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## **Governor Cuomo Proclaims September Assisted Living Month**

*Empire State Association of Assisted Living (ESAAL) membership hosts celebratory events across the state*

Governor Andrew Cuomo has proclaimed September Assisted Living Month in recognition of the more than two million New Yorkers who will require some form of long-term care by 2015.

In observance of Assisted Living Month, ESAAL member residences will host a number of events, bringing together residents, families, employees, volunteers and the surrounding community. For a listing of member residences in your community, please visit: [www.esaal.org](http://www.esaal.org) and click on Find a Member Residence.

The National Census Bureau estimates by 2050 the number of Americans aged 65 and older will be 88.5 million – more than double the current population. In New York, the most rapid population growth in the last decade has occurred among the oldest and frailest population groups.

“Assisted Living Month presents a unique opportunity for all aging New Yorkers and their families to discuss their future long-term care needs and consider assisted living as a desirable option,” said Lisa Newcomb, ESAAL executive director. “For those no longer able to live alone, licensed assisted living is a viable alternative, offering them not only assistance with daily living, but many occasions for socialization and activity. Furthermore, at less than one-half of the cost of a nursing home, assisted living is a safe, cost-effective community-based option.”

New York has three types of licensed residences: adult homes, enriched housing programs and assisted living residences. While accommodations vary among residences, each offers a home-like atmosphere and is dedicated to preserving the dignity and independence of residents. Some residences are licensed to provide “age in place” programs, allowing seniors to remain in their current assisted living setting even as they begin to require more specialized care. One of these programs, the Assisted Living Program, enables seniors to utilize Medicaid for assisted living expenses.

“Today, access to quality, affordable long-term care is a necessity,” said Newcomb. “I urge seniors and their families who are unfamiliar with assisted living to contact and visit a local licensed residence during Assisted Living Month.”

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*ESAAL is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening New York State’s assisted living industry and promoting the best interests of providers and residents. Founded in 1979, ESAAL is the only association that exclusively represents the assisted living industry, serving more than 250 Assisted Living Residences, Adult Homes and Enriched Housing and Assisted Living Programs throughout New York State. These member residences are home to more than 22,000 seniors.*