



Restore Prescription Advantage

Support Level Funding for Fiscal Year 12:

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.

The Governor's budget would cut an additional \$9.88 million from this vital health care coverage for seniors.

Massachusetts was the first state to develop a prescription drug program for elders (2001) recognizing the unmet need within the senior community; many other states followed our lead. In 2006, Prescription Advantage ceased to be a stand-alone program and became a "wrap around" plan to help the most vulnerable seniors in the Commonwealth with the high costs of the new Medicare D plan.

Since 2008, repeated budget cuts have dismantled Prescription Advantage piece by piece, leaving low-income seniors to bear the cost.

Here is a look back at Prescription Advantage and the associated cuts.

Plan Year 2008 (FY 08 funding: \$59 million):

Prescription Advantage provided essential "wrap around" support for the expensive Medicare D plan. Eligibility was open to all individuals over 65 and adults with disabilities; however support was tiered based on an individual's income. For more than 40,000 individuals with an income under \$20,000 this program provided a lifeline enabling them to afford needed prescriptions.

The program included:

- Coverage for the \$250 deductible
- Co-payment assistance (limited costs to \$7 and \$18)
- Monthly Medicare D premium assistance (up to \$29)

Plan year 2009 (FY 09 Funding: \$48 million)

- EOEA eliminates deductible coverage
- EOEA eliminates co-payment assistance until drug costs exceed \$2,700

Plan Year 2010 (FY 10 Funding: \$33 million)

- EOEA eliminates monthly Medicare D premium assistance for more than 40,000 low-income elders
- No assistance until drug costs exceed \$2,830

Plan year 2011: (FY 11 Funding \$31 million)

- No co-pay assistance until drug costs exceed \$2,840

Proposed FY 12 Funding: \$21 million

- No coverage until the cost of medications exceeds \$2,840.
- Elders are forced to pay the full cost of Medicare D which includes:
 - A monthly premium (average \$33/mo),
 - An initial Deductible of \$310
 - 25% of the cost of their medications until the cost exceeds \$2,840



**Stop The Cuts, Invest In Our Communities.
Level Fund Prescription Advantage (Line item 9110-1455)**

For More information call Mass Senior Action Council (617) 442-3330