

Protecting the Aging Services Ecosystem

Federal Threats to Aging Services,
Local Impacts, and What We Can Do

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About the Coalition

The Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County advances county and state policy change that improves the lives of seniors in Alameda County.

SSC's 40 member organizations provide health and supportive services to over 65,000 older adults in Alameda County.

Our Vision: A county where all people can age in place, live with dignity, be part of a community, feel safe, maintain health and mobility, and exercise choice.

SSC's Mandate

Work collaboratively to advance policy that:

- Ensures reliable and relevant funding for community-based services.
- Establishes community-based supportive services as key partners with health care; bridges the health and social services silos; and leverages new and existing resources for better health outcomes.
- Improves the economic security of older adults in the county.

Today...

- ▶ From an Advocate's Perspective...
- ▶ Current Reality - Federal Budget Aging Services Funding
- ▶ President's "Skinny" Budget and Prospects for Funding
- ▶ Local Impacts: California and Alameda County
- ▶ Our Action Plan (all of us!)

Federal Budget Today

- ▶ Has continued to be contentious in spite of \$5 trillion in deficit reductions achieved in recent years
- ▶ 75% of those deficit reductions have been through spending cuts - most in Non-Defense Discretionary spending (NDD)
- ▶ NDD includes core funding for aging programs and services, including:
 - ▶ All Older Americans Act programs and services
 - ▶ State Health Insurance Program (HICAP in California)
 - ▶ HUD Housing Counseling
 - ▶ HUD Section 202 Housing for the Elderly
 - ▶ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
 - ▶ Community Development Block Grants

Federal Budget Today, cont

- ▶ 2013 Federal Budget “Sequestration”
 - ▶ \$85 billion “across the board” reductions in spending authority in 2013 split between Defense and NDD
 - ▶ With scheduled reductions in following years
- ▶ In each year since 2013, President Obama and Congress agreed to ease those cuts by substituting alternate deficit-reduction measures.
- ▶ 2013 was bad!

A Look at Alameda County - 2013 Sequestration Impact

- ▶ Sequester cuts to federal Older Americans Act programs totaled about \$340,000 in county's FY 13/14
 - ▶ Senior Nutrition... a 17% cut
 - ▶ Supportive Services¹ and Senior Employment... 6% cuts
 - ▶ Disease Prevention and Elder Abuse Prevention ... 7% cuts
 - ▶ Family Caregiver ... a 5% cut
 - ▶ HICAP..... a 8% cut
- ▶ Thousands of service hours were about to be cut
- ▶ Alameda County stepped up to backfill the cuts

¹ Case management, Adult Day Care, Friendly Visiting, phone reassurance, senior center activities, I & A, language interp.

Sequestration is still with us!

Compare federal funding for the following examples...
No program funding stream is adequate for 2017's need

| Federal Program | In FY 2010 | In FY 2013 | In FY 2016 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Aging Network | \$44.2 mil | \$7.4 mil | \$10 mil |
| Congregate Meals | \$440.7 mil | \$416.1 mil | \$448 mil |
| Preventive Health | \$21 mil | \$19.8 mil | \$19.8 mil |
| Innovations | \$19 mil | 0 | 0 |
| Family Caregiver | \$154.2 mil | \$145.5 mil | \$150.6 mil |
| Senior Employment | \$825.4 mil | \$424.8 mil | \$434.4 mil |
| Soc. Serv. Block Grants | \$1.7 bil | \$1.6 bil | \$1.7 bil |
| HUD Section 202 Housing | \$765 mil | \$352.8 mil | \$432.7 mil |

President's Proposed 2018 Budget (what we know)

- ▶ “Skinny” proposed budget released March 16 - broad brush, not a lot of detail
- ▶ Would restore \$54 billion in defense sequestration cuts scheduled for 2018; and would cut NDD, including the following cuts to departments and to specific aging programs...
- ▶ Cut the Department of Labor budget by \$2.1 billion or 21%, including:
 - ▶ Eliminate the Senior Community Service Employment Program

President's Proposed 2018 Budget (what we know)...cont

- ▶ Cut Health and Human Services budget by \$15.1 billion or 17.9% of 2017 levels, including:
 - ▶ Eliminate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that helps low-income families with children and seniors with their utility bills
 - ▶ Eliminate the Community Services Block Grant that is administered by states and provides core funding to local agencies to reduce poverty

President's Proposed 2018 Budget (what we know)...cont

- ▶ Cut Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by \$6.2 billion or 13.2%, including:
 - ▶ Eliminate the \$3 billion Community Development Block Grant that provides funding for Meals On Wheels and other community services in many cities
- ▶ Eliminate the Legal Services Corporation, the Corporation for National & Community Services (Senior Corps/RSVP/Foster Grandparent) and many other independent agencies

Federal Budget Cuts to Aging Programs - What to Expect

- ▶ Many aging services reside in the Department of Health & Human Services (proposed 17.9% cut)
- ▶ Until a detailed budget proposal is released later this Spring, we won't know more
- ▶ The 16% Sequestration cuts that are currently scheduled for 2018 may affect all programs
- ▶ Brace for potentially deeper cuts and eliminations.
- ▶ Negotiations - and advocacy - starts now and continues through October

Local Impacts - California

- ▶ In California, federal funding is at risk for most of the programs administered by the Department of Aging (its total budget is \$204 million this fiscal year):
 - ▶ Nutrition - \$72.3 million in annual federal funding
 - ▶ Senior Employment - \$7.8 million in federal funding
 - ▶ Supportive Services - \$63.6 million in federal funding
 - ▶ Community-based Programs (primarily HICAP) - \$7.6 million in federal funding
 - ▶ CBAS and MSSP are Medi-Cal programs, and are also at risk from proposed caps and cuts to Medicaid
- ▶ California's LIHEAP program is part of a set of Energy Programs with a total budget of \$189 million.

Local Impacts - Alameda County

- ▶ In Alameda County, federal funding is at risk for Older Americans Act programs administered by the Area Agency on Aging, which receives about \$5.3 million in federal funding
- ▶ Impact of potential cuts in terms of service hours, numbers of meals, and outcomes for community members not served?
 - ▶ To be determined, but could be significantly worse than 2013

Our Action Plan (All of Us)

- ▶ Meet with, call and write **state and federal** legislators to inform them about the value of these services, and put the threatened cuts on their radar
 - ▶ Message to state: “you need to have our back”
- ▶ Stand up for these services:
 - ▶ Follow NCOA.org and JusticeInAging.org and take action when they ask you to
 - ▶ Share your concerns and calls to action with colleagues and friends across the state and across the country
 - ▶ Follow SeniorServicesCoalition.org and respond to our calls to action
 - ▶ Participate in local events where you can tell your story and call for protecting programs and funding that make a difference to people in our community

Questions?

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