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**PROJECT GUARDIANSHIP LAUNCHES POWER OF ATTORNEY PILOT PROGRAM TO
EXPAND FINANCIAL PLANNING OPTIONS FOR OLDER NEW YORKERS**

***First-of-its-kind nonprofit model in NYC creates a new pathway to prevent
unnecessary guardianship***

NEW YORK, NY — Today, Project Guardianship, a New York City nonprofit providing guardianship services and advocating for systemic reform, announced the launch of its Power of Attorney (POA) Pilot Program, a first-of-its-kind initiative that will enable older New Yorkers to plan for their financial futures and prevent unnecessary guardianships.

When an older adult becomes unable to manage their own finances and has no trusted person to help, guardianship — a legal process that can remove significant personal autonomy and is costly and time-consuming — is often the only available intervention. The POA Pilot Program directly addresses this gap. Through a durable power of attorney arrangement, Project Guardianship can step in to handle bill payment and financial transactions on a client’s behalf, whether immediately upon a client’s request or when circumstances require it. Critically, a POA remains in effect even if a client’s decision-making capacity changes over time.

Many older adults do not have a family member or close friend available to take on this role. Private fiduciary services exist, but they are frequently out of reach for people with lower incomes. Project Guardianship’s program fills this gap with person-centered, values-driven support built on long-term trusted relationships.

“Every older New Yorker deserves the ability to plan for their future on their own terms” said Kimberly George, Project Guardianship’s President & CEO. “This program creates a pathway that simply did not exist before — one that prioritizes each client’s values and keeps them in the driver’s seat of their own lives.”



The POA Pilot Program provides clients with reliable support across the areas that matter most to financial stability and wellbeing. Staff handle ongoing bill payment for rent, utilities, and other monthly expenses and communicate directly with financial institutions and social service agencies on clients' behalf. The program also takes time to understand and document each client's values and wishes, so that future decisions reflect what matters to them. And when clients need additional support beyond finances, the program connects them to local services and community networks.

The pilot will initially accept referrals from a select number of community partners, with plans to expand referral capacity in the future. Clients who participate in the pilot will help shape the program through their voices and feedback. For more information, email POA@projectguardianship.org.

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The POA Pilot Program is made possible with generous support from the Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Next50, Isaac H. Tuttle Fund, and New York Foundation for Eldercare.

About Project Guardianship

Project Guardianship is a New York City nonprofit organization dedicated to providing guardianship services and advancing alternatives to guardianship for older adults and people with disabilities. PG works to identify and create pathways that preserve autonomy, prevent unnecessary guardianship, and promote systemic reform.