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**OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

*Michael J. Burgess*  
Director



NEW YORK STATE  
DAVID A. PATERSON, GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

*Lorraine A. Cortes-Vazquez*  
Secretary of State

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*Affiliate Partners for the Planning and Zoning Initiative*

Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ★ New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal  
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority ★ USDA Rural Development State Office  
New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

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## ***Planning and Zoning Initiative – New York State***

***Innovative initiative*** – The New York State Office for the Aging and Department of State are pleased to announce a new initiative, which will provide towns and cities across the State with information, technical assistance, and examples of successful models and practices focusing on the following areas: housing, universal design, planning, land use, zoning, energy alternatives and efficiency, green-building, and transportation. Governor David Paterson and the State Legislature have directed that this resource be widely disseminated as a means for supporting communities' efforts to develop a variety of housing alternatives, incorporate new and innovative building design and energy ideas, and institute creative planning approaches and zoning strategies.

*Population and policy trends in New York State*  
*underscore the importance and timeliness of the Planning and Zoning Initiative –*

***New York's changing population*** – The profile of New York's communities is changing significantly . . . due to the aging of the baby boomers; increasing longevity; the shifting proportional balance between the elderly and non-elderly populations; loss of specific population groups to other states; and the increasing diversity of our residents, which stems from our robust immigration and migration patterns, increasing numbers of people with disabilities, expansion of cultural and ethnic groups, and growth in the number and variety of non-traditional family households.

***New York's changing housing and care policies*** – Housing, health, and long-term care policies in New York discourage institutionalization and promote the ability of older persons and people with disabilities to live in their own homes and communities throughout their lifetimes. New York stresses the provision of in-home and community-based care and services for people of all ages . . . supporting the ability of residents to successfully and safely age in place. In addition, housing, care, and educational programs support the momentous efforts of over 1.9 million New York State residents who provide substantial unpaid care for frail elderly members and younger-aged members with disabilities.

***Creating more livable communities*** –The intent of the new Planning and Zoning Initiative is to help communities better respond to their dramatically changing profiles and to help them create neighborhoods that reflect the evolving needs and preferences of all their residents . . . making New York the best place for these residents to live, work, grow up, and grow old.

***Components of the Planning and Zoning Initiative*** – Below, you can review a summary of the major activities that will be implemented to achieve the intent and goals of the *Planning and Zoning Initiative*.

***Get Involved*** – Decision-makers, community leaders, agencies, experts, and consumers from across the State are participating in developing and implementing this initiative. If you want to be added to the email group who will be updated on the *Planning and Zoning Initiative's* progress and who may submit comments and suggestions, please send your contact information to [vera.prosper@ofa.state.ny.us](mailto:vera.prosper@ofa.state.ny.us). If you wish to be directly involved in creating the resource manual to be developed under the *Planning and Zoning Initiative*, please complete and submit the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet attached to this email to indicate those activities in which you wish to contribute.

## **Planning and Zoning Initiative**

***This innovative initiative will be implemented through four major activities***

### **4 MAJOR ACTIVITIES –**

#### **1. Develop a Technical Assistance Tool Kit for communities:**

- ***Manual*** – guidelines, resources, successful practices, technical assistance for housing, planning, land-use, zoning, universal design, green-building, energy, and transportation:
  - Planning guidelines/strategies that foster aging-in-place and livable communities.
  - Various senior, age-integrated, and mixed-use housing options, to include:
    - Descriptions;
    - Benefits for older people, family caregivers, and the wider community;
    - Examples for site visits;
    - Barriers to development of alternative housing options.
  - Resources for universal design.
  - Examples of model zoning language for each of the housing options.
  - Planning and land-use strategies that ease development of housing options:
    - Descriptions;
    - Examples of communities that have implemented such strategies.
  - Planning approaches that enhance livable communities, including walkability.
    - Descriptions;
    - Examples.
  - Innovative mobility/transportation strategies.
    - Descriptions;
    - Examples.
  - Energy-efficiency, energy alternatives, and green-building:
    - Descriptions;
    - Examples.
  - Contact resources for technical assistance for replication or adaptation.
  - References to written and web-based resources.
- ***DVD series*** – highlighting successful examples of various housing options; planning, zoning, and land-use strategies; universal design; energy-efficiency and energy alternative; mobility and transportation models; and green-building in communities within the State or in other states.

**2. Develop recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature:**

- In collaboration with the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal;
- In collaboration with the *Planning and Zoning Initiative* Advisory Committee.
- In consultation with experts, consumers, and decision-makers across the State.

**3. Publicize the Initiative through a variety of venues and through wide distribution of the Tool Kit.**

**4. Conduct a series of regional and community forums across the State:**

- *Audience:* local zoning and planning boards, elected officials, local leaders from a variety of sectors across communities, service providers from various networks, legislators, consumers, media, builders and developers, members of the real estate and finance industry, members of the business community, etc.
- *Purpose of the forums:* Stimulate the creation of more livable communities, which can motivate young adults, families, and older people to remain living in New York State.
  - Educate communities about demographic and policy trends; the implications of New York's changing profile; housing preferences of older people, various population segments, and caregivers; alternative housing options; innovative and successful planning and land-use strategies; energy, green-building, and transportation approaches; universal design, visitability, and walkability; benefits of successful options and strategies for older people, younger people, families, and the overall communities; model zoning language; and technical assistance resources for taking next steps.
  - Support community-based action through distribution of the Tool Kit.
  - Stimulate community action, resulting in planning and development that reflects the needs and preferences of older people, younger people, families, and communities.