

The Future of County Nursing Homes in New York State

Summary of Recommendations for State Leaders

August, 2013

Prepared for:
New York State Health Foundation

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Based on a newly-released statewide study, *The Future of Public Nursing Homes in New York State*, which was conducted by the Center for Governmental Research ([CGR](#)) and funded by the New York State Health Foundation, CGR summarizes recommendations for the state below.

Note: The detailed recommendations can be found in the final chapter of CGR's Report. Click "Report" on the study website: www.cgr.org/NY-county-nursing-homes.

1. Work with federal counterparts to assure future availability of Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funds for county homes.
2. Consider supplemental financial support for selected county homes that meet specified criteria (e.g., limited competitor options; shortage of nursing home beds; rapidly growing older population; demonstrated track record serving certain high needs residents).
3. Consider incentivizing for-profit and non-profit homes to admit more low-income, Medicaid residents, by providing supplemental financial support upon such admissions.
4. Consider making an exception to the property tax cap for counties meeting specified criteria, in order to provide additional flexibility, if needed, to cover county subsidies, or general fund payments that allow a county to reach the "50% match" for IGT funds.
5. Tie any supplemental support in #2, #3, and #4 above to accountability for providing quality care.
6. Take responsibility for reviewing measures of quality upon which nursing homes are currently compared, to enable consistent, reliable comparisons.
7. Pro-actively work with counties seeking to do due diligence when exploring options for their homes' futures.

8. Have the state Department of Health take a more active role in partnership with counties in the proper vetting and review of potential county nursing home buyers.
9. Offer financial incentives for counties to establish lower-level, long-term-care services that are not currently in existence in counties.
10. Lobby the federal government to remove restrictions against public nursing homes offering assisted living programs.
11. Be clear and informative about a statewide rollout of managed long-term-care programs.
12. Solidify and expand support for New York Connects, which provides information on choices for long-term care, or a variation of it. What is key is to strengthen programs at the county level that help the elderly and caregivers make informed decisions about the level of care needed.

The 12 recommendations above are, in some cases, parallel and complementary to guidelines CGR outlines for counties that are exploring options for the future of their homes. Those guidelines are summarized in the section “[County Guidelines](#)” and provided in detail in the final chapter of CGR’s full [Report](#). Both are available at: www.cgr.org/NY-county-nursing-homes.