



Older Michiganians Day Recap

About 900 seniors from across the state traveled to Lansing on Tuesday June 3 for the 7th Annual Older Michiganians Day. Attendees were treated to an abbreviated version of the Governor's Special Address on Aging, speeches by legislative leadership, and the presentation of community awards. Attendees advocated with their legislators for the increases in aging services budgets, particularly for in-home services, for the passage of elder abuse prevention legislation, to better fund evidence based programming and to oppose changes to Michigan's no-fault auto insurance system.

Thank you to all those who attended and helped to make Older Michiganians Day 2014 one to remember!

In This Issue:

- Older Michiganians Day Update
- Silver Key and State Budget Update
- Governor's Special Message on Aging

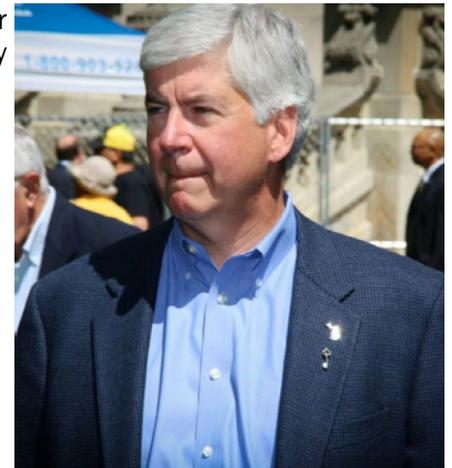
Silver Key and State Budget Update

The joint House-Senate Conference Committee formed to reconcile differences between both chamber's budget proposals for FY 15 and moved one step closer to completing the budget process on 6/5 by setting department spending targets. The conference committees then approved budgets for 11 of the 17 departments and major budget areas with the goal of completing all budget areas before June 12th.

Yet to be resolved are several issues of importance to Michigan's seniors including transportation and road funding as well as increased funding for the Office of Services to the Aging in the Department of Community Health Budget (DCH) to make Michigan a no wait state for seniors. The DCH budget proposal contains an increase in funding of \$20 million including a \$5 million increase in the Program for the All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE), \$9 million increase in the MI-Choice Waiver Program, \$1 million for elder abuse prevention and \$5 million for in-home services such as home delivered meals and personal care advocated for by the Silver Key Coalition.

To help ensure seniors stay a priority in the FY 15 budget, please consider contacting the members of the DCH Appropriations Conference Committee by Thursday, June 12 to ask for their support in making Michigan a no wait state.

Sen. Moolenaar	senjmoolenaar@senate.michigan.gov	517-373-7946
Sen. Kahn	senrkahn@senate.michigan.gov	866-305-2132
Sen. Gregory	senvgregory@senate.michigan.gov	517-373-7888
Rep. Lori	mattlori@house.mi.gov	877-262-5959
Rep. VerHeulen	robverheulen@house.mi.gov	517-373-8900
Rep. Tlaib	rashidatlaib@house.mi.gov	877-852-4212



Governor's Special Message on Aging

On Monday, June 2 Governor Snyder delivered his Special Message on Aging to a full house of seniors and advocates at the Older Person's Commission in Rochester. Recognizing the rapid growth of Michigan's older adult population, Governor Snyder shared, "[Michigan] must continue to improve our aging services and create opportunities from Michigan's older adults to live not only a longer life, but a high quality one."

The Governor's special message focuses on six main areas including independence for older adults, putting people above programs, safety and security, age-friendly Michigan communities, capitalizing on talent, and reinventing retirement. A highlight of the address included the Governor's commitment to making Michigan a no wait state for home and community based services that help seniors remain independent and in their own homes.

Other highlights of the message include*:

- Encouraging Michigan employers to embrace policies and programs that will help family caregivers balance their responsibilities at home and in the workplace.
- Directing the Department of Insurance and Financial Services to create a comprehensive package of financial tools and resources to help residents achieve financial security.
- Supporting the adoption of a pilot program to help families and caregivers of individuals with dementia achieve a greater understanding of the programs and services that are available.
- Encouraging older adults to engage in lifelong learning through their local college/university.
- Directing the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) and the Workforce Development Agency to help older workers better connect with job opportunities and further enhance MiTalent.org.
- Adopting Michigan-specific quality measures and person-centered performance incentives for nursing homes in the state.
- Encouraging older adults to take advantage of volunteer opportunities through the Do Something Michigan campaign.
- Charging the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to work with communities to create more age-friendly places in Michigan.
- Directing the Michigan Department of Transportation to partner with metropolitan planning organizations and regional planning agencies to work on the issue of regional transit mobility.
- Charging DHS and OSA to launch a Michigan-specific intergenerational pilot program in select Pathways to Potential schools, which will use older adult volunteers in Detroit Public Schools.
- Tasking the MEDC to better coordinate entrepreneurial resources to streamline services and increase access for older adult entrepreneurs.

You can view the address in its entirety online at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqe5YKxXXmc>.

If you do not have internet access and would like to read a copy of the address, please contact Ryan Cowmeadow at the Area Agency on Aging to receive a written copy.

*http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-57577_57657-329668--,00.html



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 Ryan Cowmeadow, (248) 262-1282 or by e-mail at rcowmeadow@aaa1b.com to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.