

**Testimony**  
**Engrossed House Bill 1012 – Department of Human Services**  
**Senate Appropriations**  
**Senator Holmberg, Chairman**  
**March 15, 2017**

Chairman Holmberg, and members of Senate Appropriations, I am Nancy Nikolas Maier, Director of the Aging Services Division, for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide an overview of the programs and services that make up the budget request for the Aging Services Division.

**Programs**

The Aging Services Division (Division) administers programs that facilitate the delivery of home and community-based services to assist individuals to remain in their own homes and communities and to protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents of long-term care settings and vulnerable adults in the community. The Division is a federally designated single planning and service area which requires the Division to carry out the responsibilities of the State Unit on Aging and the Area Agency on Aging as set forth in the Older Americans Act (OAA).

OAA programs and services are funded with federal, state, and local funds. The OAA requires maintenance of effort, and service providers contribute local matching funds.

OAA programs and services are generally for individuals who are age 60 and older with an emphasis on services to those with greatest economic and social need, low-income minority individuals, older individuals living in rural areas, individuals at risk for institutionalization, those with severe disabilities, individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals of any age with Alzheimer's disease. There is no charge for OAA services; however,

the individual must be given the opportunity to contribute to the cost of the service.

The Division also administers Home and Community Based Services for older adults and individuals with physical disabilities. These services are paid for by Medicaid and State-funded Service Payments for the Elderly and Disabled (SPED), and the Expanded-SPED programs. The grants budget for these programs was presented separately as part of the Long Term Care continuum overview.

### **Program Trends**

During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015, OAA services were provided to 23,497 unduplicated individuals. This represents a slight increase in the number of individuals served from FFY 2014, which was 23,008 individuals.

### **Supportive Services**

The Division contracts with local providers for the provision of the supportive services listed in Table 1.

**Table 1**

Older Americans Act - Supportive Services	FFY 2015 Unduplicated Clients
<b>Assistive Safety Devices Distribution Program:</b> Adaptive and preventive health devices that assist with activities of daily living	1,192
<b>Health Maintenance Services Program:</b> Assessment and maintenance of the health and well-being of individuals through blood pressure checks, foot care, home visits, and medication set-up	4,045
<b>Legal Assistance Services Program:</b> Legal advice / representation by an attorney to individuals with economic or social needs	1,405
<b>Senior Community Service Employment Program:</b> Part-time employment and training for eligible individuals age 55 and older with the goal of securing permanent employment	95
<b>Senior Companion Program:</b> Periodic companionship and non-medical support to elders living on Indian Reservations	66
<b>Tribal Home Visits:</b> Periodic visits to isolated elders living on Indian Reservations to monitor their well-being, identify service needs, and refer/link them to available services	161

## **Nutrition Services**

Nutrition services are provided by eight regional service providers who in turn, subcontract with other entities. Aging Services also provides funds to enhance the nutrition services already being provided in some reservation communities that are funded with Title VI OAA funds. Title VI funds provide for Native American aging programs, including nutrition services.

**Table 2**

Older Americans Act – Nutrition Services	FFY 2015 Unduplicated Clients Served	FFY 2015 Service Units
<b>Nutrition Services – Congregate Meals:</b> Healthy meals served to an older individual eating in a group setting	13,550	570,707 meals
<b>Nutrition Services – Home Delivered Meals:</b> Healthy meals delivered to an older individual who is homebound and/or unable to eat in a group setting	5,114	528,377 meals

## **Direct Services**

State and regional aging staff directly provide the services listed in Table 3. Vulnerable adult protective services are also provided by contract positions in Minot, Williston, Fargo, Jamestown, and the surrounding communities.

**Table 3**

Older Americans Act – Direct Services	FFY 2015 Service Units
<b>Aging and Disabilities Resource Link (ADRL) Information and Assistance:</b> Information on services available through a statewide toll-free number, website, and database that is accessible to the public	2,101 contacts
<b>ADRL Options Counseling:</b> Person-centered, decision support process to assist consumers/families in determining long term services and supports	727 clients
<b>Family Caregiver Support Program:</b> Assists family caregivers and grandparents through information, training to improve caregiver skills, and the provision of respite care	331 caregivers
<b>Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program:</b> Identifies, investigates, and resolves complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities and tenants of assisted living facilities	316 cases
<b>Vulnerable Adult Protective Services Program:</b> Services for the prevention, correction, or discontinuation of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults	1,735 clients

## **State Funded Programs**

The Division contracts for the provision of dementia care services; aging staff administer the guardianship and telecommunications programs.

**Table 4**

State-Funded Programs	SFY 2016 Unduplicated Clients
<b>Dementia Care Services Program:</b> Care consultation and training for caregivers to address the unique and individual needs that arise throughout the various stages of dementia; provides education and training to medical professionals, law enforcement, and the general public	1088 caregivers 557 individuals/w Dementia
<b>Guardianship Establishment Program:</b> Financial assistance in petitioning for guardianship services for a vulnerable adult who has a diagnosis of mental illness, traumatic brain injury, or is age 60 or older and not eligible for developmental disabilities case management	86
<b>Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program:</b> Provides specialized telecommunications equipment to communication impaired individuals	363

## Overview of Budget Changes

Description	2015 - 2017 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	2017 - 2019 Executive Budget	House Changes	2017-2019 Budget To Senate
Salary and Wages	2,917,539	137,915	3,055,454	(49,372)	3,006,082
Operating	16,423,223	422,696	16,845,919	(37,541)	16,808,378
Grants	3,137,092	45,074	3,182,166	0	3,182,166
Medical Grants	0	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)
Total	22,477,854	605,685	23,083,539	(286,913)	22,796,626
General Fund	9,185,415	(873,333)	8,312,082	(72,002)	8,240,080
Federal Funds	13,012,439	1,479,018	14,491,457	(214,911)	14,276,546
Other Funds	280,000	0	280,000	0	280,000
Total	22,477,854	605,685	23,083,539	(286,913)	22,796,626
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	17.0	0.0	17.0	0.0	17.0

### Budget Changes from Current Budget to the Executive Budget:

The Salary and Wages line item increased by \$137,915 and is mainly attributed to the following:

- \$61,092 in total funds, of which \$57,338 is general fund, needed to fund the Governor's compensation package for state employees.
- \$23,902 in total funds which is all general fund, needed to sustain the state employee increases approved by the last Legislative Assembly.
- \$36,934 in total funds, of which \$23,636 is general fund, to provide for the annual and sick leave lump sum payouts for 2.0 FTE that are anticipated to retire in the 2017-2019 biennium.
- The remaining \$15,987 net increase is a combination of increases and decreases needed to sustain the salary of the 17 FTEs in this area of the budget.

The Operating line item increased by \$422,696 (2.6%) and the majority of the changes can be attributed to the following:

- Decrease of \$74,784 in Travel due to the Department-wide process used to develop the Department's savings plan.
- Decrease of \$14,529 in Professional Development due to the Department-wide process used to develop the Department's savings plan.
- Decrease of \$9,466 in Printing of outreach materials as more material is now available on-line.
- Increase of \$490,424 in Operating Fees and Services. The increase mainly consists of \$281,594 of increases in services to consumers; \$215,240 increase for the Vulnerable Adult Protective Services to fund contracts for full 24 months.
- Increase of \$41,490 in Rentals/Leases-Building/Land, of which \$35,508 is due to moving five staff from the Capitol to Prairie Hills Plaza (PHP), and \$5,982 is due to the rent increase at PHP.

The Grants line item increased by \$45,074 (1.4%) and is mainly attributed to the following:

- Increase of \$200,000, all federal funds, for the Lifespan Respite Care program which will be used to expand and enhance respite systems including: emergency respite services, training and recruiting respite workers and volunteers and assisting caregivers in gaining access to needed services.
- Decrease of \$150,000 in the contract for Dementia Care services.

The net change in general and federal funds is mainly due to the Department's savings plan and the availability of additional federal funds.

### **House Changes From Executive Budget:**

- \$36,934 decrease in Salary and Wages, of which \$22,773 is general fund due to the House Amendments that removed funding for the anticipated retirement of two FTE in this area.
- \$12,438 decrease in Salary and Wages, of which \$11,688 is general fund due to the elimination of the 1% salary increase that had been proposed for the second year of the biennium.
- \$200,000 federal fund decrease in Medical Grants for the Lifespan Respite Care program as the appropriation is included in House Bill 1038. The appropriation for this program however was included in the Grants Line which leaves a negative appropriation in the Medical Grants line.
- \$24,556 general fund decrease in Operating expenses, which will result in providers not being reimbursed for 5,339 meals to older adults for the biennium.
- \$12,985 general fund decrease in Operating expenses due to the elimination of the 1% inflationary increase for providers that had been proposed for the second year of the biennium.

This concludes my testimony on the 2017-2019 budget request for the Aging Services Division. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.