



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING
ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

AAA Recommendations on the FY2025 MDHHS Budget

March 13, 2024

Area Agencies on Aging

- Sixteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) serve all 83 Michigan Counties
 - Established in 1974 by the federal Older Americans Act to create comprehensive local systems of care designed to support older adults to live independently in their own homes
 - Prepaid Ambulatory Health Plans (PAHPs) – Designated as managed care organizations, agents for the Medicaid MI Choice Waiver program
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

Area Agencies on Aging

- Older Michiganians Act (1981) provides state support for home and community-based services (HCBS) and elevates the mission of AAAs
- AAAs braid Older Americans Act, Older Michiganians Act, and Medicaid MI Choice funding to create seamless local systems of care

Expand the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

- Ombudsmen are neutral third parties who advocate for residents of licensed nursing, homes for the aged, and adult foster care facilities
- Ombudsmen explain resident rights, empower residents, investigate complaints, educate about LTC issues, advocate for residents and families, visit facilities in person, and inform systemic change
- 4,610 licensed facilities -- 103,549 licensed beds -- 20 LTC ombudsmen statewide
- 3,284 resident complaints investigated and resolved in FY2023
- MI ombudsman to licensed bed ratio is 1:5,177 – 44th nationally
- Recommended ratio is 1:2,000 licensed beds
- **Recommendation: Adequately staff the LTC ombudsman program by adding 33 new positions at a cost of \$3 million GF**

Support Family and Informal Caregivers

- 23% (1.73 million) Michiganders are caregivers
- Supporting unpaid caregivers is an urgent public policy priority
- A \$5 million one-time appropriation to AAAs in FY2024 is expanding virtual and in person supports, improving awareness and outreach, and linking caregivers to available resources
- **Recommendation: The \$5 million one-time appropriation be added as a permanent part of the AAA funding base in FY2025**

MI Choice Program

- MI Choice supports nursing home eligible Medicaid beneficiaries in their homes avoiding costly institutional placement
- The Medicaid asset limit of \$2,000 is a barrier to enrollment in MI Choice
- Spend down is a feature currently unavailable to MI Choice enrollees
- MI Choice served 15,628 participants in FY2023
- Average daily cost MI Choice participant -- \$89.53*
- Average daily cost for nursing facility -- \$235 to \$361 per day*
- \$539 million estimated savings to Medicaid by providing long-term care through MI Choice instead of nursing facility care in FY2023* -- *MDHHS MI Choice Waiver Data Update, 11/29/23
- **Improve access to MI Choice by increasing the asset limit and adding spend down flexibility**

4AM

- The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) is a nonprofit corporation established to advocate for older adults, persons with disabilities, and AAAs in Michigan
- 4AM Mission: Collective voice and action to promote healthy aging, dignity, and independence
- 4AM represents all 16 Michigan AAAs

Thank You

- Christine Vanlandingham, President, 4AM, CEO, Region 4 Area Agency on Aging, St. Joseph, MI
 - Don Saldia, Director, Area Agency on Aging Region IIIA
 - Bob Brown, Executive Director, Region VII Area Agency on Aging
 - David LaLumia, Executive Director, 4AM
 - www.4ami.org
 - March 13, 2024
- 
- A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.