



STATE OF NEW YORK

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

June 6, 2008

Mr. John Thomasian, Director
Center for Best Practices
National Governors Association
444 South Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Dear Mr. Thomasian:

For your consideration, I have attached New York's application to participate in the National Governors Association's *Policy Academy on Civic Engagement: Engaging Seniors in Volunteering and Employment*. I have designated Michael Burgess, Director of the New York State Office for the Aging, to serve as our Team Leader.

New York proposes to use the support and expertise provided by the Academy to:

- Develop a strategic plan to increase employment and volunteer opportunities for older adults,
- Ensure that older adults can age with dignity and respect in their communities with volunteer support from their peers, and
- Create a unified communication strategy and educational campaign to promote civic engagement among older New Yorkers and highlight the benefits and contributions they can make in the workforce and voluntary endeavors.

It is my hope that New York's participation in the Academy will allow us to strategically augment and consolidate our present civic engagement efforts. These efforts will inure to the benefit of all New Yorkers – employers who need experienced, committed workers; communities that need engaged, dedicated volunteers; and, most importantly, seniors who desire active lives performing valuable work.

Thank you for consideration of New York's application.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. PATERSON

New York's Core Team for the Civic Engagement Policy Academy Process

RFP Specifications	New York Participants
<p><i>At least one Representative from the Governor's Office</i></p>	<p>1) Joseph Baker, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services Executive Chamber The Capitol Albany, New York 12224 Ph: (518) 486-4079 Fax: (518) 474-6417 E-mail: Joseph.Baker@chamber.state.ny.us</p> <p>Mr. Baker is the administration's key aging and health policy advisor, responsible for coordinating policy development and implementation of initiatives across the spectrum of New York's health and human service networks. He previously served as Bureau Chief of the New York State Attorney General's Health Care Bureau and, before that, was the Executive Vice President of the Medicare Rights Center.</p>
<p><i>Senior Official from Lead Agency Designated by Governor</i></p>	<p>2) Michael Burgess, Director New York State Office for the Aging 2 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223-1251 Ph: (518) 474-4425 Fax: (518) 474-1398 E-mail: Mike.Burgess@ofa.state.ny.us</p> <p>Mr. Burgess is responsible for overseeing the operations of the State Office, including the delivery of Older Americans Act and State funded programs that serve New York's aging population. He has been working in the field of aging for 30 years in a variety of capacities; before joining NYSOFA he previously was the Executive Director of the New York State Chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans and the Statewide Senior Action Council, which provided him with insight into the management and role of volunteers working in advocacy coalitions and in not-for-profit organizations.</p>
<p><i>Project Manager</i></p>	<p>3) Greg Olsen, M.S.W., Deputy Director Division of Policy, Management and Public Information New York State Office for the Aging 2 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223-1251 Ph: (518) 473-4552 Fax: (518) 474-0608 E-mail: Greg.Olsen@ofa.state.ny.us</p> <p>Greg Olsen has over 17 years of experience working with advocates for the aging and state government where he is presently responsible for the development of policy initiatives at the State Office for the Aging. Greg has served as the Executive Director of the New York State Coalition for the Aging, the New York State Chapter of the Alliance of Retired Americans, and was the Legislative Director for the New York State Assembly Aging Committee.</p>

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*Other Senior
Officials from
State Agencies*

4) Patricia Hite, Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State Department of Civil Service
Alfred E. Smith Building , 8th Floor
Albany, New York 12239
Ph: (518) 473-5698 Fax: (518) 473-5696
E-mail: Patricia.Hite@cs.state.ny.us

Ms. Hite has over 26 years of experience working in state government and is responsible for overseeing all agency operations and policy initiatives. During her tenure, she has sought to develop an understanding by all stakeholders of the state's graying workforce and has started the process of developing meaningful approaches that address identified problems caused by this change.

5) Mario Musolino, Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State Department of Labor
Building # 12, State Office Campus
Albany, NY 12240
Ph: (518) 457-4318 Fax: (518) 485-6297
E-mail: mario.musolino@labor.state.ny.us

Mr. Musolino has a combined 29 years working in state and local government and currently oversees all Department of Labor operations and policy initiative development. He is well positioned as the agency's top manager to help design and advance a strategic action plan which is designed to advance civic engagement of seniors.

6) Jennifer McCormick, Vice President, Policy & Research

Empire State Development Corporation
30 South Pearl Street, 7th floor
Albany, NY 12245
Ph: (518) 292-5101 Fax: (518) 292-5812
E-mail: jmccormick@empire.state.ny.us

Ms. McCormick will be of great assistance by providing the core team with ready access to demographic data and to key leaders in the business community. These linkages will be helpful in developing and disseminating a unified message about the importance of understanding the impact of our aging workforce and assisting in identifying skill training needs.

7) Mark J. Walter, Executive Director

New York State Office of National and Community Service
52 Washington Street
North Building, Suite 338
Rensselaer, NY 12144
Ph: (518) 473-8882 Fax: (518) 402-3817
E-mail: mark.walter@ocfs.state.ny.us

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<p><i>Other Senior Officials from State Agencies (continued)</i></p>	<p>Mr. Walter has more than 12 years experience in program management and strategic planning in the core area of civic engagement for government and national philanthropic organizations. He provides leadership to the Governor's Commission on National and Community Service, engages state agencies to maximize the effective utilization of volunteers, and supports legislative and policy initiatives that promote national service programs.</p> <p>8) Mark Kissinger, Deputy Commissioner Office of Long Term Care New York State Department of Health Corning Tower, Room 1417 Albany, New York 12237 Ph: (518) 402-5673 Fax: (518) 486-2564 E-mail: mlk15@health.state.ny.us</p> <p>Mr. Kissinger has held several high level state government posts overseeing the various agencies responsible for the delivery of health and human services. In his current position, he will help to implement a state strategy to assist older New Yorker's age safely in any setting and to assist caregivers in caring for family members as long as possible.</p>
<p><i>Community-Based Representative</i></p>	<p>9) Ann G. DiSarro 2777 Rosendale Road Schenectady, New York 12309 Ph:/ Fax: (518) 370-5378 E-mail: ann@agdisarro.com</p> <p>Ms. DiSarro has 30 years of experience, 19 of which she served as the Executive Director of Senior Services of Albany, a large not-for-profit community based agency. Ms. DiSarro has worked to assist older individuals to age in place, has been a strong supporter of civic engagement initiatives, and implemented a Corporation for National and Community Services grant.</p>
<p><i>Organizations Representing Older Worker/ Aging Interests</i></p> <p><i>Key stakeholder groups that can support civic engagement activities</i></p>	<p>10) Lois Aronstein, New York State Director, AARP 780 Third Ave, 33rd Floor New York, NY 10017 Ph: (212) 407-3705 Fax: (212) 644-6390 E-mail: LAronstein@aarp.org</p> <p>Ms. Aronstein has a lifetime of experiences working with older adults and has recently been active in the development of initiatives to help mitigate barriers to employment by mature workers and encourage participation by AARP members in volunteer activities. She will be able to access the extraordinary tools and resources that AARP has available to help in developing and promoting a civic engagement action plan.</p>

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<p><i>Organizations Representing Older Worker/ Aging Interests (Continued)</i></p>	<p>11) Susan Stamler, Director of Policy & Advocacy United Neighborhood Houses 70 West 36th Street New York, NY 10018 Ph: (212) 967-0322 Ext. 313 Fax: (212) 967-0793 E-mail: sstamler@unhny.org</p> <p>Ms. Stamler is well prepared to help in the development of a strategic action plan to advance initiatives designed to encourage civic engagement of older adults. The United Neighborhood Houses completed an assessment last year of barriers to older persons to employment and volunteer service, life learning and activities to advance public policy, which was supported by the New York Community Trust in the Community Experience Partnership (CEP), a nationwide program funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies to promote civic engagement among seniors.</p> <p>12) Dennis Tracey, Executive Director New York State Alliance for Retired Americans 800 Troy Schenectady Road Latham, New York 12201-2545 Ph: (518) 783-6231 Fax: (518) 213-6422 E-mail: dtracey49@optonline.org</p> <p>NYSARA, affiliated with the AFL-CIO, represents thousands of retired union members, which will be useful in developing meaningful strategies to advance the theme of civic engagement. Mr. Tracey will be able to also tap the expertise and resources of the labor movement to help develop and implement the civic engagement strategies that will be developed.</p> <p>13) Katherine Briar-Lawson, Ph.D., Dean and Professor State University at Albany School of Social Welfare Richardson Hall 101 135 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12222 Ph: (518) 442-5324 Fax: (518) 442-5380 E-mail: KBriarLawson@uamail.albany.edu</p> <p>As the Dean of the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany, Dr. Briar-Lawson has had the opportunity to work on several civic engagement initiatives. Her experiences will help to involve the higher education community in supporting a civic engagement strategic action plan.</p>
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<p><i>Organizations Representing Older Worker/ Aging Interests (Continued)</i></p>	<p>14) Justin Cunningham, Deputy Director NY Statewide Senior Action Council 275 State Street Albany NY 12210 Ph: (518) 436-1006 Fax: (518) 436-7642 E-mail: Justin@nysenior.org</p> <p>Statewide Senior Action Council is well positioned to help frame and advance a set of policy initiatives designed to further the civic engagement theme. Justin is slated to become the Executive Director of the organization, which represents individual seniors and senior membership associations that have keen interest in this issue area.</p>
<p><i>Employer Association</i></p>	<p>15) Margaret M. Moree, Director of Federal Affairs The Business Council of New York State, Inc. 152 Washington Avenue Albany, New York 12210-2289 Ph: (518) 465-7511 x 207 Fax: (518) 465-4389 E-mail: margaret.moree@bcnys.org</p> <p>Ms. Moree, representing the State Business Council on the core team, will provide a voice for the Council's 3,200 corporate members in our deliberations. Her past experience in state government and involvement with the Business Council's current efforts to strengthen the state's workforce should prove useful in development of a strategic action plan that advances the civic engagement agenda.</p>