



## State to Decide FY 2013 Budget Soon Last Minute Advocacy Needed

Leaders in the Michigan legislature hope to have the FY 2013 spending bill wrapped up by June 1, and advocates are mobilizing to urge legislators to vote to restore years' worth of cuts to aging services. In April, the House of Representatives voted to fund programs authorized by Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) at essentially FY 2012 levels. On the surface, level funding seems acceptable. But service dollars for OSA-funded home delivered meals, in-home personal care, care management, and other programs **have been cut 28% since 2009**, despite the growing number of older adults who depend on them to remain living in the community.

The House rejected the Governor's proposed funding for specific OSA program improvements and money to support implementation of the elder abuse bills that are also currently under deliberation in the House.

The *MI Choice* program received \$8 million in the House spending bill, a minor increase from FY 2012, but less than the \$11 million recommended by the Governor. These dollars would be used to reduce the wait list

for enrollment, a priority of the administration. Only \$3 million to support the effective *MI Choice* Nursing Facility Transition Program (NFT) was approved.

**Three million dollars will provide only 20% of the dollars necessary to sustain NFT. At this level, the program will likely have to shut down.**

The legislature will wait until after the May 16th Revenue Estimating Conference to make their budget allocations. They need to hear from advocates today.

### TAKE ACTION TODAY

Governor Snyder and leaders of the House and Senate will be primary negotiators of the budget, along with members of the yet-undetermined joint Conference Committee. Contact these gentlemen today and urge them to restore funding to aging services. Share with them stories of how these services help to keep you, your client, or loved one living independently.

**Governor Rick Snyder (517) 373-3400**

**Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (517) 373-3543**

**Speaker of the House Jase Bolger (877) 265-4371**

**All Senators (517) 373-2400**

**All Representatives (517) 373-0135**

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Medicare does not cover most long-term care services.*

*Medicaid-funded nursing home placement is the default option for many low-income older adults who need long-term care.*

*The MI Choice home and community-based alternative must be funded each year by the state legislature.*

*MI Choice care can be 1/3 the cost of nursing home care.*

*Michigan ranks 41st (that's low) in the country for the percent of its long-term care spending allocated to home and community-based care.*

E-mail addresses can also be found at [Contact Your Lawmaker](#) at [AAA1b.com](#).



## **CUTS TO LOCALLY-FUNDED SENIOR SERVICES**

### **Personal Property Tax Elimination Means Cuts to Senior Services**

Another package of tax reform bills designed to spur business growth was recently voted out of the Michigan Senate Finance Committee and may have serious implications on the provision of senior services by local communities. The bills, SB 1065-1072, **which may be voted on by the full Senate by mid-May**, calls for eliminating the Personal Property Tax (PPT), which is a tax on business and industrial equipment located in those communities. PPT revenue is used for local services such as police, fire, schools, libraries, **and senior programs such as Meals on Wheels**. Local governments that fund senior programs through voter-approved senior millages would see those revenues fall.

#### **Impact on Senior Services:**

- If the PPT is eliminated and not fully replaced, programs for Michigan seniors will lose between \$7 and \$10 million per year.
- 67 of Michigan's 83 counties fully rely on local senior millages\*. Many counties, cities and townships levy local millages to support seniors. In Region 1-B, Bloomfield Township, Madison Heights, Oakland Township, Rochester, and Rochester Hills rely on a local senior millage.
- The safety net of senior services is already weak. State funding cuts from 2009 – 2011 amounted to \$10 million or 28% for community programs for seniors through the Office of Services to the Aging. The recent declines in real property taxable values have also reduced local senior program budgets by thousands of dollars since 2007.

The current proposal for replacing the lost revenue (SB 1072) calls for the state Treasury to return a portion of the revenue back to local governments—in a lump sum. There is no guarantee that replacement dollars will be allocated back to senior services. Area Agency on Aging 1-B staff expressed concern to bill sponsor and Finance Committee Chairman Jack Brandenburg (R-Harrison Township) that the proposed method to replace the lost revenue does not mandate that the revenue be replaced dollar for dollar to the programs for which the millages were intended.

#### **Contact your legislators and urge them to add language to the PPT bills that:**

**Assures that replacement revenue be put back into the senior services taxpayers voted to support when they passed millages**

Legislators can be reached by phone at (517) 373-2400 or by e-mail by checking [Contact Your Lawmaker](#) under the Advocacy Tab at the AAA 1-B website, [aaa1b.com](http://aaa1b.com).

\*Source: Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging.



never too old  
to **play**

older americans month 2012

May is Older Americans Month, the perfect opportunity to show appreciation for the older adults in the community. This year's theme —*Never Too Old to Play!*—puts a spotlight on the important role older adults play in sharing their experience, wisdom, and understanding, and passing on that knowledge to other generations in a variety of significant ways. To learn more about Older Americans Month, go to <http://olderamericansmonth.org>

Lifelong participation in social, creative, and physical activities has proven health benefits, including retaining mobility, muscle mass, and cognitive abilities. Studies show their interactions with family, friends, and neighbors across generations *enrich the lives of everyone involved*. Young people who have significant relationships with a grandparent or elder report that these relationships helped shape their values, goals, and life choices and gave them a sense of identity and roots.

Older adults strengthen the economy as well. Nationwide, older adults contribute \$161.7 billion to society through volunteer activities and time spent caring for family members.\* In 2010, 9.2 million Older Adults dedicated 1.7 billion hours of service to communities across the country.\*\*

## State Submits Integrated Care Plan to Federal Government

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) submitted its proposal to integrate care for people who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington, D.C. CMS will review the proposal and determine if and when Michigan can begin implementation. MDCH officials expect that details of the new integrated care model, including the proposed carve-out of behavioral health coordination, are subject to negotiation with CMS.

MDCH proposes that all health care for dually-eligible individuals: acute and primary physical care, long-term care, prescription drug coverage, and behavioral health care, be coordinated by one or more managed care organizations. Current participants will have the choice to opt out of the new model. The proposal submitted to CMS is basically the same as the original draft plan released for statewide public comment in April. Area Agency on Aging 1-B requested that language be added to require that the managed care organizations develop strategic partnerships with local area agencies on aging to provide supports coordination, and require the use of existing providers and services to current beneficiaries. Such language was not included in the final document sent to CMS.

CMS is asking for public comment by the deadline of May 30, 2012 at 5 p.m. Please review the proposal at <http://www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com/icmstateproposals.aspx>. The address for submitting comments can also be found at this site or by contacting Ann Langford at the address below.

\*Value of Unpaid Activities by Older Americans Tops \$160 Billion Per Year, Urban Institute, 2005. \*\*[volunteeringinamerica.gov/special/Older-Adults-\(age-65-and-over\)](http://volunteeringinamerica.gov/special/Older-Adults-(age-65-and-over))

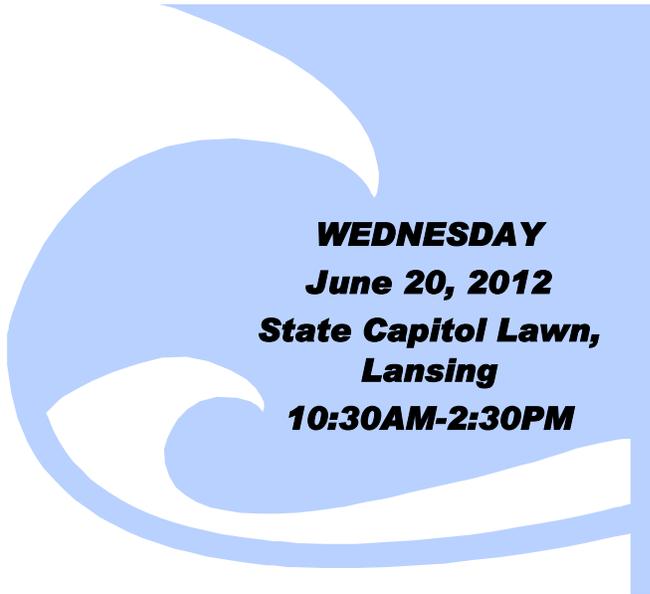


The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit agency serving the needs of older adults in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties. Contact Ann Langford at (248) 262-1282 or by e-mail at [alangford@aaa1b.com](mailto:alangford@aaa1b.com) to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.

WE ADVOCATE, VOTE, and ENERGIZE the ECONOMY!

# OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY 2012

## Join the Senior **WAVE**



**WEDNESDAY**  
**June 20, 2012**  
**State Capitol Lawn,**  
**Lansing**  
**10:30AM-2:30PM**



### OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

## Older Adults Play a Huge Role in Michigan's Reinvention

### 2011-2012 Legislative Platform

- #1— Invest in quality Long-Term Care options focused on cost effective solutions that meet the needs of citizens.
- #2— Provide suitable housing, transportation and health care choices to support independent living and strengthen the economy.
- #3— Ensure safety and security through elder abuse protections.

### JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING DAY:



- ◆ A Rally on the Capitol Lawn
- ◆ Remarks from Legislative Leaders
- ◆ Meetings with Individual Legislators
- ◆ FREE Lunch for Ticket Holders
- ◆ Senior Citizen of the Year Awards

For more information and to get free lunch tickets, contact Ann Langford at Area Agency on Aging 1-B by phone at (248) 262-1282, or by e-mail: [alangford@aaa1b.com](mailto:alangford@aaa1b.com)

[www.oldermichiganiansday.com](http://www.oldermichiganiansday.com)



### Older Michiganians Day 2012 is sponsored by:



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### Older Michiganians Day 2012 Steering Committee

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