In 2017, the Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) put forth a 2-year Legislative Agenda focused on the areas of Strengthening Long Term Care Support Services and Building Supportive Communities.

This report outlines advocacy accomplishments related to goals put forth in the Legislative Agenda, and identifies specific accomplishments that occurred in 2017.

Overall, the AAA 1-B achieved success in 40% of our focus areas, had progress in 20%, and no progress in 40%.

Notable Achievements in 2017:

- The Silver Key Coalition achieved a $3.6 million funding increase for in-home services in Michigan, continuing progress towards making Michigan a no-wait state for senior in-home services.
- Increased appropriations for the MI Choice Program, Adult Protective Services, and the Program for All Inclusive Care for the elderly support Older Michiganders.
Advocacy Success

Eliminate Wait Lists for In-Home Services:
The Silver Key Coalition secured a $3.6 million increase in funding for Aging and Adult Services Agency in-home services in the FY 2018 budget. This funding increase will be split between Home Delivered Meals ($1.5 million) and other in-home services ($2.1 million). This increase should allow Michigan’s Aging network to serve thousands more seniors in FY 2018, working towards the goal of reducing wait lists across the state.

Expand the Program for the All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE):
Funding for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) was increased by $18.4 million. This funding will be used to support increased enrollment in PACE programs and to establish two new PACE locations.

Rebalance Michigan’s Long-Term Care System to Support Choice (Michigan):
Funding for the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program was increased by $25 million (8%) in the FY 2017 budget.

Elder Abuse Prevention:
Funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) was increased by $4.2 million, which will enable the department to hire up to 35 new full-time APS workers.

Support Direct Care Workers
Diversity and Inclusion
Healthcare Cost Transparency

Made Progress

Preserve Safety Net Programs that Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities:
While the Federal Budget was primarily funded by a series of continuing resolutions in 2017, programs that were targeted for funding cuts, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) have been preserved.

The Federal House proposed eliminating funding for the State Health Insurance Program in FY 2018; this funding supports Michigan’s Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP). While the Senate preserves funding for this key program, the FY 2018 budget has not yet been finalized.

Attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and change the structure of the Medicaid program, which had the potential to impact health care for older adults were ultimately unsuccessful.

Housing Affordability and Accessibility:
MI Senate Bill 184, which would provide an income tax credit to taxpayers who purchase a qualified residence or retrofit their home to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, passed the Michigan Senate, but has not yet had a hearing in the House.

Older Americans Act (OAA):
At the end of the FY 2017, Congress increased appropriations for OAA Title III Supportive Services ($2.5 million), Home Delivered Meals ($1 million) and Congregate Meals ($2 million) temporarily.

In FY 2018 budget negotiations, the Federal House approved an amendment that would increase funding for Title III-B Supportive Service by $14.2 million, but the budget has not yet been finalized.

No Legislative Action

Dedicated Source of Revenue
Evidence-Based Programs
Transportation