



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Deficit Reduction – March 10, 2009

From Mike O'Donnell, Chairperson, I4A Legislative Committee

Good morning, Senator Trotter, Senator Murphy and Members of the Committee: The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the vital role of home and community-based services for older adults in Illinois.

Our Association represents thirteen Area Agencies on Aging serving Illinois seniors and family caregivers in partnership with the Illinois Department on Aging, 255 community programs on aging, and 75 nutrition projects. Currently over 600,000 older adults and caregivers receive community-based services through the Illinois Aging Network.

Home and community-based services empower consumers to make informed decisions about their care options; help consumers adopt behavior changes that will reduce their risk of disease, disability and injury; and divert people away from unnecessary nursing home care.

Home and community-based services are cost-effective and control the rate of growth of private and public expenditures for health care. Home and community-based services represent a growing industry in the economies of our state and local communities, and contribute to the quality of family life and work life.

Our Association urges the Members of the Illinois General Assembly to continue your commitment to providing state funding in support of home and community-based services in Fiscal Year 2010, including:

\$5,017,300 for Community-Based Services. This includes \$3,062,300 allocated to the 13 Area Agencies on Aging through the Intrastate Funding Formula on the basis of demographic factors and \$1,955,000 allocated in equal allotments to each of the Area Agencies on Aging for FY2009. Community-Based Services reach over 590,000 Illinois Seniors annually, including:

- Information and Assistance for 428,859 older adults
- Transportation for 28,546 older adults
- 2.9 million congregate meals for 77,261 older adults
- Health promotion including evidence-based healthy aging programs for 41,450 older adults
- Caregiver Support services for 99,768 family caregivers
- Respite services for 2,500 caregivers of older adults
- Support services for 4,979 grandparents raising grandchildren
- Legal assistance for 7,194 older adults and their caregivers

\$9,969,600 for Home Delivered Meals. These funds are allocated to the 13 Area Agencies on Aging to support home delivered meals provided by senior nutrition programs. In FY2009 Area Agencies on Aging project 7.8 million home delivered meals for 43,200 older adults. Continued state funding is essential to respond to the growing demand for meals and cost increases due to the implementation of national standards for Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) and the rising costs of food, utilities, and delivery. The 2009 Home Delivered Meal Report published by the Illinois Department on Aging found that the average cost per home delivered meal has increased by \$0.45 from \$6.10 in 2007 to \$6.65 in 2008 (+7.25%).

\$2,500,000 for the Senior Health Assistance Program (SHAP). In 2008 the Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers helped over 300,000 older adults and persons with disabilities to complete applications for pharmaceutical assistance. In 2008 SHAP workers reported 245,699 consumer contacts, counseling sessions with 127,569 clients, 25,968 outreach visits, 2,109 community education events, 38,023 completed applications for Low Income Subsidies (LIS) to the Social Security Administration, 14,800 enrollments in Medicare Part D plans, and 114,577 completed applications for Circuit Breaker property tax relief, Illinois Cares Rx, and other assistance programs.

\$515,899,300 for the Community Care Program. This includes \$446,899,300 in the FY2009 budget and an additional \$69,000,000 to cover the deficit the Community Care Program will bring into the FY2010 budget. The Community Care Program provides home and community-based services to over 50,000 vulnerable adults each month. I4A defers to the Department on Aging for data on CCP expenditures and cost projections.

\$43,428,600 for Comprehensive Care Coordination through Case Coordination Units. This is the level of funding appropriated by the General Assembly for FY2008 and FY2009. CCUs provide comprehensive care Coordination to an estimated 74,000 vulnerable adults annually. CCUs have not received a rate increase since FY2000. CCUs have been assigned additional tasks to perform but the rate for the new tasks was based on the rate established in FY2000.

\$15,641,400 for the Elder Abuse and Neglect Program. This includes the FY2009 level of \$12,041,400 and \$3,600,000 for the implementation of a program for self neglect of vulnerable older adults under the Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Program. In FY2008 the program investigated 10,574 complaints – a 10% increase from FY2007. Since January 1, 2007, the program has received 2,632 reports of self neglect of vulnerable older adults.

\$1,591,000 for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. This includes \$391,000 funding level for FY2008, the \$450,000 increase approved by the General Assembly for FY2009, and \$750,000 needed to make up for the possible loss of funding from the Civil Monetary Penalty fund. In FY2008 the LTC Ombudsmen investigated 8,138 complaints on behalf of older residents of 1,183 licensed skilled and intermediate nursing facilities with 113,723 beds, 200 licensed Assisted Living Facilities with 8,921 units, and 108 certified Supportive Living Facilities with 8,300 units.

The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging also requests continued state funds in FY2010 for the following:

\$50,686,900 for the Circuit Breaker Pharmaceutical Assistance Program. In 2008, the Illinois Department on Aging reported 245,138 eligible individuals enrolled in the Illinois Cares Rx pharmaceutical assistance program, including 60,917 enrolled in Illinois Cares Rx Basic, and 184,221 enrolled in Illinois Cares Plus. I4A defers to the Department on Aging and HFS for data on Illinois Cares Rx expenditures and projected costs.

\$1,650,000 for the Senior Helpline administered by the Illinois Department on Aging. In FY2008 the Senior Helpline handled a total of 147,915 calls.

\$2,241,700 for Planning & Service Grants to the Area Agencies on Aging, which provide essential state funds to match federal funding under the Older Americans Act.

\$276,000 for Long Term Care System Development grants to the Area Agencies on Aging to assist the Illinois Department on Aging in administering the Community Care Program and promoting quality improvement for home and community-based services.

\$264,300 for Senior Employment Specialists administered by Area Agencies on Aging. Senior Employment Specialists help older adults seeking employment and training opportunities in collaboration with Illinois WorkNet Centers.

\$336,500 for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Programs administered by the Illinois Department on Aging.

\$782,000 for Retired Senior Volunteer Programs. In 2008 there were 16,509 adults 55 years of age and older enrolled in 23 RSVP programs, providing services through more than 2,300 community organizations in Illinois.

\$342,100 for Foster Grandparent Programs. In 2008 there were 1,045 Foster Grandparents with 9 projects serving one-on one as tutors and mentors to more than 5,300 young people.

\$400,000 for the Red Tape Cutter program serving Suburban Cook County. In 2008 Red Tape Cutters leveraged over \$14 million in federal, state and local benefits for older persons.

\$603,600 for the Red Tape Cutter program serving the City of Chicago. In 2008 Red Tape Cutters leveraged over \$25 million in federal, state, and local benefits for older persons.

Thank you for your continued support for Home and Community-Based Services for Illinois Seniors and their families.

I welcome your questions.

If you need further information please contact me.

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