



# Silver Key Coalition

*Working to Make Michigan a No Wait State for Senior In-Home Services*

## WHITE PAPER EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State supported home and community based services provide the basic necessities that help enable seniors to stay safely in their housing of choice. The need for these services exceeds availability, forcing seniors to wait for help and bear the negative consequences of going without. As a result, thousands of Michigan seniors languish on wait lists for key in-home services made available through the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) like personal care, homemaking and home delivered meals, with little hope for assistance. This White Paper was developed by the Silver Key Coalition to document the impact of in-home service wait lists, underserving and unmet needs, and support its goal of making Michigan a no wait state for in-home services.

### Key Findings:

- In 2014 there are nearly 4,500 seniors languishing on wait lists for basic services such as home-delivered meals and help with bathing, dressing, medication, shopping and household chores. About half of the individuals on the wait lists have been waiting for more than 180 days.
- Individuals on wait lists for extended periods of time are:
  - o More likely to end up living in a nursing home
  - o Less likely to remain living in their own home
  - o More likely to seek health care from a hospital emergency room
  - o More likely to die waiting for assistance.
- An increase of \$5 million for the fiscal year 2015 will be needed to allow the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging in-home services programs to begin addressing the service needs of those on wait lists, accommodate anticipated new requests for assistance, and begin addressing the needs of the underserved population of individuals who are receiving assistance, but not in the amount that they need due to service rationing.
- The effort to make Michigan a “No Wait State” for in-home services will be a key component of a larger strategy to make Michigan a retirement destination of choice that attracts and retains retirees, and captures the significant social and economic benefits of an aging population.
- A \$5 million investment will yield many benefits to taxpayers, businesses and the state, including:
  - o Creating approximately 200 new jobs
  - o Return approximately \$350,000 in state tax revenue
  - o 75% of food purchased from Michigan based sources

A FY 2015 allocation of \$5 million in state general revenue funding for in-home services provided through the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, coupled with the leveraging of participant donations and other funding sources, will represent an important step in eliminating the state’s chronic in-home service wait lists of older Michigianians.

The Silver Key Coalition is a group of individuals and organizations committed to supporting the desire of older adults and adults with a disability to remain living independently in their own home for as long as possible. The Coalition advocates for a \$10 million multi-year increase in state supported in-home services through the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging. The Coalition goal is to make Michigan a “no wait state” for in-home services, beginning with a \$5 million increase in state funding for FY 2015.

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