



Selfhelp Community Services, Inc.

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**Testimony from Selfhelp Community Services
New York City Council
Committee on Finance, Chair Brannan
December 11th, 2023**

Thank you, Chair Brannan and members of the Committee on Finance, for hosting this important hearing and the opportunity to submit testimony.

For 87 years Selfhelp has been serving the most vulnerable among us. Through home care, affordable housing, and social services, we serve over 25,000 New Yorkers each year including more than 5,000 Holocaust survivors and 5,000 Chinese Elders. Our overarching goal is to help our community age with dignity and independence.

We are grateful for the Council's long-standing and ongoing support for so many important senior programs and for emphasizing the needs of older adults in policy decisions and budget allocations. With strong community-based programs, we are confident that older New Yorkers will be able to access the care and support they deserve and need to be able to age in their own homes and communities.

Background

Selfhelp joins our nonprofit colleagues in asking Why 15? As a sector, we want to be consulted and informed about where programming and services will be cut. Programming and services provided by nonprofit organizations have already been reduced as a result of cuts announced in November.

The additional 5% planned cuts in January would be detrimental to the continued running of many community programs. Selfhelp provides vital services that impact the health and wellbeing of thousands of our vulnerable older neighbors. That's why we join over 225 organizations in the [#WHY15 campaign](#) to ask for transparency and inclusion in the City's budget. We call on the City to partner with the nonprofit sector and work toward creative solutions - not hinder us further. The City cannot withstand a 15% cut to its budget, and any additional cuts to the nonprofit sector will only undermine the public safety, health, and cleanliness of New York City.

No Cuts to NYC Aging

We are also advocating against any cuts to NYC Aging. NYC Aging's total budget is \$466.7 million dollars, less than one half of one percent of the city budget and covers services for the almost 1.4 million New Yorkers aged 65 and older. Cuts to NYC Aging programs, including Older Adult Centers will cost New Yorkers their community, food security, health, and safety.

We support the following recommendations:

- No cuts to NYC Aging Programs
- Provide analysis for #WHY15 percent cut is necessary
- Be transparent about the upcoming program and service reductions
- Establish a City Council Committee on Nonprofits

On behalf of more than 25,000 clients served by Selfhelp, thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony.

About Selfhelp Community Services

Our services include specialized programs for Holocaust Survivors; 17 affordable senior housing buildings; 4 NORC programs; 3 intensive case management programs; 5 Older Adult Centers; home health care; the Virtual Senior Center; court-appointed guardianship; Adult Protective Services, the Selfhelp Alzheimer's Resource Program (SHARP) Social Adult Day Program; and New York Connects in Queens. With over 25,000 clients each year, Selfhelp enables New Yorkers to age with independence and dignity. www.selfhelp.net



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