



Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Priorities: Invest in Our Communities

Oppose March 15th Adult Day Health Center Rate Cuts: The daily rate proposed (\$49.98) puts rates back to 2006 levels. This rate is far below the actual cost of operations for 83% of providers, some programs will be forced to close their doors and hundreds of elders will lose their service. Please contact Secretary Bigby, Dir. Dougherty and Commissioner Morales to voice your opposition to Adult Day Health rate cuts.

Retain current eligibility standards and restore full funding for Adult Day Health Centers: The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate "basic" care and cut \$55m from Adult Day Health Centers. The result would be an end of services for more than 11,000 frail elders and persons with disabilities (47% of whom are nursing home eligible) and eliminate more than 2,500 jobs. Support full funding for Adult Day Health Programs (Line item 4000-0600) and oppose the planned restructuring of the program in outside section 44 of the FY12 Budget.

No Waiting List for Home care: The Governor's budget would slash \$4.9m from home care services, causing eligible seniors to be placed on a waiting list instead of getting the care they need. In 2010, the waiting list soared to over 3,000 people. Keep elders in their communities and avoid costlier institutional care. Fund line item (9110-1630) with \$103.2 Million

Protect the Personal Care Attendant Program:

The MassHealth Personal Care Attendant (PCA) program is a central piece of the Massachusetts long term care system. Operating for over thirty years, the PCA program has proven that for many of the state's seniors and consumers with disabilities it is an effective and cost-efficient long term care program. Support the Governor's proposed budget for the PCA Program.

Protect Abused Elders: Although the Governor's budget would level fund protective services for elder abuse, reports of elder abuse have risen 31% since 2008. In Massachusetts, 54 incidents of elder abuse are reported each day however a study has revealed that for every one incident reported, 24 acts of abuse go unreported. Please support \$17.2 million for line item (9110-1636).

Restore Prescription Advantage. The Governor's budget would cut an additional \$9.88 million from this vital health care coverage for seniors. Since 2006 this program has been dismantled piece by piece through budget cuts, leaving low-income seniors to bear the cost. Seniors are faced with paying hundreds of dollars more for their medications, which means many seniors must go without. Level funding Rx Advantage at FY11 levels will enable the EOEA to reinvest the savings realized from the federal health care reform to restore support for some of the most vulnerable elders in our state. Please level fund Rx Advantage (Line Item 9110-1455).

As of 3-9-11