

Senior Care

Problem:

- Loss of Adult Protective Services funding has resulted in lack of protection for many of Ohio's seniors.
- Lack of resources available to fund community based services due to ongoing tax cuts, has resulted in older adults being placed on waiting lists.

What We Want:

- Restore full funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) to 20 million over two years, with at least \$6.2 million per year to fund an APS worker in every county.
- Maintain current language in Executive Budget in order to fully fund PASSPORT and eliminate waiting lists.
- Fully fund community based services and home bound programs (like the \$335,296 for Ohio's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program - RSVP) in order to allow seniors to gain independence and remain in their homes.

Background Information

- In 2008, there were more than 16,000 reports of elder abuse. The state budget provides approximately \$500,000 to be divided among 88 counties. Many counties have utilized Title XX Social Services funds which have been cut from \$119 million in 1981 to \$65 million in 2008. Lack of resources needed to supplement state funds has resulted in insufficient funding of APS investigations and mandated services.
- **PASSPORT** is a homebound services program provided through a special Medicaid waiver program that provides alternatives to nursing home care for low-income adults. More than 25,000 seniors are served through PASSPORT (source: Ohio Department of Aging). The FY10-11 Executive Budget proposal, which provides for full funding of PASSPORT, thereby eliminating cumbersome waiting lists.
- The Senior Community Services Block Grant funds basic services including home delivered meals, personal care services, homemaker services, and respite services that support informal care giving. These services prevent older adults from entering nursing facilities. Eighty percent of older adults who receive community based services have incomes of less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level or \$ 16,245 for a family of one. Senior Community Services Block Grant funding has been cut 21% from 1981-2007 and is proposed to be cut an additional 14% in FY10-11.

Impact:

- By properly funding community based and homebound services, like PASSPORT and RSVP, the State of Ohio saves money for seniors who would otherwise need to reside in nursing homes, costing the state a considerable amount of money through Medicaid.
- Full funding of Adult Protective Services would ensure that Ohio's seniors receive the protection and attention they need.

Community Based Programs and Adult Protective Services are vital programs that benefit many Ohio's seniors!

To Get Involved: Your legislators work for you and need to hear your voice. Join together with ABLE and find out how you can have your voice heard. CONTACT ABLE TODAY!