



JB Pritzker, Governor
Paula A. Basta, M.Div., Director

Respect for Yesterday
Support for Today
Plan for Tomorrow

[Click here to visit our website for an accessible version of this letter.](#)

**Find A Vaccine
Location**

IDoA COVID-19 Resources

June 25, 2021

Dear Aging Network:

The Illinois Department on Aging is pleased to announce highlights from the recently passed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget that addresses the needs of older Illinoisans and the opportunity through State and Federal funding to assist in re-building our Aging Network. Our commitment is stronger than ever in our dedication to older Illinoisans and their families in providing equitable access to social services, supports, programs, and resources to enable older adults to remain independent and to “age in place.”

Building off the lessons learned over the past year, the FY 22 enacted budget prioritizes meeting the basic needs of older adults with a focus on social determinants of health including food security, transportation, connectivity, support for caregivers, and stabilizing the workforce. We are now at a rebuilding and maintaining stage that the Department on Aging is fully committed to guiding our network through strong partnerships and compassion.

The critical importance of food security and the relationship of nutrition to older Illinoisans physical health is a top priority within the budget. The General Assembly, Pritzker Administration, and the Biden Administration recognized the importance of food security and provided much needed resources to respond to increased demand for Home Delivered Meals (HDMs). A combination of increased state and federal funding resulted in an additional \$33.6 million to support continued access to the Department’s nutrition programs. Additionally, the enacted budget provides \$5 million for continuing to support emergency senior services, including transportation, home modifications, and assistance with providing ethnic meals.

Social isolation and the negative impact of isolation on older adults’ physical and mental health is well documented. The COVID pandemic along with the existing digital divide further impacted this concern for many of Illinois’ older adults. Remote programming along with the Department’s very successful Illinois Care Connections Program assisted with mitigating this issue. The FY 22 budget includes \$2 million to expand the Illinois Care Connections Program to additional older adults and the American Rescue Plan provided \$16 million to our 13 Area Agencies on Aging to expand services to address social isolation.

The federal Elder Justice Act along with the American Rescue Plan provided critical funding to support our Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. The additional \$6.3 million funding is targeted to workforce stabilization for the Departments 40 APS agencies.

The Department thanks those that have stood by the communities and your commitment to ensuring older Illinoisans and their families did not fall through the cracks. Whether a senior, a caregiver, family member or integral member of our strong unflinching network, the following information highlights the projects and funding that will allow this to occur:

Older Americans Act Services : The FY 2022 budget maintains support with:

- **Nutrition:** \$6.3 million increase addresses the importance of food insecurity and maintaining the current levels of Home Delivered Meals that meets the increased demand as a result of COVID-19 and the elimination of waitlists. Support the congregate meal sites while maintaining adequate nutrition critical to health, function, and quality of life as an important component of home and community-based services for older adults.
- **Minimum Wage:** \$2.6 million increase will allow for the continuation for the Senior Employment Program at the proper wage of \$15/hour and address the minimum wage increase within Older American services programming reducing pressure on community vendors.
- **Foster Grandparents Program:** \$135,000 increase will assist with providing increased legal services, assistive devices, home modifications, transportation, short-term emergency caregiver coverage and gap filling services.

APR Funding:

- **COVID Vaccination Assistance:** \$1.9 million will assist with increasing access to COVID-19 vaccinations.
- **Title IIIB Social Services:** \$16.7 million improve services that promote or support social connectiveness and reduce negative health effects associated with social isolation.
- **Title IIIC1 Congregate Meals:** \$10.9 million will assist in meeting the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines
- **Title C2 Home Delivered Meals:** \$16.3 million will assist in meeting the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines as well as the Dietary Reference Intakes.
- **Title IIID Preventive Health:** \$1.6 million will improve health care outcomes for older adults with chronic health conditions.
- **Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) for HDMs:** \$6.1 million will increase access to home delivered meals and elimination of waiting lists.
- **Title IIIE Family Caregiver:** \$5.2 million will promote healthy aging and social integration.

Adult Protective Services:

- Aging Clients Rights Division budget includes \$23.9 million in General Fund Revenue to operationalize and support the program in FY22.
- In FY21 and into FY22, Adult Protective Services received \$6.3 million grant in federal funding from the Administration for Community Living to support the program in and through COVID while developing a long-range plan for the program.

Division of Planning, Research, Development and Training:

- **Assistive Technology:** \$2 million will allow IDoA to continue the highly successful IL Care Connections program that provides iPads, tablets and WIFI hotspots to older adults experiencing social isolation or loneliness as a result of COVID. This funding will allow over 1,000 older adults to continue to stay connected and it will provide additional access to Community Care Program (CCP) participants to expand the program.
- **Aging Disability Resource Center / No-Wrong Door Vaccine Access Supplemental Funding:** Over \$886,000 was received to develop an outreach campaign targeted to vulnerable populations to address equity in access to vaccines and vaccine hesitancy. In collaboration with IDHS' Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Rehabilitation Services, this will include training modules developed to address specific feedback around vaccine hesitancy from older adult and persons with disabilities.

- **Emergency Senior Services (ESS):** \$5 million was allocated to continue the ESS program. ESS funds are distributed to the Care Coordination Units throughout Illinois for the purposes of meeting the increased and widespread needs of older adults stemming from COVID-19 and the ongoing Public Health Emergency. ESS dollars are used to fill funding gaps for goods and services that assist older Illinoisans to remain safe and at home in community settings.

Since taking office, Governor JB Pritzker has prioritized effective and efficient government, working to undo years of financial mismanagement while rebuilding our hollowed-out state government. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the enormous role government plays in keeping communities safe and providing the tools people need to build better lives. While the pandemic has had a devastating impact on our state revenues, we thank Governor JB Pritzker for investing in older Illinoisans, and our Aging Network.

Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication. We will all get through this, together, **supporting today, while planning for tomorrow**, and I'm confident the Aging Network will be stronger for it.

Sincerely,



Paula Basta, M.Div.
Director, Illinois Department on Aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the **Senior HelpLine at (800) 252-8966; (888) 206-1327 (TTY)**

