



Governor Snyder Releases FY 2019 Budget Recommendation Flat Funding Proposed for Most Aging Programs

Governor Snyder released his budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, marking the beginning of the state budget process. It was largely a flat budget, with few increases due to flat revenue projections for the state. The Governor proposed a \$43.5 million (41%) increase for the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program. A 2% increase (\$7 million) was recommended for the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program.

While Governor Snyder acknowledged the accomplishments of the Silver Key Coalition in his 2018 State of the State address, he did not include any increase for non-Medicaid senior in-home services provided by the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) in his budget proposal. The Silver Key Coalition will continue to advocate to the legislature for a \$3 million budget increase to serve the 6,043 seniors waiting for services at the end of the last fiscal year.

The Governor's proposal will now be considered by the Legislature, who can make changes to the proposal during the next few months. The House and Senate Appropriations Health and Human Services Subcommittees will host hearings on February 27th and 28th to discuss the proposed budget for AASA and to hear testimony from the public.

Federal Budget Caps Raised Continuing Resolution Extends Budget Deadline into March

Congressional leaders reached a two-year budget deal that lifted overall spending caps, removing the threat of mandatory spending cuts known as sequestration. This deal will allow for higher levels of spending on discretionary programs, such as the Older Americans Act, during the next two years. Congress also passed another short term spending bill, or continuing resolution, that continued federal spending until March 22nd. Congressional leaders have until this date to set specific spending levels for each federal program, or pass another continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown.

Advocates should once again weigh in with their lawmakers about how to allocate funding for aging programs for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 before the March 22nd budget deadline. Aging advocates must continue to urge their legislators to protect the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) funding, which supports Michigan's Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) and was slated for elimination in the House FY 2018 funding bill, as well as to increase funding for Older Americans Act Title III-B Supportive Services, which was slated for a \$14.2 million increase in the House budget proposal.

The Trump Administration has released their budget proposal for FY 2019, recommending significant funding cuts for many social programs. However, it is expected that Congress will reject many of the administration's proposals in favor of creating a new budget that reflects Congressional priorities.