

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

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September 15, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: ADS Sponsors
From: Joanne Brekke, Co-Chair, Planning and Allocations Committee
Lorna Stone, Co-Chair, Planning and Allocations Committee
Subject: 2007 Discretionary Allocation – Final Recommendations

Background & Process

The public review, comment period and public hearing for the 2007 Discretionary allocation recommendations were completed on August 15, 2006. The Advisory Council and the P&A Committee reviewed the public comments (see attached summary) and recommended no changes to the original allocation recommendations. Here are the final recommendations for your approval.

2007 Discretionary Allocation Recommendations

1. Maintain the current 2006 Service Area allocations for 2007 (Attached).
2. Should additional revenue be available, the following service areas, not in any priority order, would be considered for increased funding:
 - a. **Inflationary adjustment, \$70,000 - \$170,000 at 1% - 2.5%, or not exceeding the CPI.**
As personnel (especially health care benefits) and operating costs (e.g. gas) continue to rise, an inflationary adjustment will enable service providers to maintain current capacity as much as possible for delivering services.
 - b. **Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, \$18,000.**
The King County LTCOP is the local office of the state-wide LTCOP program. ADS funding constitutes 15% of the total funding of the King County program. The Older Americans Act has a mandate that Area Agencies fund their local LTCOP not less than the 2000 level, which is met by ADS. The 2006 legislature put forth an increase for the statewide Ombudsman Program, which should yield an additional 0.8-1.0 staff ombudsman for King County for working with Adult Family Home complaints.

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Since the state ombudsman budget for the local program has increased, the King County LTCOP is requesting \$18,000 from ADS to make the program's part-time volunteer coordinator full time. If funded, the volunteer coordinator would work to reach a greater number of residents in adult family homes.

c. Nutrition Transportation, \$22,000.

The additional funding would enable Senior Services to maintain its current level of transportation services for ethnic nutrition sites. In 2006 Senior Services provided its own agency funds to supplement the program to sustain a one-time 2005 ADS allocation of \$22,000 for driver salaries and benefits for 8 vans for transporting participants to Hispanic, Polynesian, Filipino, Laotian, Hmong and Korean congregate meal sites. Senior Services is not likely to continue this supplement in 2007 and trip reductions may result.

Action requested

The P&A Committee requests the Sponsor's final approval of the above recommendations for the 2007 Discretionary Allocations.

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Planning & Allocation Committee 2007 Discretionary Allocation Recommendations Public Comment Summary August 11, 2006

The public review and comment period for the 2007 Discretionary Allocation Recommendations ended on August 15. A public hearing was also held in Seattle on August 11. Fifteen individuals participated in the hearing including older adults, program directors and coordinators, program volunteers, and Advisory Council members. About one third of those in attendance were age 60 and older. The following programs were represented: King County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Senior Services - Homesharing Program, Senior Services - Nutrition Transportation Program, and Senior Services - Information & Assistance Program

Comments addressed the following programs and service areas:

- **Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** – Comments from the program’s volunteers and staff, both in person and in a letter, focused on the need for more volunteers to monitor over 900 adult family homes currently in King County and the need to increase the Volunteer Coordinator position to increase to full-time equivalent. The LTCOP advocates for residents’ rights for 18,000 residents in long term care facilities in King County.
- **Nutrition Transportation Program** – The Volunteer Transportation Program has close to 400 volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to transport and escort seniors to their medical appointments, offering not only a ride but a helping hand and moral support. The program has paid drivers and uses vans provided by King County Metro. During 2005 the program helped 3,540 unduplicated clients and provided 79,964 one-way trips and 608,490 miles.

The ADS 2006 allocation in support of Nutrition Transportation does not cover the actual cost of the van drivers’ wages and benefits that are providing this essential service. Senior Services provided agency funds to supplement nutrition transportation this year, but as the demand for agency services increase, and with government funding flat or reduced Senior Services is forced to increasingly look for additional funding sources for all of its programs and is not likely to be able to continue this supplement in 2007. Senior Services does not want to reduce or eliminate needed transportation services and hopes that additional funding will be available to help sustain the program.

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- **Homesharing Program** – The Homesharing Program helps older adults remain independent in their homes by providing additional support through intergenerational matching. The program is the only one existing in King County. Anecdotal information was provided regarding a match that has worked for over seven years.
- **Inflationary Adjustment** – The Senior Information & Assistance Program provides information on a number of available services for seniors in King County. Senior I&A was not asking for an increase in funding, but requested consideration for an inflationary adjustment of the maximum range of 1% to 2.5% for the program to help maintain the current capacity of staff.

A separate letter was also received from Senior Services urging that a cost of living adjustment (COLA) be built into the allocations. Not having a COLA would mean reductions for some of their programs.

- **Seattle Chinatown-International District Public Development Authority Nutrition Service** (See attached letter dated August 11) – SCIDPDA Nutrition Services provides congregate and home-delivered meals to low-income, limited-English speaking, and homebound seniors. The letter mentioned the increasing cost in operation including gas, insurance, and salary, and asked that ADS not reduce, but to increase discretionary funding for low income, limited/non English speaking seniors.