



Area Agency on Aging 1-B

# THE ADVOCATE

March 2019

## Governor Whitmer Releases State Budget Proposal- Silver Key Coalition Advocates for Funding Increase

Governor Whitmer has released her inaugural budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, which begins on October 1, 2019, marking the start of the state budget process. The Governor's budget focused on many of her campaign promises, with significant funding allocated to support repairing roads and a proposal to repeal the pension tax.

The Governor did not propose any funding increases for senior in-home services funded by the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) for FY 2020. At the end of FY 2018 there were 6,294 seniors across the state on waiting lists for these services which include in-home personal care assistance, homemaking, and home delivered meals. The Silver Key Coalition is a statewide group working to address unmet needs for these non-Medicaid in-home services. The Silver Key Coalition estimates that a \$6 million funding increase will be necessary to address meet projected need in FY 2020. The Coalition is now advocating with the legislature to encourage them to make a \$6 million investment for in-home services in their budget proposals. For more information about this advocacy request, see the Silver Key Coalition fact sheet on Page 3 of this issue of The Advocate.

The Governor proposed a \$8.3 million (2.3%) reduction in funding to the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program, which is a program that provides long term supportive services in the community to adults who require a nursing facility level of care. While the Governor's proposal was not intended to reduce enrollment or reimbursement rates for the program, senior advocates are concerned with this proposal. Advocates are requesting that the legislature amend the Governor's proposal, and instead include a 5% increase (\$17.6 million) to MI Choice spending over FY 2019 levels in their budget to support service expansion and increased service costs.

The Michigan House and Senate have begun to hold hearings to evaluate the Governor's proposal, and are working to create their own budget proposals. The budget process is expected to continue into this summer.

## Also in this Issue:

- Older Michiganians Day is Wednesday May 15
- President Trump's FY 2020 Budget

## AAA 1-B Contact Your Legislator Guides Now Available

Contacting your elected officials is a critical component of advocacy. When advocates weigh in on important issues, legislators are able to make better decisions on behalf of their constituents. The Area Agency on Aging 1-B has created guides for advocates with information on how to contact your 2019-2020 legislators in each of the six counties in Region 1B.

View your county's guide on [aaa1b.org](https://aaa1b.org/advocacy/contacting-your-elected-officials/): <https://aaa1b.org/advocacy/contacting-your-elected-officials/> If you'd like a printed guide, contact Katie Wendel at 248-798-0599.

## President Trump Releases Budget Proposal, Marking Start of Federal Budget Process

President Trump has released his proposal for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 federal budget, which begins on October 1, 2019. The President's budget marks the beginning of federal budget negotiations, but it is expected that Congress will make changes to the budget in coming months. Overall, the President proposed funding cuts to non-defense discretionary programs, while increasing funding for defense and homeland security.

The President recommended flat funding for Older Americans Act Nutrition funding and Title III-B Supportive Services funding, which supports in-home services such as personal care, chore, and homemaking assistance. A 25% funding cut was proposed for the State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), which funds Michigan's Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP), and a 17% cut was proposed for family caregiver support programs.

The President proposed significant funding cuts to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which provides financial assistance for utility bills; the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which provide wrap-around services for older adults in many communities. The budget would eliminate funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which is used by communities to fund a variety of services, including some chore services in Region 1-B.

Congressional appropriators are now working to create their budget proposals for federal discretionary programs, which are expected to differ significantly from the President's proposal.

## Join Us for Older Michiganians Day Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Older Michiganian's Day (OMD) is an annual rally that takes place on the East Lawn of the Capitol Building in Lansing. This event brings together over one thousand seniors, aging service providers, and senior advocates with their legislators and key state officials.

Interested individuals are invited to join this event to show their support for policies that support older adults. This free event provides the opportunity to speak with a unified voice to the Legislature expressing the concerns, challenges, and opportunities for older adults by the experts, older adults themselves and aging service providers.

Tickets are now available—to reserve your tickets contact Katie Wendel at [kwendel@aaa1b.org](mailto:kwendel@aaa1b.org) or 248-262-9232. For more information about Older Michiganians Day please visit [www.oldermichigiansday.com](http://www.oldermichigiansday.com).



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 Katie Wendel, (248) 262-9232 or by e-mail at [kwendel@aaa1b.org](mailto:kwendel@aaa1b.org) to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.

At the end of FY 2018  
there were  
**6,294**  
seniors on waiting lists  
for services.



**Silver Key Coalition**

*Working to Make Michigan a No Wait State for Senior In-Home Services*

*FY 2020 Budget*

## Addressing Unmet Needs for Senior In-Home Services

The Silver Key Coalition is requesting a **\$6 million increase** for senior in-home services provided by the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) for FY 2020.

- A \$5.15 million increase for in-home service funding would provide care to **4,947 more seniors** in FY 2020.
- An \$850,000 increase in home delivered meals spending would provide meals to **1,194 more seniors** in FY 2020.

### Silver Key Services Help Seniors Stay at Home

A study in southeast Michigan found that those who received services experience positive outcomes when compared to those who remained on waiting lists:



**5x less likely** to have entered a nursing home



Family caregivers are 3x more likely to report that their caregiving responsibilities **no longer interfere with their ability to work**



The number of family caregivers who report their greatest difficulty is the creation of a **financial burden** was cut in half

**If increased appropriations prevent only 80 of the 6,294 seniors from entering a Medicaid Nursing Home for 1 year, the \$6 million investment will pay for itself.**

#### Our Members

AAA of Western MI, AARP of MI, Advocates for Senior Issues, Alzheimer's Association, AAA 1-B, AAA Association of MI, AAA of Northwest Michigan, Community Home Supports, Community Living Services, Detroit AAA 1-A, Disability Network of Michigan, Leading Age, Macomb County Senior Citizen's Services Office, MCAAA, Michigan Adult Day Services Association, MI County Social Service Association, Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging, Michigan Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (MANASP), Michigan Association for Home Care, MI Association of Community Action Agencies, Michigan Senior Advocates Council, Montcalm County Commission on Aging, NASW-Michigan Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, MI Chapter, PHI Midwest, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, Region 2 AAA, Region 3-A AAA, Region 3-B AAA, Region 3-C AAA, Region IV AAA, Region VII AAA, Region 9 AAA, Senior Advisory Council, Oakland County MI, Senior Regional Collaborative, Senior Resources of West MI, Senior Services Midland County Council on Aging, The Senior Alliance, Tri-County Office on Aging, Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP), Valley AAA

[silverkeycoalition.com](http://silverkeycoalition.com)