



Area Agency on Aging 1-B

THE ADVOCATE

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MI Lawmakers Finalize State Budget, Allocating \$2.5 Million Increase for Senior In-Home Services

Silver Key Coalition Advocacy for Fiscal Year 2017 Funding a Success!

On June 7, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services appropriations conference committee recommended a \$2.5 million increase to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Aging and Adult Services Agency budget for in-home services. While this was not the full \$5 million that the Silver Key Coalition had requested, this is a significant accomplishment for aging advocates, considering that many programs faced last minute funding cuts due to the state's lower revenue projections for FY 2017. This increase should allow Michigan's aging network to serve thousands more seniors in FY 2017, working towards the goal of reducing wait lists across the state.

The Health and Human Services budget also included \$3.7 million for the Nursing Facility Transition Initiative (NFTI), enabling this program to continue after federal funding was recently cut. This funding will allow Housing Coordinators working in the program to continue linking nursing home residents with appropriate housing options in the community.

Following the conference committee's recommendation, the budget was passed by the House and Senate on June 8th, and has been sent to the Governor for his signature.

Federal Appropriations Committees Begin Budget Process

Federal lawmakers have begun work on the FY 2017 budget. Aging advocates are focused on urging Congress to restore funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) to at least FY 2010 levels. Several OAA programs, including Supportive Services, the National Family Caregiver Support Program, and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, have had little to no relief from funding cuts faced during the sequestration of 2013. OAA Supportive Service funding, which is used to provide services that enable seniors to continue living at home, including in-home services, legal services, and information and assistance services in Michigan, is at the same level that it was in FY 2004, despite increasing costs for services and a growing aging population.

It is key that advocates reach out to their federal Representatives and Senators this month to tell them about the important role that the Older Americans Act plays in supporting seniors in Michigan, and ask them to support a funding increase for Older Americans Act programs.



The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit agency serving the needs of older adults in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties.

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