



SUPPORT SENIORS

These Organizations Support Our Priorities



CUTS HURT FRAIL SENIORS

The Florida Council on Aging (FCOA) requests that the General Revenue funded home and community-based programs be held harmless in this challenging budget year.

SENIORS NEED HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER

The COVID-19 pandemic has had the biggest impact on older Floridians. The aging network of providers, who serve the most frail Floridians, have had extraordinary demands placed on them during 2020 with increases of 100+% in the number of people requesting support with home delivered meals, shopping assistance and telephone reassurance.

WHO WILL FUNDING CUTS HARM?

- Average age of clients is 81-82 years old
- About 42% live alone
- They average 3-5 serious health conditions
- For seniors with a caregiver, 62% were determined to be in crisis
- Adult Protective Services (abuse and/or neglect) client referrals are served using Community Care for the Elderly Program, bypassing the wait list
- Average individual monthly income: \$1,266
- 79% have <\$2,000 in assets
- Over 80,000 Floridians have been assessed as needing support and are on the wait list

DON'T CUT CRITICAL SERVICES THAT HELP SENIORS REMAIN AT HOME

- Home-delivered meals
- Home health aide
- Personal Care
- Adult day care
- Transportation
- Case Management
- Chore/Homemaker supplies
- Some medical supplies
- Caregiver support
- Respite
- Home accessibility modifications



KEEP SENIORS SAFE BY SUPPORTING THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS

Community Care for the Elderly (CCE)

is a statewide General Revenue funded program that provides supportive services to non-Medicaid frail seniors. This community-based program is part of a continuum of care to help functionally impaired elders live in the least restrictive, yet most cost-effective, environment suitable to their needs.

Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) is the

statewide program that supports caregivers of adults 60 years old and older in family-type living arrangements within private homes, as an alternative to institutional or nursing home care. A basic subsidy of \$160/month is provided for support of the elder and special subsidy may also be provided for services and/or supplies.

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) is a

statewide program providing a continuum of services to meet the changing needs of non-Medicaid individuals with, and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. This program includes: medical supplies and respite for caregiver relief, Memory Disorder Clinics, model day care programs and the brain bank to support research.

Local Service Programs (LSP) provide additional funding to expand long-term care alternatives that support non-Medicaid elders to maintain a favorable quality of life in their own homes. LSP also targets unmet, specific community service needs, such as congregate or home delivered meals in regions with high numbers of at-risk seniors.

Imagine for a moment...

You're a senior citizen, you're proud, you've worked all your life, paid taxes, and volunteered your time and skills over the years helping support your community and those in need. But now you're 86 years old, live alone, your health is failing and you've exhausted your savings. You receive \$700 monthly from Social Security to pay your bills but it's not enough and you're too frail to get a job and have no transportation.

You realize you need a little help to remain at home, not much, preparing meals or receiving home-delivered meals, washing laundry, help with bathing, or transportation to the pharmacy or grocery store.

Florida's General Revenue Funded Home and Community Care Programs including:

- Community Care for the Elderly;
- Home Care for the Elderly;
- Alzheimer's Respite Care; and
- Local Service Programs

Provide this critical lifeline to our seniors, helping them to remain at home safely with dignity and avoid or delay the need for more costly institutional care funded by Medicaid.

With Florida's rapidly growing senior population – 5.5 million – all of these home care programs have long waiting lists and cost taxpayers much less per year than nursing home care. The need for these services has only grown more during the pandemic.

To the honorable members of the Florida Legislature, we ask you to please **NOT** cut these programs because doing so will only increase Florida's Medicaid long-term care costs.

During the Great Recession in 2008-2010, the Legislature wisely chose NOT to reduce funding for these home care programs serving seniors. Just as we did then, we are asking you again today, to not cut these home and community care services that provide a critical lifeline to frail, home-bound seniors.

Respectfully,
Dr. Christine Cauffield, President

For questions or additional information, please contact:



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