



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
ADVOCACY ALERT
June 25, 2009

FIGHT FOR IN-HOME SERVICES IN 2010 STATE BUDGET!

BACKGROUND:

The Governor's budget recommendation for FY 2010 included a \$17 million "increase" for the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver program, in actuality a funding shift from reduced nursing home utilization. On the flip side, the Governor also recommended \$2 million in cuts for in-home services funded by the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA). The House of Representatives approved the MI Choice increase, and reversed the cuts to OSA. The Senate also approved the MI Choice increase, but agreed with the Governor on cutting OSA.

But the MI Choice increase is still not a sure thing, and it will be an uphill battle to reverse the OSA cuts for next year. The economic crisis is so bad, it forced the Governor and Legislature to make mid-year Executive Order cuts for FY 2009, including a \$1.8 million reduction to OSA, and the elimination of Single Points of Entry. Thankfully, there were no cuts to MI Choice or Home Help for this year.

Your advocacy is needed to protect funding for home and community-based services in next year's (FY 2010) state budget. We've made progress in rebalancing long term care and going backwards is unthinkable!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact key officials involved in budget negotiations, using the message below.

Message: Cutting home care won't save money because it will increase nursing home spending. Don't cut the Governor's \$17 million increase in MI Choice, which is a really a shift in funds from reduced nursing home utilization. Restore the Governor's cuts in OSA programs; Care Management and Access Service cuts especially since the Single Points of Entry have been eliminated. Don't cut the wage increases for Home Help.

Here are more talking points:

- Home and community-based services are cost-effective, prevent nursing home placement, and save Medicaid dollars. Home care contributed to a first-ever decline in nursing home spending from 2007-2008 – saving \$18 million in Medicaid dollars.
- MI Choice and Home Help transitioned 600 people out of nursing homes in 2008 with an immediate cost savings to Medicaid since home care is 20% - 30% of nursing home costs. The MI Choice increase for next year would be used to transition 300 more people from nursing homes – for a total of 900.
- OSA-funded programs divert seniors from nursing homes where they spend down and go on Medicaid. There are 4,600 people now on waiting lists.

Contact these officials. The Governor does not have a public email but messages can be sent through her website.

Governor Jennifer Granholm	(517) 373-3400	www.michigan.gov/gov
Bob Emerson, DMB Director	EmersonB@michigan.gov	
Senator Ron Jelinek	(866) 305-2121 (517) 373-6960	senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Mark Jansen	(866) 305-2128 (517) 373-0797	senmjansen@senate.michigan.gov
Senator Mickey Switalski	(866) 303-0110 (517) 373-7315	senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov
Senator John Pappageorge	(877) 736-1384 (517) 373-2523	senjpappageorge@senate.michigan.gov
Rep. George Cushingberry	(888) 347-8008 (517) 373-2276	georgecushingberry@house.mi.gov
Rep. Richard Hammel	(888) 347-8048 (517) 373-7557	richardhammel@house.mi.gov
Rep. Chuck Moss	(877) 707-6677 (517) 373-8670	chuckmoss@house.mi.gov