

December 3, 2007

Dear State Budget Office Officials:

In light of the excellent recommendations of the Berger Commission and the Governor's policy to increase community-based care for the elderly, we recommend that the new State budget include the expansion of funding for NORCs, and, for demonstration projects that have similar goals and objectives.

More specifically, the Director of the State Office for the Aging, Michael Burgess, is keenly aware of the tremendous benefits of programs like "Community Without Walls" in Princeton New Jersey and "Beacon Hill Village" in Boston. These programs need State support so that they can develop in New York State like they are throughout the nation.

One of their significant benefits is their reliance on being self-financed. To the degree we support the development of these initiatives, the pressures on our publicly-financed long term care system through Medicaid are reduced. These initiatives also enable older adults to remain in their own homes as long as possible, exactly where 90% of them wish to remain.

We urge the Governor to include \$5M in his budget for the purpose of providing seed funding to local groups to develop and organize local initiatives. This sum could enable 25-50 programs to start-up in our State.

Paul Arfin, President
Intergenerational Strategies
Hauppauge NY 11788
631 232 1262