



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ERIE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ANNOUNCES MAJOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS FUNDED BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

**ERIE COUNTY, NY** – Erie County Executive **Mark Poloncarz** today unveiled a series of transformative investments in senior services, made possible through American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. Standing alongside local leaders at the Cheektowaga Senior Center, Poloncarz highlighted the County's commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults through **new transportation vans, upgraded meal service equipment, and improved resources for partner senior centers**. These critical investments will expand access, improve services, and ensure that seniors across Erie County receive the support they need to stay active, independent, and connected to their communities.

"These investments represent our unwavering commitment to ensuring that Erie County's older adults have the resources they need to live with dignity and independence," said **Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz**. "By expanding transportation, modernizing meal services, and enhancing senior centers, we are strengthening the support network that so many rely on. This is about making real, tangible improvements in people's lives."

With a clear vision and dedication to service, the **Erie County Department of Senior Services** began strategically planning the use of ARP funds under the leadership of **former Commissioner Angela Marinucci**, focusing on addressing the most pressing needs in specific communities. These investments are not just improvements—they are game-changers for the well-being, accessibility, and overall quality of life for older adults across Erie County.

- **Four new transportation vans** – Reliable transportation is essential for seniors who need access to medical appointments, grocery stores, community centers, and social activities. These new vans will provide safe, comfortable, and convenient transit options, ensuring older adults remain active and independent while reducing barriers to essential services. Expanding mobility options also helps prevent isolation, allowing seniors to stay engaged with their communities.

- **Kitchen and dishwasher equipment** – Meal programs serve as a lifeline for many older adults, and with this upgraded equipment, senior centers can increase meal production capacity and serve more individuals efficiently. By modernizing kitchen facilities, the County is ensuring that nutritious, high-quality meals are prepared safely and delivered on time to those who rely on them. These upgrades not only improve efficiency but also support the dedicated staff and volunteers who make these meal programs possible.
- **Home-delivered meal equipment** – For many homebound seniors, meal delivery services provide not only daily nutrition but also a vital connection to the outside world. Strengthening the infrastructure for meal distribution ensures that these individuals continue to receive the food they need in a timely and efficient manner. By investing in better equipment, the County is improving the reliability of these programs and expanding their reach to even more seniors in need.
- **Upgraded tables and chairs for partnering sites** – Senior centers are more than just buildings—they are hubs of activity, socialization, and support. By providing upgraded tables and chairs, the County is enhancing these gathering spaces, making them more accessible, comfortable, and welcoming for seniors who participate in programs, events, and group activities. These improvements create safer, more inclusive environments, encouraging older adults to stay socially and physically active within their communities.

The Department of Senior Services' success in implementing these critical improvements is also due in large part to its **key** partnerships with local senior centers and community organizations. By working closely with partnering sites, the Department ensures that resources are distributed efficiently and meet the unique needs of seniors in different communities. These collaborations, along with strong support from **local leaders**, have been essential in achieving these vital outcomes for Erie County's aging population.

"The work we do with Erie County's Department of Senior Services is essential for ensuring that our seniors are supported in every way possible," said **Brian Nowak, Cheektowaga Town Supervisor**. "These investments will create lasting change for our seniors and improve their quality of life. It's a privilege to be part of this collaboration that will help seniors stay engaged, healthy, and independent for years to come."

"These enhancements reflect our department's ongoing mission to create stronger, more accessible services for seniors in Erie County," said **Randall Hoak**, Commissioner of Senior Services. "From reliable transportation to better meal services and improved community spaces, these investments will have a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our aging population."

Through these strategic investments, the Erie County Department of Senior Services is reinforcing its commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults, ensuring they have the resources, support, and opportunities they need to age with dignity and independence. Through thoughtful planning and decisive action, **Marinucci** and **Hoak** have positioned the County's senior services for long-term success, ensuring that these critical enhancements will benefit the community for years to come.