**Budget Request:** $350,000 in the 2022-23 State Budget for a three-year Pilot Program to establish a Social Adult Day Care Statewide Accreditation program.

In New York State, adult day centers are not licensed by the State and there is no State oversight of adult day center operations. Instead, oversight is generally dependent on the payor to ensure the quality of services provided. Social adult day programs are regulated by the State Office for the Aging (SOFA) **only** if they receive a grant through SOFA or have a contract with a county office for the aging. This means that programs that are funded through Medicaid funded MLTC Plans are expected to meet NYSOFA rules and regulations, but this process is not being sufficiently overseen by MLTC Plans that are licensed by the Department of Health. There has been an expectation that MLTC Plans are visiting SAD programs to ensure they meet standards but the DOH survey process has not been sufficient at documenting these activities.

Concerns have been raised from families, caregivers and stakeholders across the state that there are abuses taking place in adult day programs that do not operate with sufficient staffing and do not provide adequate services. To address this, NYSADSA proposes the creation of a Pilot Accreditation Program to establish statewide standards for all SADs that will enable social adult day programs to distinguish themselves as a high quality service providers. Through accreditation of Social Adult Day Services, Managed Long Term Care Plans (MLTC) that contract with accredited SADS programs could better ensure that they are contracting with programs providing the highest level and quality of services.

To launch this effort, NYSADSA is proposing a three-year Pilot Accreditation Program to be developed and implemented by NYSADSA. The Pilot Program will streamline oversight of social adult day services under one third-party accrediting body which will:

* Recognize program performance and outcomes, motivate programs to comply with standards of practice
* Increase credibility of the adult day services industry
* Promote and maintain professional standards
* Reduce MLTC plan administration costs
* Remove MLTC plan conflict of interest

A third-party Accreditation Pilot Program implemented by NYSADSA is the best solution to address the need for uniform operating and oversight standards for social adult day care program providers without burdening the State or one agency, such as NYSOFA.

In establishing this Pilot Program, NYSADSA will work collaboratively with all interested stakeholders to develop an oversight framework to ensure that all the SADS recipients’ needs are being met on a statewide, uniform basis, and that Managed Long Term Care Plans are contracting with the highest quality programs.

With support of this Accreditation Pilot Program, the New York State Adult Day Services Association (NYSADSA) will be able to ensure SADS participants, their families, and caregivers will receive the best quality alternative to institutionalized care. This comes at a pivotal time as more and more consumers consider adult day centers as an option for care for their loved ones, especially those that require culturally specific settings and care.