



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, each May, New Yorkers join in the observance of national Older Americans Month, honoring the invaluable contributions of older adults – their civic participation, mentorship, volunteerism, entrepreneurship, and service to their communities and our country; and

Whereas, New York State has a long history of supporting older adults and fostering community development, programs, policies, and other resources focusing on their needs and, in 2017, became the first state in the nation to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, part of the Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities established by the World Health Organization in 2010, to help cities prepare for rapid population aging and urbanization; and

Whereas, we continue to take important steps to empower and support older New Yorkers by building on our commitment and decades of work across all sectors; issued November 4, 2022, Executive Order No. 23 establishes the first State Master Plan for Aging, representing an unprecedented opportunity to support older adults and people of all ages by convening the collective expertise of state agencies, stakeholders, and the public to map a vision for a truly age-friendly New York; and

Whereas, this comprehensive State Master Plan for Aging provides a new level of coordination, planning, and policymaking that will give aging New Yorkers access to quality long term care in healthy, livable communities where they can thrive; with this historic initiative, we express our respect and responsibility for elderly New Yorkers by ensuring they can live healthy, fulfilling lives while aging with dignity and independence; and

Whereas, the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) has established “Powered By Connection” as this year’s national theme focusing on the profound impact that meaningful social and cultural connections have on the well-being of older adults; and

Whereas, New York State recognizes that these vital connections allow older adults to give back to their communities through volunteer work for non-profits, charities, human services organizations, schools, health care institutions, and community groups; and

Whereas, Older New Yorkers’ Day is an annual event organized by the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to recognize nearly 100 older adults who are shining examples of volunteerism during a special ceremony on May 14, 2024; these honorees are among the nearly 1 million New Yorkers age 60 years and over who contribute more than 495 million hours of community service each year at an economic value of over \$13.9 billion, and priceless in terms of the benefits to our whole society; and

Whereas, these dedicated individuals are powering connections in so many profound ways, and New York State expresses profound gratitude for this spirit of altruism, which is a legacy of lasting benefit and inspiration to all New Yorkers;

Now, Therefore, I Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
May in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh