Area Agency on Aging 1-B
2015-2016 Legislative Agenda
Final Scorecard

2016 Year In Review

In 2015, the Area Agency on Aging 1-B put forth a 2-year Legislative Agenda focused on the areas of Access, Long-Term Care Support Services, Retirement Security and Healthy Aging.

This report outlines advocacy accomplishments related to goals put forth in the Legislative Agenda, and identifies specific accomplishments that occurred in 2015 and 2016.

Notable Achievements in 2016:

- The Silver Key Coalition achieved a $2.5 million funding increase for in-home services in Michigan, continuing progress towards making Michigan a no-wait state for senior in-home services.
- Federal Older Americans Act Reauthorization
- Passage and Implementation of The CARE Act

For more information contact:
Katie Cahir, Advocacy Specialist
kcahir@aaa1b.com / 248-262-9232

29100 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 400, Southfield, MI 48034
Advocacy Success

Make Michigan a No Wait State for Home and Community Based Services (Michigan):
The Silver Key Coalition secured a $2.5 million increase in funding for Aging and Adult Services Agency in-home services in the FY 2017 budget. While this wasn’t the full $5 million the Coalition was seeking, this was a significant accomplishment considering that many programs faced funding reductions due to the state’s lowered revenue forecast. This increase should allow Michigan’s Aging network to serve thousands more seniors in FY 2017.

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) (Federal):
The Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization of 2015 passed the Senate with unanimous bipartisan support. Reauthorizing the OAA had been a goal of aging advocates since the bill’s last reauthorization expired in 2011. This bill reauthorized the OAA for a three-year period through 2019, which is shorter than previous authorizations. Reauthorization provided an opportunity to modernize the law, while also allowing for a renewed commitment to the programs created by the OAA.

Housing Affordability & Options (Federal/ Michigan):
In 2016, the MI Legislature passed HB 4054, which returned the oversight of manufactured housing parks to local governments, which are better positioned to address resident needs.

Expand the Program for the All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) (Michigan):
State appropriators increased funding for PACE in both FY 2016 and FY 2017.

Protect the Solvency of MI-Choice Medicaid Waiver Program (Michigan):
In 2015, AAA 1-B advocated for the state to establish risk sharing to pay for the cost of the most ill and costly MI Choice participants, which will help ensure the long-term stability of the waiver program.

The CARE Act (Michigan):
The Caregiver, Advise, Record, and Enable (CARE) Act was passed by the Michigan Legislature, and went into effect on July 12th, 2016. This law enables patients receiving care in a hospital to designate a caregiver, who will receive instruction and consultation from hospital staff during the discharge planning process.

Evidence-Based Programs (Federal/Michigan):
The Michigan Health Endowment Fund, which was created by state legislation in 2013, led to increased funding for Evidence-Based programs in MI.

Rebalance Michigan’s Long-Term Care System to Support Choice (Michigan):
MI Choice funding allowed for increased services in FY 2016. In 2017 the Michigan Legislature preserved funding for Housing Specialists in the Nursing Facility Transition Program.

The Federal Budget for FY 2017 has been funded by a series of continuing resolutions, which have maintained most funding levels from FY 2016.

Smart Deficit Reduction (Federal):
The Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Federal Budget included an increase of approximately $37 million for Older Americans Act programs. It is estimated that these increases totaled about $875,000 for the state of Michigan and about $220,000 for Region 1-B.

Elder Justice Act (Federal):
Federal appropriators increased funding for Adult Protective Services for FY 2016 by $4 million, doubling the previous level of federal investment.

Protect Programs that Support Financial Security (Federal/Michigan):
The FY 2016 Federal Budget included a $41 million increase to Community Service Block Grant funding. In Michigan, the Long-Term Care Insurance Amendments (HB 4836), which increased the Medicaid asset limit for eligible long-term care insurance policyholders, was passed into Michigan law in 2015.

Made Progress

Elder Abuse Prevention Efforts (Michigan):
HB 5422, which strengthened the criminal code for 4th degree vulnerable adult abuse was passed by the legislature during the lame duck session. Multiple other bills that would have increased penalties for perpetrators of elder abuse were introduced in the Michigan Legislature, but did not pass.

Home Safety (Michigan):
A Home Modification tax credit bill (SB 396), which would provide incentives for making homes accessible, was passed by the Senate, but did not gain support in the House.

Transportation and Mobility (Federal/Michigan):
While the Michigan road-funding package, which was signed into law in November 2015, included a funding increase for public transportation, public transportation in Southeast Michigan experienced a setback in 2016 when the Regional Transit Authority millage proposal failed.

No Legislative Action

Uniform Adult Guardianship Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (Michigan)
Support for Diversity Inclusion in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (Michigan)