

Another adult home closes as SSI legislation awaits Cuomo's decision

By Dan Goldberg

The Valehaven Home for Adults in Oswego is closing next month, forcing roughly three dozen residents to find a new home.

The home is owned by Jim Kane Jr, who earlier this month [closed his Malone facility](#) where another 30 residents lived.

The culprit, according to Kane, is the state's failure to increase what it pays in Supplemental Social Security Income, or SSI, benefits.

Adult care facilities offer a range of services for older adults who cannot live on their own but do not require the more intensive care that a nursing home provides.

Adult homes aren't staffed like nursing homes so they don't receive Medicaid funds. Operators of these homes supplement their revenues with private payers but much of

the money comes from SSI, which pays \$41 per day, per resident.

SSI payments are made by both the state and federal government. The federal portion has increased incrementally over the years, but that state's contribution was last increased in 2007.

Kane joined his father's adult home business in 1984 and at one time the pair operated 14 homes. Now it's six. When residents are forced to move out, they often end up in a nursing home, which can be covered by Medicaid but costs the taxpayer significantly more.

This past budget cycle was the first time the Assembly and Senate both included an increase in their one-house budgets, but the higher rate did not make it into the final

“THE CULPRIT IS THE STATE’S FAILURE TO INCREASE WHAT IT PAYS IN SUPPLEMENTAL SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) BENEFITS.”

Jim Kane Jr., ESAAL board member.

budget signed by the governor earlier this year.

On the last day of session, state Sen. Sue Serino, a Republican representing Poughkeepsie, and Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, a Democrat representing Utica, sponsored and passed a bill that would increase the state SSI contribution \$4 a day for the next five years for a total of \$20 by 2022. The bill has not yet been delivered to Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Please Note: The information contained in this news clipping is excerpted from the Politico NY (August 25, 2017) You can access the complete article at: <https://www.politicopro.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2017/08/24/another-adult-home-closes-as-ssi-legislation-awaits-cuomos-decision-114123>