

**Call the Office for the Aging
for all your aging related questions!**



**Jefferson County Office for the Aging
175 Arsenal St., 2nd Floor
Watertown, NY 13601**

Hours of Operation:

Monday—Friday ~ 8:30am-5:00pm
8:30am-4:00pm (July 1 through August 30)

**All information in this brochure is subject to change.
To be sure you are getting the most current
information, call the Office for the Aging at
315-785-3191.**



NY Connects
Your Link to Long Term
Services and Supports

of JEFFERSON COUNTY
(800) 342-9871 (315)785-3191



GUIDE TO SERVICES

**Jefferson County Office for the Aging
175 Arsenal St. 2nd Floor
Watertown, NY 13601**

Telephone: (315) 785-3191

Fax: (315) 785-5095

Email: ofa@co.jefferson.ny.us

Website: www.co.jefferson.ny.us (Aging)

2024 Booklet

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CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THESE GREAT PROGRAMS:

CHRONIC DISEASE SELF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CDSMP)

If you have one or more conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, chronic pain, or anxiety, the free Chronic Disease Self Management Program can help you take charge of your life, and improve your ability to manage your health condition (s).

These classes are free.

Call Office for the Aging for the next class dates, in person, over Zoom, or on the phone.

FREE ONLINE CLASSES GETSETUP

Older adults in New York have free access to online classes through GetSetUp. Classes are designed for older adults by older adults. Get help using digital devices and find support for physical, mental, and social health with Tai-Chi, Yoga, healthy cooking, meditation, book clubs, gardening, travel, and so much more.

Signup for free at: <https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/Officefortheaging/onlineclasses>

VIRTUAL SENIOR CENTER

The Virtual Senior Center a special online platform designed by and for older adults. Accessible through any internet ready device, the platform unlocks a world of live, interactive experiences driving engagement, connections, and conversations from the comfort of your home or wherever you call home.

The VSC offers a friendly user platform for all your wants and needs. Available in eight different languages and includes games, news, weather, email, video chat and calendar to help keep you organized.

Call the Jefferson County Office for the Aging at (315) 785-3191 to sign up.

ELIGIBILITY CHART 2024

PROGRAM	* MONTHLY INCOME		RESOURCES	
	SINGLE	COUPLE	SINGLE	COUPLE
Medicaid (Community)	\$1, 752	\$2, 371	\$30, 182	\$40, 821
Medicaid Long Term Care (MALTC)** (Nursing Home)				
SSI (Alone)	\$794	\$1, 191	\$2, 000	\$3, 000
SSI (w/ others)	\$794	\$1, 191		
Medicare Buy-In (QMB)	\$1, 752	\$2, 371		
(QI-1)	\$2, 280	\$3, 077		
(QDWI)	\$2, 450	\$3, 297	\$4, 000	\$6, 000
EISEP	\$1, 823	\$2, 465		
HEAP (Household Income)	\$3, 035	\$3, 970		
SNAP	\$2, 430	\$3, 287		
County Tax Exemption (Household Income)	(Sliding Scale)			
State Real Property Tax Exemption (IT-214)	\$1, 500			
Enhanced STAR School Tax Exemption	Flat Dollar amount	Depending on town		

Please refer to your local assessor or Jefferson County Real Property @ (315) 785-3074 when needing more information on tax exemptions.

**Figures are subject to periodic revisions.
Contact Office for the Aging for further information.**

*Monthly income from all sources such as: Social Security, SSI, and interest

**Medicaid Long Term Care, call for more information

INTRODUCTION

Since January 1974, the Jefferson County Office for the Aging has been providing services to individuals 60 years of age and older.

For the past 50 years, our Area Agency on Aging has been developing and establishing a system of cost effective community services that help meet the needs and improve the quality of life for older adults. This is achieved by providing a range of supportive and cost effective programs designed to assist our aging population to remain independently in their homes. These programs include home-delivered meals, homemaker and caregiver services, health insurance counseling, energy assistance, transportation, legal advocacy, and working with government and community service agencies to create programs with a direct benefit to older Americans.

The Jefferson County Office for the Aging invites contributions for services from the public to maintain and expand programs and services for older citizens. All contributions are confidential and voluntary. No one will be denied service because of inability to contribute.

Jefferson County Office for the Aging is funded by Title III of the Older Americans Act and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, creed, or age.

CONTRIBUTIONS

New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) recommends that all Offices for the Aging solicit contributions for services.

Contributions are completely voluntary and eligibility IS NOT linked to an individual's willingness or ability to contribute.

All contributions are used to help expand services to Jefferson County seniors and are reflected in the annual budget.

All contributions should be made by check and paid to "Jefferson County Treasurer." Mail checks to OFA at 175 Arsenal St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Those with a self declared income at or above 185% of the 2024 Federal Poverty Line are encouraged to contribute at levels based on the actual cost.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

What is NY Connects?

NY Connects is the statewide system for anyone who needs information on long-term services and supports. This includes people with disabilities, older adults, family members, caregivers and helping professionals.

NY Connects can connect you with live, local resources to find; care and supports; help you remain independent; understand care options; find transportation; learn about supports in caregiving; find supported employment programs; get answers about Medicare; apply for Medicaid and other benefits. Including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). To speak with an Information and Assistance Specialist call (315) 785-3191.

The Goal of the OFA

The goal of the Jefferson County Office for the Aging is to provide information of interest to any person 60 years of age & over, under terms of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. Information is available on the following subjects and many others for any age, such as:

- ◆ Nutrition Programs
- ◆ Social Security Benefits
- ◆ Medicaid
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Personal Emergency Response Systems
- ◆ Caregiving and Respite Programs
- ◆ HEAP (Heating and Cooling Assistance)
- ◆ Legal Assistance
- ◆ HIICAP (Medicare and Health Insurance)
- ◆ EISEP (Home Care)
- ◆ Long Term Care Counseling and Services
- ◆ Home Modification and Chore Services



of JEFFERSON COUNTY
(800) 342-9871 (315)785-3191

TAX BENEFITS

SENIOR TAX BENEFITS

Senior Tax Benefits are available to persons over 65 who own real property. The 65+ real property tax reduction and the Star School Tax reductions are available through local assessors. Star School Tax reductions are available to all homeowners, regardless of age.

NEW YORK STATE TAX FORM IT-214

New York State Tax Form IT-214 is a real property tax rebate for persons with an annual income of \$18,000 or less. This form may be filed at any time during the year and is retroactive for a 3 year period. It applies to renters (in unsubsidized homes or apartments) as well as property owners.

For more information on additional tax benefits and a list of assessors call the Jefferson County Real Property at (315) 785-3074.

VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

For more information about Veterans Property Tax Exemptions, call the Jefferson County Veterans Service Agency at (315) 785-3086.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Income Tax Assistance– Free assistance in tax preparation and free electronic filing are available through the Community Action Planning Council (CAPC). Volunteers are trained by the IRS to help middle and low income tax payers of any age, with special attention to those 60 years and older.

For more information, or to schedule and appointment at one of the CAPC's call (315) 782-4900, ext. 271.



**Do you speak a language other than English and need assistance??
WE CAN HELP!**

Office for the Aging has a no cost language interpretation services available!

FEDERAL AND STATE INFORMATION

Watertown

Black River Apartments
277 State St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-6896

Bugbee Apartments
105 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-8497

Centennial Apartments
1010 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-8497

Curtis Apartments
336 West Main St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 788-3711

Emerson St. Apartments
536-538 Emerson St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-6896

Henry Keep Apartments
206 State St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-8497

Hilltop Towers
113 W. Main St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-1251 Ext. 222

Holcomb St. Apartments
327 Holcomb St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-6896

LeRay Apartments
847 LeRay St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-1251 Ext. 222

Maple Courts
540 Kieff Drive
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-2060

Midtown Towers
142 Mechanic St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-1251 Ext. 222

Mill St. Apartments
309 Mill St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-6896

Mullin St. Apartments
270 Mullin St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-6896

Olympic Apartments
231 Franklin St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-8497

Skyline Apartments
454 Mill St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-1251 Ext. 222

State St. Apartments
263-271 State St.
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 782-6896

OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA)

Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 to address concerns by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The original legislation established authority of grants to States for services for seniors 60 and older.

ASSOCIATION ON AGING (AOA)

The Older American's Act also Established the Administration on Aging (AOA) to administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the Federal focal point on matters concerning older persons. It authorizes a wide array of service programs through a national network.

NY STATE OFFICE FOR THE AGING (NYSOFA)

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) home and community-based programs provides older persons access to a well-planned, coordinated package of in-home and other supportive services designed to support and supplement informal care. NYSOFA's overall goal is to improve access to, and availability of, appropriate and cost-effective non-medical support services for older individuals to maximize their ability to age in their community.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - Medicaid

Medical Assistance is available for persons whose medical costs have exceeded the coverage of Medicare and private insurance. Eligibility requirements for medical assistance for people who are living with a disability, or individuals over 65 are different than that for those under 65. **Office for the Aging staff can help determine eligibility for their program. Medicaid is used to help pay the cost of long term care either at the home or a nursing facility. You can call the Department of Social Services at (315) 779-5923.**

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income is a program which increases a low Social Security benefit, often provided to persons over 65 who worked an insufficient number of quarters to obtain an adequate income. SSI eligibility entitles you to Medicaid and SNAP. Office for the Aging staff counsel those who may be helped by this program and refers them to the Social Security Administration for application processing.

For more information call the Social Security Administration office at
(800) 772-1213.

Carthage

Brady Acres
600 S. Washington St.
Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 493-1480

Champion Apartments
258 Champion St.
Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 493-1623

Dalton Estates
38 N. Broad St.
Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 714-3129

Grandview Courts Apartments
40 Broad St.
Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 714-3129

Long Fall Apartments
222 State St.
Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 493-3030

West Side Terrace
63 Madison St.
Carthage, NY 13619
(315) 493-1480

Clayton

French Bay Elder Cottages
915 Strawberry Lane
Clayton, NY 13624
(315) 686-4386

French Bay Family Housing
916 Strawberry Lane
Clayton, NY 13624
(315) 686-4386

Riverview Apartments
912 Strawberry Lane
Clayton, NY 13624
(315) 686-4386

Evans Mills

Milltown Housing
8130 Schell Avenue
Evans Mills, NY 13637
(315) 714-3129

Henderson

Henderson School Apartments
12541 Harborview Road
Henderson, NY 13650
(315) 938-7447

LaFargeville

LaFargeville Senior Housing
36421 Penet Square Drive
LaFargeville, NY 13656
(315) 658-2664

Sackets Harbor

Harbor Heights
211 Woolsey St.
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685
(315) 714-3129

Philadelphia

Chase Harrington Apartments
11 Irish Avenue
Philadelphia, NY 13673
(315) 686-4386

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Jefferson County Office for the Aging has formed a partnership with Blooming Health to provide a communication platform connecting seniors through voice calls, text messages, and email in 70 different languages.

Using Blooming Health, Office for the Aging can connect with older adults and better communication information about services, provide referrals and easily collect survey data to improve community efforts. This will enable older adults to receive timely assistance, nutrition support, Home Delivered Meals updates and educational information to stay engaged with their community and improve access to Office for the Aging Services.

HOUSING

Listed on the next page are many of the designated senior citizen Housing Projects throughout Jefferson County for your information and reference.
*as of 4/11/24

Limited private rental subsidies are available through the Section 8 Housing Assistance Program, their phone number is (315) 788-0913

Adams

Country View Apartments
87 E. Church St.
Adams, NY 13605
(315) 232-2622

Sheffield Apartments
31 S. Main St.
Adams, NY 13605
(315) 646-2458

Alexandria Bay

Gordon Courts
39 Bolton Avenue
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
(315) 714-3129

Antwerp

Antwerp Senior Housing
500 Lexington Avenue
Antwerp, NY 13608
(315) 686-4386 Ext. 2

Black River

Kamargo Apartments
224 LeRay St.
Black River, NY 13612
(315) 686-4386 Ext. 2

Cape Vincent

Aubrey Courts
455-449 Bay St.
Cape Vincent, NY 13618
(315) 501-5071

Centre Courts Apartments
419 Centre St.
Cape Vincent, NY 13618
(315) 501-5071

PROGRAMS

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

HEAP provides the eligible population with financial help to pay heating bills as well as assistance in equipment repair or replacement. Income levels may be found on the eligibility chart page 19. HEAP is a seasonal program and the income limits change annually. There is assistance in purchasing or the installation of air conditioning and fans. You may call the OFA HEAP department at (315) 785-5022 or the HEAP hotline at DSS at (315)785-3229.

VETERANS BENEFITS (VA)

Veterans, their dependents, and their survivors may be eligible for a wide range of VA and local benefits. Jefferson County Veterans' Service Agency has eligibility information and is able to help an individual apply for a wide range of State and Federal benefits. For more information please contact the Veteran's Services Office at (315) 785-3086.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

(SNAP) is the program formerly known as food stamps. It is a federal entitlement program, the largest hunger safety net program in the country. Anyone who is eligible will receive benefits that assist millions of participants to buy healthy food and stretch their household budgets. Persons using this benefit are given a debit card for which the monthly benefit is automatically deposited. Office for the Aging can assist with the application process. You can also call the Department of Social Services SNAP at (315) 779-5923.

SENIOR FARMER'S MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP)

Once a year, the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) gives eligible, low-income older adults coupons to buy locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets in New York State. Booklets are available in July and may be used through November. They are given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM



The Office for the Aging Senior Nutrition Program includes Community Dining Sites, Home Delivered Meals, Senior Farmer Market (SFMNP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Nutrition Counseling.

The Office for the Aging offers a nutritious mid-day meal program which includes home delivered meals, community dining meal sites in a friendly group setting, nutrition education, counseling and other helpful services and programs for older adults. Menus are planned by the Registered Dietitian and meet the one-third recommended daily intake of nutrients for adults.

Individuals are eligible for the home delivered meal program if they are 60 years old or older and have physical or cognitive limitations or a lack of ability to prepare healthy, well-balanced nutritious meals. Providing meals to a spouse or person living in the same household is done on a case-by-case basis.

Anyone 60 years old or older can attend a community dining site, including spouses under the age of 60 or a person under the age of 60 with a disability living in the household. Frequent social and educational programs occur at each site.

Call the Office for the Aging at (315) 785-3191 for more information or check our website at: <https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/OfficeForTheAging>

There is no charge for the meals, nutrition education or counseling, but each person is given the opportunity to make a suggested voluntary contribution for meals or nutrition counseling.

If you choose to contribute, **please make checks payable to Jefferson County Treasurer** and send to the address listed below.

**Jefferson County Office For The Aging
175 Arsenal Street
Watertown, New York 13601-2529**

Meals are prepared by a professional catering service and participant comments are welcomed.

All program contributions are used locally to help serve more people in Jefferson County.

INSURANCE

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION, COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HIICAP)

HIICAP's highly trained staff provides free, accurate and object information, counseling, assistance and advocacy. The HIICAP Program is available to Medicare beneficiaries, and to those who will soon become Medicare eligible residing in our state. New Yorkers can schedule free and confidential appointments with HIICAP staff to discuss:

- ◇ Medicare and health insurance questions about benefits, options, paperwork, and resources.
- ◇ Medicare Part A deductible: \$1,632*
- ◇ Medicare Part B \$174.70*, with a \$240* deductible
- ◇ Health care costs that clients will be responsible for.
- ◇ Information on insurance products that may help pay for costs not covered by Medicare alone such as a Medigap or Medicare Advantage Plan.
- ◇ How to review and select a Medicare Part D prescription plan.
- ◇ Advocacy and assistance with specific errors involving Medicare claims.
- ◇ The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (**EPIC**) which helps seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs. Seniors can apply for EPIC at any time of the year and must be enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan to receive EPIC benefits and maintain coverage.

MEDICARE BUY-IN

The Medicare Buy-In Program can increase monthly cash flow of Social Security beneficiaries by restoring the monthly deduction for Medicare Part B to their monthly check. Office staff can help determine eligibility for this program. To find out what the current income limits are for this program, for assistance call the HIICAP coordinator at the OFA at (315) 785-5010.

LEGAL SERVICES

WATERTOWN OFFICE OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Legal Assistance provides contracted legal services to **low income individuals** with the greatest social and economic needs through the Watertown Office of the Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York.

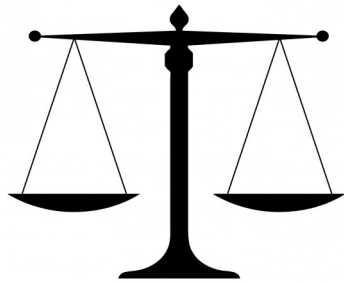
The purpose of this program is to improve the availability of legal services to seniors including, representation of issues affecting their rights, entitlements, benefits, finances, elder abuse, and other matters directly relating to their general welfare and independence. Access to our legal counsel program is available through Office for the Aging staff screening. Fee generating cases are not referred.

To determine if you're eligible for Legal Services, call Office for the Aging at (315) 785-3191. Counseling, by appointment, can be arranged to meet your needs.

NYS SENIOR LEGAL ADVICE HELPLINE

You can also give the New York Senior Legal Advice Helpline a call at 1-(844) 481-0973 with questions regarding any of the following topics:

- ◇ Social Security & Income Benefits
- ◇ Health Insurance
- ◇ Housing Utilities
- ◇ Foreclosure
- ◇ Health Care Proxy
- ◇ Power of Attorney
- ◇ Wills & Estates
- ◇ Family Issues
- ◇ Elder Abuse
- ◇ Consumer Credit Issues
- ◇ And MORE!



IN-HOME HEALTH SERVICES

In-Home Health Services provides a continuum of care that will carry people from temporary or limited need to acute nursing, chronic support, and/or provision for terminal illness.

EISEP is the **Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program** providing in-home, non-medical services to individuals age 60 and older who are facing challenges with the basic activities of daily living, and need assistance to remain safely in their homes. EISEP provided services are Case Management, Contracted Personal Care, Housekeeping Assistance, PERS (Personal Emergency Response System), Home Delivered Meals, and In-Home Respite Services. This program is not for individuals who are eligible for or are on Medicaid.

Consumer Directed Programs for EISEP is also available. The consumer (care receiver) identifies needs, sets priorities and makes choices that are best for them. Individuals will work with an OFA case manager to review eligibility and cost sharing options. You will work with a fiscal intermediary to work out appropriate budget and pick a person or agency to provide the care. You can also pay family members or neighbors to provide care for you.

For more information and a telephone screening, please call Jefferson County Office for the Aging at (315) 785-3191.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM (PERS)

PERS is an alert system that connects individuals to a 24-hour response center with the push of a button. Trained staff at the response center can quickly evaluate the situation and take appropriate action. Office for the Aging's PERS services are contracted through a local contracted agency.

HOME MODIFICATION & CHORES PROGRAM

The Home Modification and Chores Program can assist with small repairs or supportive modifications for home owners. These include placement and installation of grab bars in tub or shower areas, and an entry way ramp or platform making access safe and accessible can be provided. Call OFA Office for more information at (315)-785-3191.

HEALTH CARE AGENCIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Licensed Home Health Care Agencies

Caregivers, Inc.	(315) 788-3269
U.S. Care Systems	(315) 755-2258
Seniors Helping Seniors	(315) 405-4950

Certified Home Health Care Agencies (Medicare Certified)

Jefferson County Public Health	(315) 786-3720
Samaritan Home Health Care	(315) 782-0415

Nursing Care at Home

Jefferson County Public Health	(315) 786-3720
Long Term Home Health Care (Public Health).....	(315) 786-3773
Samaritan Home Health Care	(315) 782-0415

Care for the Terminally Ill

Hospice of Jefferson County	(315) 788-7323
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Managed Long Term Care Options

New York Independent Assessors	(855) 222-8350
Maximizing Independent Living Choices (MILC).....	(315) 764-9442

Skilled Nursing Facilities

Carthage Area Hospital and Rehabilitation Program.....	(315)493-1000
Carthage Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing.....	(315) 415-9881
Samaritan Medical Rehabilitation Center.....	(315) 786-4954
Samaritan Keep Home.....	(315) 785-4400
Samaritan Summit Village.....	(315) 782-7033

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Services are supported by the Office for the Aging. Older adults utilize transportation services to gain access to needed services, such as, medical services or grocery shopping.

Municipal:

Watertown City Bus Service.....	(315) 785-7772
Watertown Paratransit for the Disabled.....	(315) 405-4867 (Portal to Portal, no personal assistance)

Not-for-Profit (Donation):

Volunteer Transportation Center of Jefferson County.....	(315) 788-0422 (Rides in vehicles of volunteers)
Wilna/Champion Transportation.....	(315) 493-3449 (Portal to Portal, personal assistance as needed)
Paynter Senior Citizens Center.....	(315) 686-3553

Private:

Guilfoyle Invalid Coach.....	(315) 788-4140
Lundy Services.....	(315) 519-3059
Cleveland Services.....	(315) 777-4809



CAREGIVER RESPITE AND SUPPORT

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Caregiver Support provides informal caregivers, family members, friends and neighbors who provide assistance to frail elderly adults over the age of 60, with information about important resources and provides assistance in gaining access to those services.

THE NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAM (NFCSP)

The National Family Caregiver Support Group Program (NFCSP) offers a variety of services that meet a range of caregiver's needs. These include;

- Information and Outreach
- Individual Counseling
- Support Groups and Training
- Respite Care
- Access Assistance
- And Other Supplemental Services

Adult family members or other informal caregivers aged 18 and older who provides care to individuals 60 years of age or older, or individuals of ANY age with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are eligible for this program.

CONSUMER DIRECTED PROGRAMS

Consumer Directed Programs for Respite and EISEP is also available. The consumer identifies needs, sets priorities and makes choices best for them. Individuals will work with an OFA case manager to review eligibility and cost sharing options. You will work with a fiscal intermediary to work out appropriate budget and pick a person or agency to provide the care. You can also pay family members or neighbors to provide care for you.

For more information and a telephone screening, please call Jefferson County Office for the Aging at (315) 785-3191.

VOLUNTEER RESPITE ADULT COMMUNITY DAY PROGRAMS

Respite means taking a much needed break from assisting in the care of others

Our Respite Day Programs are currently located at River Community Church in Clayton and Trinity Episcopal Church in Watertown. Each site provides socialization, supervision, and activities that include crafts, games and activities such as beginners Tai Chi. A meal is also provided.

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse can take many forms and often occurs in the home or at facilities providing care. Forms of abuse include, but are not limited to; physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, financial exploitation, active and passive neglect.

If there is a concern about abuse of an older person, Office for the Aging staff is available to share information and make referrals to the appropriate agencies.

The Victims Assistance Center provides legal advocacy, counseling, support groups, therapy, information and referral. You can call the Victims Assistance Center at (315) 782-1823.

APS is a mandated service provided by local social services within your area. You can call Adult Protective Services at (315) 785-3210.

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Ombudsman help residents of long-term care facilities and their families understand and exercise their guaranteed rights under Federal and State Law.

Under the Older Americans Act, Long-Term Care Ombudsmen serve as volunteer advocates for residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities and similar adult care facilities.

If you would like to learn more information about the Ombudsman Program, please call the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at 1-855-582-6769 or the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living at (315) 785-8703 for assistance

CAREGIVER AND RESPITE SUPPORT (CONT.)

Respite Volunteers will receive training by the OFA in Alzheimer's care support and New York State Respite Educational Support Tools. Call the office for the next scheduled trainings. Screenings and background checks are required.

IN-HOME RESPITE

Paid professional assistance in the home will help temporarily relieve caregivers from their responsibilities by providing to free up the caregiver for short periods of time. Respite Services are a important component of the home and community based Long-Term Care Services system, providing informal caregivers with a temporary break from their caregiving responsibilities and associated stresses.

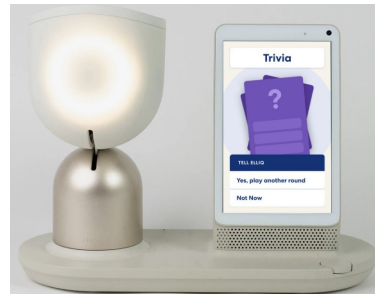
Contact Office for the Aging for more information. (315) 785-3191

ADDITIONAL A.I. COMPANION SERVICES

ELLIQ PROACTIVE CARE COMPANION

The New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) is working with Intuition Robotics to test the efficacy of Artificial Intelligence (AI) companion technology for older adults, known as ElliQ.

ElliQ is designed to foster independence and provide support for older adults through daily check-ins, assistance with wellness goals and physical activities, and more using voice commands and/or on-screen instructions.



ElliQ is proactive and personalized: it initiates conversation, suggests activities, and remembers what users tell it. ElliQ encourages and works with users to set and help achieve goals. It is designed to convey empathy to create trust and drive engagement and behavior change.

ANIMATRONIC PETS

NYSOFA has been providing animatronic pets to older adults who experience social isolation. These plush, “lifelike” robotic pets are designed to make realistic sounds and motions, providing comfort and companionship to individuals.



HOME-BASED LONG TERM CARE

HOME-BASED LONG- TERM CARE SERVICES

Home-Based Long- Term Care Includes health, personal and supportive services to help people stay at home and live as independently as possible. Most Long-Term Care is provided either at the home of the person receiving the services or at a family member’s home. In-home services may be short-term, for someone recovering from an operation , or long-term for people needing ongoing help.

There are many long-term care services and support options available in our community, including:

- ◆ Home Delivered Meals
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Caregiver Relief/ Respite Care
- ◆ Homemaker and Personal Care Services
- ◆ Insurance Information
- ◆ Options Counseling
- ◆ Medical Alert Systems



As well as community-based, residential settings, such as:

Assisted and Enriched Living Facilities:

Meadowbrook Terrace, Carthage(315) 519-1246

Samaritan Summit Village, Watertown(315) 782-6800

Ives Hill(315) 779-9590