

Impact of President Trump's FY 18 Budget Blueprint on Elders in Massachusetts



Mass Home Care 3/16/17

President Trump's FY 2018 Budget Blueprint sent to Congress March 16th will result in:

- major cuts in Medicaid enrollment (a drop of 306,000 Medicaid enrollees by 2026—many non-elders-- due to the impact of the American Health Care Act),
- the loss of \$140 million in fuel aid in FFY 18
- \$1.2 million in Older Americans Act funds for social services and meals in FFY 18
- A loss of 81,317 in elder meals funding (\$609,884) in FFY 18
- nearly \$2 million in senior aide jobs in FFY 18
- \$16.5 million in Community Services Block Grants
- the end of legal services corporation, and many other federal program noted below.

[all figures based on 3.34% cut in DHHS funds, across the board, below FFY 17 funds]

DISCLAIMER: The President's "Blueprint" budget is more of a press release than a detailed budget. The fact is, Congress is not even finished with the FY 17 budget, and Appropriations Committees will produce a final federal budget that may or not look much like the President's plan. As in Massachusetts, the Governor submits a House 1 budget document usually in late January, and then after 5 months of deliberations by the General Court, the final budget is produced---often very different than House 1.

The President's "skinny" budget is a message to the Congress about the Trump Administration's funding priorities. The budget contains very few individual program line-items, and many programs that impact the elderly—including funds for Older Americans Act and other aging programs within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and Administration on Aging (AoA) are not specifically mentioned.

The President's FY 18 budget reflect deep cuts below current budget caps and sequestration levels as mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The President does not outline any proposals for mandatory spending, such as Medicare and Social Security, or for federal revenue and tax proposals.

Older Americans Act (OAA) and Other Aging Programs

President Trump proposed funding the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which houses the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and its Administration on Aging, at \$65.1 billion. This is a \$12.6 billion cut (-16.2 percent) below current funding. But roughly \$10 billion of the overall cut to HHS comes from rolling back recent funding increases for the National Institutes of Health and from eliminating other block-grant programs. That would leave a cut of around 3.34% to make in other DHHS programs. If

those cuts were made equally across Older Americans Act programs, the state would lose around \$1.21 million Older Americans Act-related federal funds. But the Blueprint contains no data on actual line item cuts.

President Trump wants to eliminate the Older Americans Act Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), which is housed within the Department of Labor. Last year, Senate appropriators targeted SCSEP for a \$34 million cut to its \$434 million funding level, but the House lawmakers rejected that cut. The Trump budget would zero out the program entirely. This would result in a loss of \$1.88 M to the Community Service Employment program in Massachusetts.

Within the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the President proposed cuts to rental assistance programs, which could include Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly. HUD is slated for an 11.6 percent cut. The Section 202 program helps expand the supply of affordable housing with supportive services for the elderly. It provides very low-income elderly with options that allow them to live independently but in an environment that provides support activities such as cleaning, cooking, transportation, etc.

Other Key Programs Slated for Elimination

In addition to Senior Aides jobs, other programs on the chopping block that could affect services and support for older adults include the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which includes the Senior Corps programs such as Foster Grandparents and RSVP; the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which would cost Massachusetts \$140.4 million in financial assistance for fuel costs; the Community Services Block Grant, which provides around \$16.5 million in wrap-around services for older adults in many communities; and the Legal Services Corporation, which administers some elder justice programs.

Additionally, the budget would eliminate funding within HUD for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This \$3 billion cut would eliminate CDBG funding to states to use for a variety of programs including a small amount that a few states and communities direct toward shoring up senior nutrition programs such as home-delivered meals. However, this cut does not mean that the federal home-delivered meals program under the Older Americans Act was slated for elimination. Those details are not available in the current budget blueprint, but news reports of the CDBG cut have led to confusion among advocates and the public.

As is shown below, Massachusetts gets \$10.1 million for social services under the Older Americans Act. A 3.34% cut in these OAA funds would result in a loss of \$337,340. The state receives \$18.26 million for the elderly meals program—both at congregate meal sites and home-delivered meals. A 3.34% cut in meals funding would result in a loss of \$609,884 in nutrition funding, or a loss of roughly 81,317 meals in FFY 2018.

Here are the federal grant funds that come to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Department of Elder Affairs.

9110-1074	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Older Americans Act – Title III and Title VII.....	\$109,606
9110-1075	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Title VII Ombudsman	\$336,169
9110-1076	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Title IIIB Supportive Service.....	\$10,182,633
9110-1077	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, National Family Caregiver Support Program.....	\$3,700,000
9110-1079	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Title III-D Preventative Health.....	\$436,823
9110-1094	For the purposes of a federally fund grant entitled, State Health Insurance Assistance Program.....	\$1,097,000
9110-1173	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Older Americans Act – Title III Nutrition Program.....	\$13,383,620
9110-1174	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Nutrition Services Incentive Program.....	\$4,885,300
9110-1178	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Community Service Employment Program	\$1,881,340
9110-1190	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, MA Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Program.....	\$100,714
9110-1191	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Enhanced Alcohol and Drug Recovery Options Counseling Program.....	\$198,706
9110-1194	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, 2013 MIPPA ADRC	\$79,154
9110-1197	For the purposes of a federally funded grant entitled, Alzheimer’s Disease Supportive Service Program.....	\$200,000
Total Federal Funding Executive Office of Elder Affairs		\$36,412,065