

# DANE COUNTY 2017 AAA BUDGET PRIORITIES

Approved by AAA Legislative/Advocacy Committee (6/22/16) & AAA Board (7/11/16)

The following budget priorities relate to aging programs and services provided by the Dane County Area Agency on Aging. They are listed in priority order. **See NOTE for comparison to DCDHS budget proposal.**

- #1 CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES** – Provide an increase of \$25,146 for Case Management Services to meet the increasing demand and to restore funding to the 2005 level.

History: Dane County fulfills state-mandated requirements (through the Older American Act) to provide supportive services to assist older individuals to remain living in their own homes by funding Client-Centered Case Management Services through 15 Focal Points. Dane County Supervisors awarded a little less than one third of this funding request in 2016 (\$18,331).

Justification: Between 2005 and 2016, Dane County case management funding decreased 3.2% despite experiencing a 22.1% increase in the age 60+ population. Four Focal Points currently have waiting lists with wait times of four days to two weeks.

Outcomes: Senior adults will receive case management services in a more timely manner by eliminating waiting lists.

**NOTE:** This has not been addressed in the DCDHS proposed AAA budget.

- #2 NUTRITION SITE MANAGEMENT** – Provide an increase of \$14,585 for Senior Nutrition Site Management to maintain the existing 27 meal sites. Funds will restore the 2.5% decrease in funding since 2008 and will be allocated to the 15 Focal Points that manage the 27 meal sites. The amount includes an additional \$3,744 for staffing hours to continue the Meadowood meal site in 2017.

History: Site management costs include coordination and oversight of the following: (1) program outreach targeting seniors at risk of malnutrition (living alone, multiple chronic conditions or medications, racial minority, rural, low income, poor health); (2) supervision of a safe and sanitary facility; (3) service of meals in a congregate setting and delivery of meals to homebound seniors by trained volunteers when appropriate; (4) collection and data entry of required participant registration and service delivery data; (5) utilization of a meal reservation system to accurately and timely order meals through the contracted caterer; and (6) the provision of nutrition education. Dane County Supervisors awarded a little more than one third of this funding request in 2016 (\$12,991). In 2016, a new meal site was opened in a food desert in the Meadowood Neighborhood Center in partnership with the Community Center and Library. This site is critical to the neighborhood and is reaching a minority population that has been underserved.

Justification: Funding has remained relatively flat while costs have increased. Since 2008, funding for site management contracts have decreased by 2.5% while associated costs for labor, insurance, utilities, and rent have continued to increase. Currently focal points are on average providing 35% of the total cost; a rate that many say they can no longer support. Funding is also needed to continue site management costs in 2017 in the Meadowood neighborhood.

Outcomes: Ensure existing senior meal sites will remain open in 2017.

**NOTE:** This has been addressed in the DCDHS proposed AAA budget.

- #3 RSVP DRIVER SERVICES PROGRAM** – Increase funding on a cost to continue basis by \$21,500 to cover volunteer driver mileage reimbursement (\$17,200) and add five hours/week staff time to schedule rides (\$4,300).

History: Since 1975, RSVP's Driver Services Program has ensured Dane County seniors who are no longer able to drive to medical appointments and homebound frail elders needing a hot nutritious meal, are able to remain living healthily in their homes for as long as possible. In 2015, 649 screened, additionally insured, and trained volunteers, using their own vehicles, drove nearly

400,000 miles ensuring more than 1,148 seniors and veterans received nearly 9,000 rides to critical appointments. This can be the only transportation option for seniors living in areas outside of Madison. Although there is no charge for the ride (not allowable per federal Older American Act guidelines), passengers are provided donation envelopes to encourage giving what they can afford. This amount averages \$31,500/year. In addition, these volunteers delivered more than 71,000 meals to frail seniors outside the city of Madison. The program has grown to be one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in the country. The savings to Dane County by using volunteers was approximately \$748,000 to provide both escorted rides and meal delivery in 2015. Justification: Mileage reimbursement has been necessary to maintain a pool of volunteer drivers, especially given increased gasoline prices over time. In 2015, 204 volunteer drivers did not request mileage reimbursement, but the number requesting reimbursement is climbing. Without such reimbursement, nearly two-thirds of all escort rides and home delivered meals would not be possible. Additionally, Ride Scheduling for Madison/Monona has increased substantially (41% increase in rides since 2013). In 2013, 285 unduplicated passengers were provided 1,794 rides, while in 2015, 358 unduplicated passengers were provided 2,533 rides. As a result, staffing to coordinate these rides requires an increase from 20 to 25 hours per week to meet this growth. Outcome: Additional funding will continue the provision of more than 9,000 rides and the delivery of more than 71,000 home delivered meals critical to seniors, as both services allow seniors to age healthily in their own homes for as long as possible.

**NOTE: This has been addressed in the DCDHS proposed AAA budget.**

- #4 VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP/REP PAYEE PROGRAM** – Provide \$24,000 to continue offering the Volunteer Guardianship-Representative Payee Program to 100 senior adults needing services in Dane County through unpaid but highly trained volunteers.
- History: The Volunteer Guardian Program was initiated over 15 years ago at the request of Dane County to address the shortage of qualified Guardians for senior adults who were deemed “incompetent” (unable to make safe, ethical life decisions for themselves) through legal proceedings in the court system. It was modeled after other similar programs from other parts of the country and was the first and largest program of its kind in Wisconsin. By recruiting vetted community adult volunteers and providing training, on-going support, and consulting services by an experienced staff member, South Madison Coalition of the Elderly (SMCE) has served thousands of seniors in need of support in our community, keeping them safe, improving their quality of life, and avoiding elder abuse and financial exploitation of our most vulnerable citizens. The Representative Payee program was added to address problems associated with seniors no longer able to manage their finances, specifically their Social Security income (which most low-income seniors receive as their only source of income) putting them at risk for losing their housing, not having adequate money to purchase basic needs like food, medications and clothing, and needing to access more costly community support networks.
- Justification: Funding for this program has been provided by United Way of Dane County since its inception. With the narrowing of United Way’s focus for senior adults, SMCE received a significant decrease in funding (from \$30,000 to \$23,000 in 2011 and decreasing to \$11,500 in 2016). Program funding will be completely eliminated in 2017. The City of Madison provided funding for 2016 to make up the shortfall, but it is only a one-year commitment. Since this is the only program of its kind in Dane County serving all older residents of Dane County, we need to continue to be able to provide support to meet the ever growing needs and demands of a growing senior population.
- Outcomes: 100 Senior adults in need of support will be provided with vetted, trained Volunteer Guardians and Representative Payees. These volunteers will meet the legal requirements of providing responsible decision-making and financial management to keep residents safe, free from exploitation and abuse and secure in their later years—most through end of life.

**NOTE:** Using 2016 funding, AAA was able to provide \$12,500 to this program to be used in 2017. Unable to use additional Title 3-B funding as only half of this program serves community-based clients (a criteria for Title 3-B funding).

- #5 CULTURAL DIVERSITY PROGRAM** – Increase funding on a cost to continue basis by a total of \$37,057 to include: (1) \$26,057 to increase two program specialist positions to full-time and raise their hourly rate to \$17/hour; (2) \$10,000 for transportation; and (3) \$1,000 for program supplies. History: Funding currently comes from OAA/Title III B monies. However, state and federal dollars available to provide services on behalf of the aged population have been constantly held without increase as compared with prior years or even reduced. From 2003-2014, the program budget remained relatively flat, increasing from \$31,400 to \$37,126 during that 12 year span. In 2015, the budget was increased by 15% to \$43,471. The current budget covers two .63 FTE program specialist positions, program supplies, travel reimbursement, and other operating expenses. These two positions are contracted to North/Eastside Senior Coalition, cover the entire County, and have been part-time since the program's inception in 1975.
- Justification: Dane County continues to experience an increase in racial-minority population (over 13% according to the 2010 Census Data, [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov)). The three leading minorities age 65+ represented in Dane County continue to be Latino, Asian/Hmong, and African American. Dane County population of elderly (age 60+) People of Color (PoC) increased 9.16%, from 4,082 in 2010 to an estimated 4,456 according to the ACS 2009-2013 Estimate. During this same period, White non-Hispanic population grew 6.11%, from 70,843 to 75,171. Census data, using a 2009-2013 Interpolation Method, show the following about individuals living in Dane County: total number of adults age 60+ = 79,627; total number of adults (age 65+) living in a below poverty level household = 4,329; total number of racial-minority adults (age 60+) = 4,456. NESCO's two cultural diversity program specialist positions cover the entire County and have been .65 FTE or less since the beginning of the program. It has been virtually impossible to keep up with the growing population of seniors in Dane county. Over the years, NESCO has received various grants to support the program but none of these grants have been sustainable. In 2015 and 2016, NESCO partnered with the University of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) on two evidence-based pilot programs, *Pisando Fuerte* and *Physical Activity for Life for Seniors* (PALS). These programs focus on falls prevention for senior adults. However, there is no funding available to continue these important health prevention programs after the pilots were completed. In short, Dane County's demographics are changing, and response to this change must ensure targeted programs will meet needs of all older adults.
- Outcomes: Ensure that African American and Latino senior adults in the program (300+ annually) will continue to receive home visits and be connected with Focal Point case managers for additional services as needed. This funding will provide services to 200 additional African American and Latino seniors; continue falls prevention exercise classes; and a caregiver support group will be established for African American senior adults. (NOTE: The African American Cultural Diversity Program provides monthly health education discussion and diabetes support presentations. The Latino Cultural Diversity Program holds monthly health education discussion group presentations; it also offers Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren caregiver support group (8 months/year) and a diabetes support group (4 months/year).
- NOTE:** This has not been addressed in the DCDHS proposed AAA budget.
- #6 CAREGIVERS SUPPORT PROGRAM** – Increase funding on a cost to continue basis by 16% for a total of \$21,418 to include (1) \$10,500 for 21 individual grants and (2) \$10,918 to maintain coordinator position at full-time.

History: Funding currently comes from OAA/Title III E and a small amount of County GPR. The current budget covers a full-time coordinator position, client expenses (awarded through \$500 grants) and non-client general expenses (supplies, printing, outreach, etc.).

Justification: Dane County funding has remained relatively flat since 2008, however the individual grant amount has decreased from \$700 to \$500 to address the increase in grant requests (138/yr average.) (1) The \$10,500 will allow the program to maintain the number of grants awarded at the 138/year level. (2) The coordinator position workload has significantly increased as the State has decreed that grant payments can no longer be pre-paid but must be paid as services are rendered thus increasing the time to process by 20% to 25%. The position was bumped to full-time in 2016, using education, training, and supply funding. Sustaining this funding cut into 2017 will severely impact the success of the program.

Outcomes: Additional funding will provide \$500 grants to 21 caregivers thus maintaining the 138/yr level and provide adequate staff time for awarding and tracking grant requests as well as time to provide outreach and education services.

**NOTE: This has been addressed in our the DCDHS budget proposal.**

**#7 SPECIAL PROJECT FUND – Increase funding to the original recommendation of 5% of Focal Point case management funds or \$25,393.**

History: Introduced by the Access Committee, the Special Project Fund was endorsed by the AAA Board and ultimately received approval in the 2015 budget. The purpose was to “meet the need of new funding for Focal Point initiatives or special one-time costs.” Although not the total amount requested (5% of Focal Point case management funds or \$36,450), the County did include \$13,807 for a one-time Special Project Fund in 2015 and 2016. The AAA Board ultimately agreed with an AAA staff recommendation to add this funding to the 2015 Leck and Mally Grants to contract for a Mental Health Consultant who will provide resources, opportunities, and strategies for Senior Focal Point Case Managers dealing with senior adult clients with complex mental illness challenges. In 2016, this funding was used towards funding a pilot program: Mental Health Consultation for Focal Point Case Managers.

Justification: The Special Project Fund was established to address unmet needs not covered by the Case Management Funding Formula. Its rationale: “The formula has an over-all static quality that cannot take into account innovative case management services provided by Focal Points. It cannot allow funding of any Focal Point initiative. It cannot allow for one-time costs such as for unanticipated equipment needs, start-up costs for special projects, continuing education opportunities, limited staff time to meet emergency situations, unanticipated costs for specialized equipment or services, and increased costs for supplies, postage, equipment repairs, and services.”

Outcomes: Adequate funding will ensure Case Management initiatives and unmet needs are addressed.

**NOTE: This has not been addressed in the DCDHS proposed AAA budget.**

## Summary

#1	Case Management Program	\$25,146
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#2	Nutrition Site Management	\$14,585
#3	RSVP Driver Services	\$21,500
#4	Volunteer Guardianship/Rep Payee	\$24,000
#5	Cultural Diversity Program	\$37,057
#6	Caregiver Support Program	\$21,418
#7	Special Project Fund	\$25,393
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$169,099</b>

If the DCDHS proposed AAA budget is adopted, the following priorities will remain:

#1	Case Management Program	\$25,146
#4	Volunteer Guardianship/Rep Payee	\$11,500
#5	Cultural Diversity Program	\$37,057
#7	Special Project Fund	\$25,393
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,096</b>