



FY 2020 State Budget Update: House and Senate Release Budget Proposals for Senior Services

Both the Michigan House and Senate have released their budget proposals for aging services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, which begins on October 1, 2019. A conference committee composed of both House and Senate members will be created to reconcile the differences between the proposals, before passing a final budget. Governor Whitmer has announced that she plans to have the state budget completed by July 31st.

Current Budget Proposals

Silver Key Coalition– Senior In-Home Services

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 advocating for a \$6 million increase in funding to address unmet needs for these non-Medicaid in-home services.

The **Senate** put a \$100 increase placeholder in their budget proposal for senior in-home services in the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) budget. This placeholder is a signal that the Senate is interested in adding more funding to this program if funds become available. There is still a lot of work to be done on the budget, so the Senate signaling that they would consider increasing funding for AASA in-home services is a positive step.

The **House** MDHHS Appropriations subcommittee recommended a reduction of \$101,000 to AASA in-home services. This small reduction (0.24%) would take Michigan in the wrong direction, reducing service funding while unmet needs and waiting lists persist.

MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program

The **Governor** proposed a \$8.3 million (2.3%) reduction in funding to the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program, which provides long term supportive services in the community to adults who require a nursing facility level of care.

The **Senate** is proposing a \$3 million increase over the executive budget proposal, totaling. This is still \$5.3 million less than the FY 19 budget.

The **House** included a \$40.5 million total increase (\$14.6 million from the state General Fund) to increase the reimbursement rates for service providers by 5% and to increase the number of total MI Choice enrollments by 1,000. This would improve the financial stability of the program, enabling providers to serve more people in their homes and communities.

Also in this Issue:

- Older Michiganians Day Photos
- Federal FY 2020 Budget Update

Federal House Committee Releases FY 2020 Budget, Recommending Significant Funding Increases for Senior Services

The Federal House Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2020 funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS), which includes funding for aging services, proposing significant funding increases to aging and disability programs.

The house proposed the following increases for Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs:

- Title III B Home and Community-Based Supportive Services by \$37 million (~10 percent) This funds programs like in home care, housekeeping and chore assistance.
- Congregate Meals by \$29.6 million (6 percent)
- Home-Delivered Meals by \$53.6 million (21 percent)
- National Family Caregiver Support Program by \$19 million (10 percent)
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect programs \$2 million (9 percent)
- Elder Rights Support Activities, including the Elder Justice Initiative, by \$5 million (33 percent)

After years of facing stagnation, cuts and even elimination in House funding bills, committee members proposed a \$5.9 million increase for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which funds Michigan's Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP). If this proposal is passed by Congress, it would fully restore the program's funding from the FY 2016 cut.

The Senate has not yet released its FY 2020 spending proposals and, there is likely much work ahead to arrive at final FY 2020 funding levels. It is expected that lawmakers will work through the summer and fall to develop final spending bills. A late-September continuing resolution (CR) to keep funding flowing until Members can reach a fiscal agreement is quite likely.

Older Michigianians Day 2019

On May 15, almost 200 older adults from Region 1-B visited the State Capitol to advocate on senior issues.

