

**Testimony to the Illinois House of Representatives  
Human Services Appropriations Committee**

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By

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Chairperson Harris, Vice Chairperson Gabel, Republican Spokesperson Bellock, and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting testimony from the area agencies on aging regarding real and potential harm if a state budget is not advanced for this and next year.

Illinois has 2,552,902 individuals age 60 and over according to the most recent Population Estimates. 207,813 report incomes under the poverty threshold. For a household of 1, poverty is \$12,060 or less per year and for 2, \$16,240 or less.

Federal funds are provided on an October through September fiscal year. This overlaps State Fiscal years. Federal Fiscal Year 2016 concluded on September 30, 2016 and Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 commenced on October 1, 2016. The 2016 FFY was closed out at the community organization and area agency on aging level with the help of the sorely needed June, 2016 Stop Gap funding which was sufficient to meet Older Americans Act State match requirements for federal 2016. Starting October 1, 2016 there have not been state funds available to the aging network, thus the federal awards are currently unmatched. Illinois provides state funds for Administration and Services that “earns” or “matches” the designated federal funding under the Older Americans Act. There is Illinois Budget authority to receive and distribute the federal funding to area agencies on aging and community senior service organizations through the end of this month (but these dollars must be matched by Illinois).

The Federal Funding to Illinois total is projected at \$44,554,504 based on recently concluded FFY 2017 federal appropriations. The Federal Administration is proposing slightly less funding for the Administration for Community Living in FFY 2018. The State share of Administrative Match for the area agencies on aging in FFY 2017 as shared by the Illinois Department on Aging in preparation of our 2018 Area Plans on Aging is \$1,467,026 and the required service match is \$929,898. The Department on Aging has instructed area agencies on aging to plan for the additional funding for Community Based Services at \$6,325,076 and \$1,751,200 (the latter is divided by 13).

In total the Governor’s proposed budget equals \$79,897,704 for the Illinois Aging Network. State Home Delivered Meals totals \$21,800,000 under this proposal and Ombudsman services at \$3,070,000. Illinois reaches over 504,000 citizens each year with these dollars.

A major issue is the security of up to \$44,554,504 in federal dollars. Without required service and administrative match, Illinois is in danger of owing \$33,415,878 back to the federal Department of Health and Human Services - plus interest. As important, Illinois will immediately lose \$11,138,626 for the remaining FFY 2017! My understanding of federal grant guidelines is that when federal awards end, the terms of the agreement must be met at that time. If there is no Illinois budget in July, and Illinois must stop current grant awards, the assumption will be that the grant must be fully concluded which demands state matching funds at least for the period October 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Most important is that the Illinois Aging Network will be stripped of essential resources, vulnerable older persons and their family caregivers will not be served, and most likely agencies in your districts will close and staff will be let go.

On the watch list of federal programs that are essential to the health and wellbeing of Illinois' older low-income population are the Senior Community Services Employment Program, the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Low Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), reductions in SNAP (Food Stamp) funding, Community Development Block Grant, Medicaid, and other federal funds that are needed by your older constituents to assure their safety, but may be stripped if the President's Budget proposals advance.

The Illinois Department on Aging has a number of programs with area agencies on aging that do not have current enacted budget appropriations including the Senior Employment Specialist (\$190,300 statewide) and the Adult Protective Services (\$451,067 statewide) awards. These programs have approved proposals, GATA requirements are met, services are provided and reports submitted, but formal grant awards are missing. These programs require \$641,367 for the current State Fiscal Year from Illinois to assure that services are reimbursed. Note that the APS award is essential for the correct investigation and resolution of reports of abuse and neglect for adults age 18 and over. Not only do area agencies on aging conduct required coordination activities, provide technical assistance and public information but we assure annual case reviews are performed to offer quality control for the approximate 12,000 reports received each year. As you know from your oversight of the Department of Children and Family Services, there is no room for error in programs that have responsibility for the welfare of vulnerable populations.

My request today is that the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor enact a budget that fully authorizes the use of federal funding for older Americans and all citizens. That state required support be available and released to assure services, and that adequate revenues be fairly assessed to assure that Illinois is able to handle past, current and future costs of being a State.

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