

December 9, 2011

JudyAnn Bigby, MD
Secretary
Executive Office of Elder Affairs
One Ashburton Place, 11th floor
Boston MA 02018

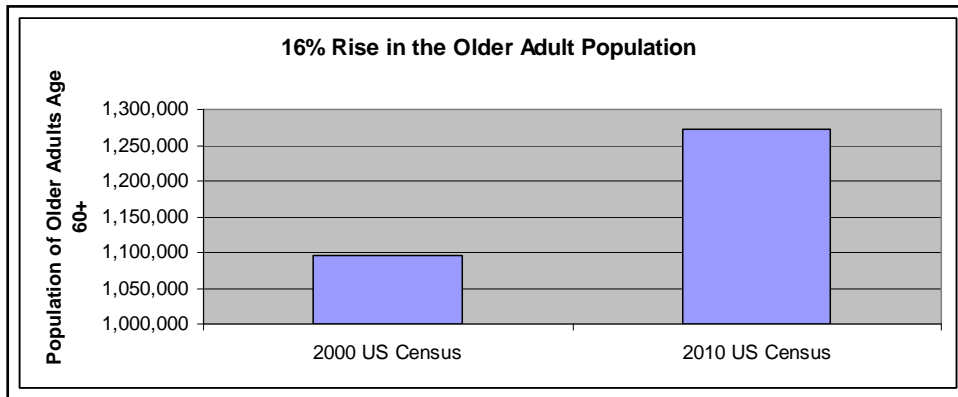
MCOA's FY13 Line Item Request



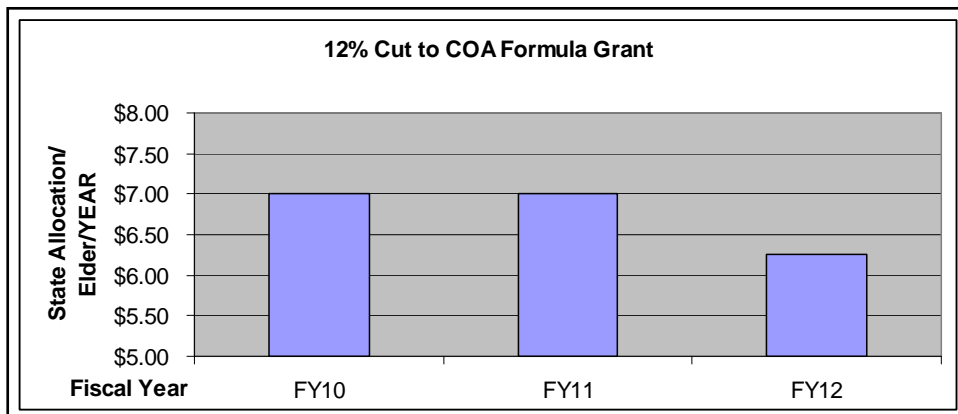
Dear Secretary Bigby:

On behalf of the 349 municipal Councils on Aging, the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging requests that the state Formula Grant be restored to \$7/elder/YEAR in FY13.

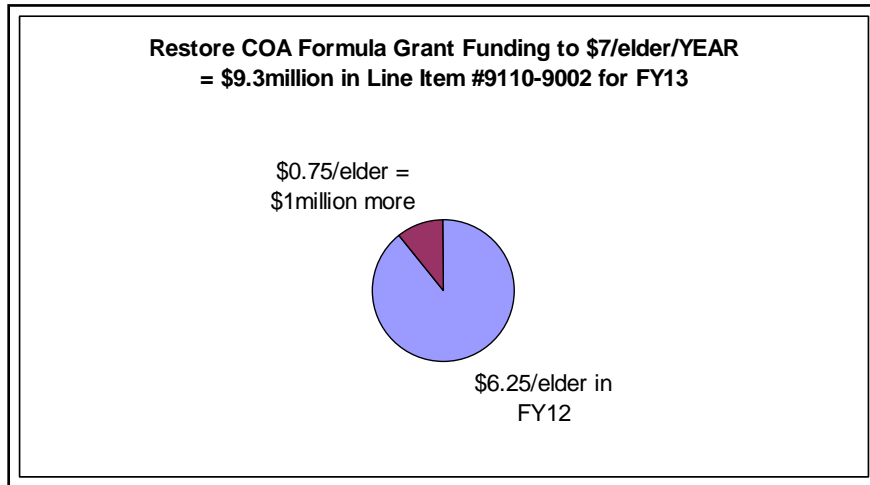
This recession has had a significant impact on Councils on Aging and their ability to effectively maintain services for elders at the local level. Reductions in municipal budgets as well as in Line Item #9110-9002 have occurred simultaneously at a time when we have experienced a 16% increase in the 60-and-older population living in the Commonwealth. The reductions in Line Item #9110-9002 have decimated the Incentive Grant Funding which supported regionalization efforts and innovative programs. In FY 2012, while it appeared that the Formula Allocation was level-funded or had received a small increase, a reduction in the per-elder allocation was the reality. As you are most aware, the Formula Allocation/Grant was calculated utilizing the 2010 US Census numbers. With an additional 176,619 individuals 60 and older now included in the population, the appropriation for Line Item #9110-9002 translated to \$6.25/elder vs. the FY 11 appropriation of \$7.00/elder.



This 16% increase in our constituent population came as no surprise to senior centers who were experiencing increased traffic and waiting lists for two of our most popular programs — Evidence Based Healthy Aging Programs, and Wisdom Works, a job assistance course with origins in the National Governor's Academy. In addition, Baby Boomers who are now turning 65 have overwhelmed Senior Centers as they seek nonbiased assistance in selecting their Medicare supplemental and Rx plans. We are overwhelmed at a time when town budgets are strained and local aid has seen significant cuts, including the 12% cut to the Formula Allocation.



We need your support. MCOA is asking this Administration to allocate \$9.3 million to Line Item #9110-9002. The additional \$1 million will allow the Formula Allocation to be restored to \$7/elder/Year. We have been an active partner of this administration helping to carry out your goals and objectives; we ask that somehow you find the resources to support our joint mission – serving the older adult population.



Thank you for your past support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Farnsworth
MCOA President
Director,
Hingham Department
of Elder Services

Jayne Colino
MCOA Vice President
Director,
Newton Senior Services

Ruthann Dobek
MCOA Legislative Chair
Director,
Brookline Council on Aging

cc: Ann Hartstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Megan Karelitz, A&F