



State Budget Update: FY 2020 Budget Finalized Governor Issues Line Item Vetoes and Fund Transfers

On September 30th, Governor Whitmer signed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 state budget, issuing 147 line item vetoes and using her authority with the State Administrative board to transfer funds between programs. The status of aging service priorities outlined in the September edition of *The Advocate* are listed below. The legislature and Governor have expressed interest in passing supplemental budgets to modify the budget and restore some programs that were vetoed, but there is no current timeline set for further action on the budget.

Aging Services Increases Included in Final FY 2020 Budget:

- MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program- The Governor approved the \$40.5 million increase (\$14.6 million from the state General Fund) for the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program passed by the legislature. The MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program provides long term care services in the community to adults who require a nursing facility level of care. The legislature directed this funding to increase enrollment in the program and set higher reimbursement rates.
- Specialized Services Transportation- The \$500,000 increase (13%) for specialized services transportation was maintained in the final FY 2020 budget. Specialized Services funds are allocated to public transit authorities, which subcontract with mostly local nonprofits municipalities, senior centers and councils on aging to provide gap filling small bus programs, offering door to door service for Southeast Michigan seniors and people with disabilities.

Administrative Fund Transfers:

- Silver Key Coalition Senior In-Home Services- Governor Whitmer transferred \$99,800 to the Aging and Adult Services Agency Community Services line item, largely replacing the legislature's proposed cut of \$101,000 (less than 1%). This funding supports non-Medicaid senior in-home service programs including personal care and homemaking assistance.

Line Item Vetoes:

- Senior Center Funding- The Governor vetoed \$500,000 for grants to multipurpose senior centers. This funding would have provided one-time \$5,000 grants for senior health programs.
- Alzheimer's Disease Program- The Governor line-item vetoed \$400,000 that was to be directed to an Alzheimer's disease service program provided by the Alzheimer's Association in 10 Michigan Counties.

You Count! Get Counted for Michigan!

Preparing for the 2020 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau will conduct the next Census in 2020. Big changes in the way the count will be managed may make it more difficult and confusing for many older adults, and create new opportunities for scammers to take advantage of seniors. The census count determines the share of billions in federal funding that Michigan receives for roads, schools and programs for older adults and those living with disabilities, as well as the number of congressional representatives for each state. “The adverse consequences of an inaccurate count are real,” says Jim McGuire, Director of Research, Policy Development, and Advocacy at the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, “For every person not counted correctly in Michigan, we lose approximately \$1,800 in state and federal funds per person each year for the next ten years.”

Each home will receive a request to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail in mid-March. This mailing will include a unique Census ID code for your residence. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online. Census workers will only come to your door if you do not initially respond. They will wear an official Census worker badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. Census workers will never ask for a Social Security Number or banking information.

If you travel or have another home in a different state but spend more than six months each year in Michigan, use the unique Census ID code sent to your Michigan address or wait to respond until you get home to Michigan. If you participate in the Census by phone, use your Michigan address when responding. You can use your Michigan address and Census ID Code mailed to your Michigan address even if you are at your out-of-state residence when you receive your invitation in March of 2020, or if you are physically located at your out-of-state residence on April 1.

For more information, go to: <https://aaa1b.org/census-2020/> or call Amanda Sears at 248-262-9222.

Snowbirds:
BE COUNTED IN MICHIGAN!

For more information, go to
www.aaa1b.org/census-2020
or call **248-262-9216**

If you spend six months or more in Michigan, make sure you are counted as a resident of Michigan in the Census.

- Help Michigan to secure its share of federal dollars.
- New in 2020 - Responses collected online and via phone.
- Every home will receive a Unique ID code mailed from the U.S. Census Bureau. You need this code to complete your census (online/by phone).

