



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS
Week of May 28, 2012

The power of advocacy . . . was obvious this week with the passage of an FY 13 budget that includes full funding for the embattled Nursing Facility Transition Initiative (NFTI). (NFTI is part of the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver.) MI Choice NFTI funding had been in question for months as the Executive, House and Senate budgets included only \$3.1 million for new transitions, while \$25 million was needed to maintain the program at current levels. Aging and disability advocates marshaled their forces in a shower of support for NFTI and MI Choice reminiscent of the battle to reopen the waiver in 2001. MI Choice will receive \$282.3 million altogether next year; current year funding in \$229.9 million.

The additional MI Choice monies are allocated as follows:

- \$24.6 million to transition people from nursing homes to the community;
- \$11.7 million to serve people on the waiting list/nursing home diversions;
- \$16.1 million to annualize last year's transition costs.

Besides the MI Choice enhancements, the Legislature & Governor agreed to restore chiropractor services in Medicaid as well as restore full adult vision benefits. Looking at other Medicaid long term care programs for next year,

- nursing homes are budgeted at \$1.696 billion, a \$10 million increase (.5%) over FY 2012
- Home Help has \$292 million, a \$3 million increase (1%) over '12
- PACE receives \$34.8 million, a \$4.1 million increase (13%).

Advocates were also pushing for \$1.1 million in enhancements for the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) recommended by Governor Snyder, as well as funds to make up for past cuts in services. The Legislature approved the \$1.1 million, but not for the Governor's projects. They determined that the greater need was for community services and the \$1.1 million will be allocated through the AAA network.

The fiscal year 2013 budget begins on October 1, 2012. The Community Health budget is part of an omnibus budget bill, House Bill 5365. To see bill text and an analysis, go to www.michiganlegislature.org.

© All rights reserved. Do not fax or copy without permission.