

MEMO

TO: Esther Olson, AAA Legislative Committee Chair
FROM: Focal Point Directors
DATE: June 14, 2016
RE: Funding Priorities

We would like to address several issues that came up as a result of an April 22, 2016 email requesting Focal Point Directors to rank funding priorities for 2017. This email stated:

The AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee has been discussing priorities for AAA's 2017 budget. The latest draft is attached. Please review and reply with your ranking order (#1 being the highest priority, #6 being the lowest priority). A draft narrative was attached for Directors' review.

The email also indicated the AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee would review the Directors' rankings at their May meeting and forward a recommendation onto the AAA Board of Directors. There was no directive on how to rank these programs, so most Directors prioritized based on their agency's use of these programs.

At the May Legislative/Advocacy Committee Meeting, a lengthy conversation about the priorities took place. That meeting and follow up emails led Focal Point Directors to provide the following clarifications and make the following requests:

- Focal Point Directors are asking for clarification about the goals of the Cultural Diversity Program, the scope of the program, and the proper protocols to access the program. During the May Legislative/Advocacy Committee Meeting Directors were not questioning the effectiveness of the Cultural Diversity Program.
- Focal Point Directors are asking for clarification on why the proposed funding allocation increases do not match the rankings Directors were asked to provide. Directors' top ranked program, Case Management, receives \$25,146 and second ranked Nutrition Site Management receives \$14,585. Whereas the Directors' sixth ranked priority, Cultural Diversity, has the most money attached to it (\$37,057). The Directors' seventh priority, Special Projects Fund, has the second highest amount allotted (\$25,393).
- Based on an extensive dialogue among Focal Point Directors, we would like to recommend the following, slightly revised, prioritization and encourage these funding allocations to more closely align with the priorities Directors were asked to provide.
 - Case Management
 - Nutrition Site Management
 - RSVP Drivers Services
 - Volunteer Guardianship/Rep Payee Program
 - Cultural Diversity Program
 - Caregivers Support Program
 - Special Projects Fund
- Directors' rankings of these programs was based on the scope and impact of each program on older adults in Dane County rather than the effectiveness of each program. We realize each of these programs has merit and importance.
- Focal Point Directors would like to work with AAA Staff to develop more effective communication processes between the AAA Staff and the Focal Points. If we can collectively define more effective communication processes, these strategies can be used earlier in the funding process as we share information and seek input from both AAA Staff and Focal Point Directors.

Thanks for your work. We appreciate the opportunity to work together to improve the lives of older adults.