately, the current reach of the EISEP home care program is very limited. EISEP serves fewer than 3,000 seniors with care needs; that is less than 4% of the 77,000 low-income seniors with care needs in the city. And recently, funding for the program has been cut, even as the need for home care has been on the rise.



**Melba Adams, NYC, Age 73**  
Has Unmet Home Care Needs  
Several years ago, an accident left Melba unable to perform household tasks without assistance. Like 77,000 NYC seniors, Melba is trapped in NYC’s care gap, unable to access the care she needs. Although she’s low-income, she earns too much to qualify for Medicaid – but far too little to pay for home care out-of-pocket. Increased funding for EISEP will help thousands of New Yorkers like Melba access the care they deserve.



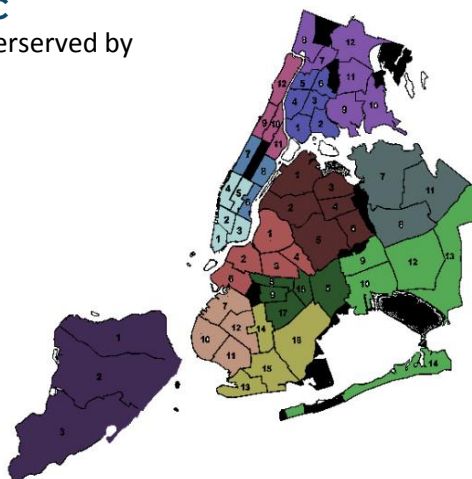
**Keith Luke, NYC Resident, Age 66**  
EISEP Home Care Recipient  
After hip replacement surgery and other health issues, Keith found himself in need of home care services. He has been receiving home care through EISEP for the past few months and calls the program a blessing, since he cannot afford to pay for services on his own. He says, “It’s very good that we have this program in New York. Now we need to increase funding so more seniors like me can receive services.”

<sup>1</sup> Rand, AB. “Facing the Challenge of Turning 65.” 1 January 2011. AARP; “Life Expectancy in City Hits Record: 80.9 Years.” *The Associated Press*. 11 Dec 2012.  
<sup>2</sup> Medicare & You, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, November 2012; “Long-Term Care: An AARP Survey of New York Residents Age 50+.” March 2007.  
<sup>3</sup> New York county-level projected age distribution data. Cornell Program on Applied Demographics. Available at: <http://pad.human.cornell.edu/counties/projections.cfm>.  
<sup>4</sup> NYC residents above the age of 60 with mobility/self-care impairment, 26.5% \* New York City residents above the age of 60 between 100 and 200 percent FPL, 291,234 = 77,177. Source: New York City Department for the Aging. “Profile of Older New Yorkers.” November 2013.

## EISEP Home Care Need versus Reach around NYC

As the table below illustrates, low-income seniors are underserved by EISEP.

EISEP Contract Area	Near-Poverty Seniors with Care Needs <sup>5</sup>	Current EISEP Reach
BX 1-6	8,500	149
BX 7-12	8,500	352
BK 1-4, 6	5,000	234
BK 5, 8, 9, 16, 17	5,500	185
BK 7, 10, 11, 12	7,000	164
BK 13, 14, 15, 18	9,000	319
MN 1-5	4,000	216
MN 6, 7, 8	2,500	237
MN 9, 10, 11, 12	8,500	225
QN 1-6	8,000	308
QN 7, 8, 11	4,500	162
QN 9, 10, 12-14	5,000	267
SI 1-3	2,500	93



### SOLUTION: THE CITY MUST CARE FOR SENIORS

The Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) has been underfunded in the City’s Fiscal Year 2015 Executive Budget. The program helps non-Medicaid-eligible low-income seniors, including those who are undocumented, 60 years and older pay for part-time home care services. It also creates living wage jobs for home care workers and provides much-needed respite to family caregivers.

### Expanding EISEP will Benefit Thousands of New Yorkers

- Seniors**  
Better access to home care
- Family Caregivers**  
Respite from caregiving duties
- Workers**  
Living wage home care jobs

### FY 2015 Budget Goal:

### Additional \$1.8 Million City Funding for Home Care

According to DFTA, there are currently 240 seniors on the home care waiting list. DFTA estimates that an additional \$1.8 million City investment in EISEP home care, above the current fiscal year 2015 allocation, would clear the 240-person waiting list for home care.

### 4-Year Goals:

### Increase City and State Funding for Home Care and Case Management

City and State funding for home care and case management should increase to meet the needs of New York’s senior population. Case management determination of need is required to access EISEP services, so an expansion of EISEP requires the same of DFTA’s Case Management program.

### Comprehensive DFTA Study of Unmet Home Care Needs

A commitment by the Department for the Aging to comprehensively assess unmet care needs by geography, race, language, and income, will enable targeted service provision to populations in greatest need.

### TAKE ACTION WITH NEW YORK CARING ACROSS GENERATIONS!

New York Caring Across Generations is a coalition of over 40 organizations representing over 200,000 New Yorkers, working to ensure dignity, respect, and a good quality of life both for caregivers and individuals receiving care. Join us! To get involved, contact Maya Pinto at [Maya@ALIGNny.org](mailto:Maya@ALIGNny.org). Learn about Caring Across Generations at [www.caringacross.org](http://www.caringacross.org) and about New York Caring Across Generations at [www.ALIGNny.org/work/care](http://www.ALIGNny.org/work/care).

<sup>5</sup> New York City Department for the Aging. “Profile of Older New Yorkers.” November 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Department for the Aging. Electronic correspondence. November 2013.