

MCOA Membership

Thanks to Al Norman/Mass Home and N4A we have a status report on the compromise reached over the weekend on Federal budget.

Things to keep in mind:

1. The compromise reached over the weekend level funds most line items but does cut SECESP (8%) and SHINE (9.6%).
2. This compromise still needs to be approved by each chamber and signed into law by the President.
3. If the above is accomplished by Friday we will avoid a government shutdown
4. Also note this proposal is for the current fiscal year (FY17) which began October 1, 2016 and will end September 30, 2017.
5. Secretary Tom Price of HHS and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney have proposed far more drastic cuts for FY18... stay tuned!
6. Also stay tuned for any campaign that may be needed to ask the state legislature to make up the Federal cuts in a Supplemental budget.

Thanks to Al

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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FINAL FY 17 BUDGET FROM CONGRESS HITS ELDERLY JOBS PROGRAM, CUTS SHINE HEALTH COUNSELING, BUT SPARES FUEL ASSISTANCE.

Late Sunday night, April 30th, in their rush to pay for the final 5 months of federal fiscal year 2017 appropriations (May to September) to prevent a government shutdown, Congress agreed to some budget cuts that lop off a significant amount of funding for elderly services---including nearly a 10% cut in funding for the very popular SHINE program (Serving the Health

Information Needs of Everyone), and deep cuts to an elder jobs program. But fuel assistance was level-funded, and small increases provided to meals on wheels and elder abuse programs.

"We expect 2018 to be much worse than this," said Al Norman, the Executive Director of Mass Home Care, "but cuts to health counseling and jobs programs for seniors make no sense in any budget year." Norman said the "fuel aid crisis will come next winter if Congress freezes out the program."

Leadership in the House and Senate announced that they had reached a deal to fund the government through the remainder of FY 2017, and they rejected many cuts to FY 2017 funding that the Trump Administration requested last month.

Congress must still pass, and the President must sign, the proposal funding federal programs for the remaining five months of the current fiscal year,

How Aging Programs Fared: Most Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs were level funded in the final bill. There are some modest increases included for **Older Americans Act Title III Supportive Services** (\$2.5 million), **Title III Home Delivered Meals** (\$1 million) and **Congregate Meals** (\$2 million), and caregiver support (\$25,000). The Elder Justice Initiative also received a \$2 million increase, to identify, prevent and prosecute elder abuse and exploitation.

The **OAA Title V**

Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), administered under the Department of Labor, was cut by \$34 million-or nearly 8%. The Trump Administration has proposed to eliminate SCSEP in FY 2017 and 2018.

The final bill also includes a \$5 million-or 9.6 percent-cut to the **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIPs)**, which we call SHINE in Massachusetts. This means the \$1 million SHINE grant in Massachusetts, will lose roughly \$96,000 over the last 5 months of the federal fiscal year, or close to 10% of its annual funding--a larger cut since it must be made up over 5 months. The Senate appropriators has targeted SHIP funding in the previous two budget cycles, and the Trump Administration requested nearly eliminating current-year SHIP funding. The bill just passed avoids the Senate's more drastic proposed cuts. 76,000 seniors received free health insurance counseling in 2016 under the Massachusetts SHINE program.

Other Key Programs: The final funding package also rejects the new Administration's requests to significantly curtail funding for other critical aging programs. Lawmakers included level funding for **Senior Corps** programs (RSVP, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companion) and the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**. Additionally, the **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**, **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**, and **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** were spared any cuts to current-year funding.

Most other OAA and aging programs were also level funded, including **Title III E Family Caregiver Support program**, **Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman program**, and the Chronic Disease Self-Management and Falls Prevention programs funded through the **Prevention and Public Health Fund**.

Information in this release includes analysis from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

[SEE ATTACHED FUNDING CHART](#)