



Area Agency on Aging 1-B

# THE ADVOCATE

Sept/October 2020

## FY 2021 State Budget Includes Increases for Aging Services

The Fiscal Year 2021 state budget was released and passed by both the House and Senate on September 23rd. The budget was a success for aging service priorities, with all AAA 1-B programs fully funded, and some modest increases directed to aging services programs. While more details are still emerging about the budget, the following senior service issues were included in the FY 2021 budget:

- The Direct Care Worker wage increase was extended for three more months. Direct Care workers in nursing homes, MI Choice, and Aging and Adult Services Agency programs will continue to receive an additional \$2 per hour until 12/31/20.
- The MI Choice program, which provides in home supportive services for adults with disabilities, is fully funded, with appropriations above FY 2020 amounts allocated by MDHHS.
- Aging and Adult Service Agency (AASA) programs were fully funded, with increases directed to Community Services (\$700,000) and Nutrition Services (\$800,000).
- Senior Volunteer programs (Foster Grandparents, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and the Senior Companion Program), which had been cut in the FY 2020 budget revision, are fully funded in the FY 2021 budget.
- \$500,000 was directed to improve health of people receiving long term care support services
- \$40,000 was directed to create an automated Senior Call Check program to combat social isolation.
- \$200,000 was allocated to support a kinship caregiver advisory council. The AAA 1-B advocated in support of legislation to create this council, which was recently passed by the Senate.

Congressional leaders voted to extend federal FY 2020 funding levels until December 11th, delaying decisions about the Fiscal Year 2021 budget until after the November election.

## Prepare to Vote this November

Michigan will hold a general election on Nov. 3 to determine representation at the local, state and federal levels, including President of the United States. Michigan voters can visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote) to check your registration status, find your polling place, and check the status of your absentee ballot. Voters can also contact their local or county clerk for assistance with election questions.

Region 1-B County Clerk Information:

-Livingston (517) 546-8177

-Macomb (586) 469-5209

-Monroe (734) 240-7020

-Oakland (248) 858-0563

-St. Clair (810) 985-2159

-Washtenaw (734) 222-6730



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.