



Advocacy • Action • Answers on Aging

County Access Centers

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To: Region 1-B County Commissioners and State Legislators

From: Tina Abbate Marzolf, CEO

Date: April 30, 2013

Re: **Update on the Impact of Federal Sequestration Cuts on District Constituents**

The federal government has mandated a funding cut totaling about 4.5% (about \$700,000 - final figure has not been received yet) for older adult programs funded through the Older Americans Act and administered by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B). Since there is only one half of the fiscal year remaining, the net impact of the cut will total about 9%. The purpose of this communiqué is to let you know how these cuts will affect services for older adults in your districts. The AAA 1-B Board of Directors, which is comprised primarily of local elected and appointed officials from the six county regions that we serve, has adopted a two-fold strategy to manage the cuts and minimize the impact on the region's most vulnerable seniors, which is summarized below, with more detailed information provided on the enclosed document.

**Strategy 1: Absorb a larger share of the cuts at the AAA 1-B administrative level**

The AAA 1-B has cut management and administrative expenses by 9.25% (18.5% net effect), and will be allocating funds from agency reserves to lessen the impact on in-home services, which are already beset by wait lists.

**Strategy 2: Prioritize the most essential services and protect highest priority services**

The AAA 1-B has surveyed the community and analyzed various sources of need information (see back) to identify the highest priority services, and will impose cuts on lower priority services. This means that in your districts you may hear about the following for the remainder of FY 2013:

- The closing or reductions of days for congregate nutrition sites, in order to protect funding for home delivered meals for the homebound.
- Cuts in lawn mowing and minor home repairs, resulting in more blight in neighborhoods.
- Closure of all seven out of home respite beds in July, August and September, leaving family caregivers to manage their burden without a break.
- Limiting access to homemaking and in-home respite for new applicants and wait listed individuals, in order to preserve access to personal care and emergency unmet needs.

These were difficult decisions that were made with considerable deliberation to protect the most vulnerable populations. **You should know that we are working to explore alternatives to mitigate the impact of these cuts, including identifying new fundraising, public private partnerships, and advocacy including an awareness effort at Older Michigianians Day on June 4 in Lansing.** If you have any questions about the AAA 1-B management of these cuts, please contact me at (248) 262-9200.

## AAA 1-B Services Priority Ranking

Fiscal Years 2014-16

Priority Rating	Service	Average Priority Rank
1	Home Delivered Meals	3.20
2	Information and Assistance	4.00
3	Personal Care	4.60
4	In-Home Respite	7.00
5	Care Management	8.80
6	Chore Service	9.00
7	Adult Day Service	9.00
8	Out-of-Home Respite	9.80
9	Legal Services	10.60
10	Homemaking	11.20
11	Elder Abuse Prevention	12.20
12	Congregate Meals	12.80
13	Home Injury Control	13.20
14	Evidence Based Disease Prevention	13.40
15	Medication Management	14.20
16	Hearing Services	14.60
17	Long Term Care Ombudsman	14.60
18	Public Education	14.60
19	Health Benefits Education	15.20
20	Assistive Devices (PERS)	16.00
21	Volunteer Respite	16.20
22	Resource Advocacy	16.40
23	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	16.40
24	Vision Services	19.60

Highest Priority



Lower Priority

Priorities developed in March 2013 based on 5 weighted data sources:

1. 2013 Older Adult surveys from 5 Community Forums
2. 2013 Survey of Service Providers & Advocates
3. 2012 AAA 1-B Call Center Statistics
4. 2011 National Service Demand data (source: National Association of States United for Aging & Disabilities)
5. 2009 Regional Service Collaborative Focus Groups

The Area Agency on Aging 1-B, established in 1974, is a non-profit 501(c)3 agency responsible for services to more than 540,000 persons age 60 and older residing in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties

For more information on these services, visit [www.aaa1b.com](http://www.aaa1b.com) or call 800-852-7795