



February 11, 2010

## Open Letter to the Legislature

As the House begins its deliberation on the FY2011 budget, the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors (MCOA) would like to offer input about Line Item #9110-9002 – Local Aid to municipal councils on aging.

**Governor Patrick has proposed \$8,115,068 in House 2 for FY11: this would translate to**

- **Maintenance of effort (level funding) for the Formula Grant at \$7/elder/year** – The formula grant is a local aid formula based on the population of older adults from the 2000 US Census.
- **A loss of \$500,000 for the Service Incentive Program** – which would eliminate new funding for innovation grants for civic engagement, workforce development, and enacting more evidence-based health programs; as well as reducing the funding for outreach, transportation services, volunteer coordination and for the promotion of consortia (regionalization).

### Recent History

Line Item #9110-9002	GAA	Final Allocation Post '9c' cuts
<b>FY-09</b>	\$8,615,068	\$7,543,424
<b>FY-10</b>	\$8,615,068	\$8,115,068

**MCOA appreciates the Governor's efforts to maintain this line item at the FY2010 level (\$8,115,068) and would ask your support in this effort.** We are, however, deeply concerned about the FY12 Budget. One year from now we will know the results of the 2010 US Census. These results will factor into the calculation of the FY12 Formula Grant.

Early projections of the 2010 census indicate that we may realize an increase of up to 200,000 older adults as the first wave of baby boomers have already turned 60 years of age.

State	Census 2000	Projection 2010
US	45,797,200	56,922,418
MA	1,096,567	1,273,948

**Data Source:** US Census Bureau, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections compiled for the Administration on Aging

To maintain the \$7/elder/YEAR local aid Formula Grant in FY12; we would need an additional \$1.4 million in Line Item #9110-9002 for a minimum total of \$9.5million. Please note, however, that there still would be no funding for Service Incentive Grants to Councils on Aging. To fund line item #9112-9002 at its current level and provide for \$500,000 in Incentive Funding to Councils on Aging, \$10million would be needed.

Estimates suggest that if we enter FY12 with only \$8,115,068 in the Line Item, the Formula Grant would be reduced to FY05 levels of around \$5.50/elder - a 22% decrease. The early 'Boomers' have already entered our system and over the next decade we expect to see an even more dramatic increase in attendance at Council on Aging programs and in requests for services; and the frailest elders over 85 continue to live in our communities needing more and more services.

As you are well aware, we have been sharing this information with the Administration and the Legislature for the last few years, however, we wanted to take this opportunity to again review the various scenarios that would be required to ensure that we continue to provide level funding for Councils on Aging in the upcoming fiscal years.

Thank you for reviewing this document.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact any of us.

Sincerely,



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