

# Invest in Older Michiganians & Cut Medicaid Expenditures



The older Michiganian population is rapidly growing. Every hour more than ten Michigan residents turn 60 years old. Older adults bring many social and economic benefits to Michigan. By not responding to the growing demand for housing options and affordable, quality health care options, Michigan is at risk of losing aging boomers who will leave the state to live in more desirable communities.

## **Restore FY 2010 Executive Budget Cuts (\$2.2 million) for the Office of Services to the Aging**

- ❖ Michigan's aging network provides in-home and other supportive services for needy older adults who don't meet Medicaid requirements. These services, provided through the Older Michiganians Act, include meals-on-wheels, homemaking, personal care, respite care, day care and care management.
- ❖ These state-funded services keep elders independent and living in their own homes with the help of caregivers. Most long-term care is provided by unpaid caregivers, and a little bit of help is often all it takes to keep caregivers going.
- ❖ When caregivers are exhausted, nursing home placement is the result. Assets are usually spent within a year and the elder has to go on Medicaid. Older Michiganians Act programs prevent older adults from going into nursing homes and onto Medicaid, but these programs have been frozen for 10 years and there are 4,600 on waiting lists.

## **Support the FY 2010 Executive Budget Recommendation for a \$17.4 million increase in the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver**

- ❖ MI Choice is a Medicaid program that provides a variety of services in a person's home that are similar to those provided in a nursing home, at a much lower average cost: \$50/day versus \$150/day.
- ❖ At the end of 2008, MI Choice had a waiting list of 4,200 people statewide. These individuals meet the eligibility requirements for a nursing home and could be forced to move to a nursing home, even though they prefer to be home.
- ❖ Home care is cost-effective and saves Medicaid dollars. Thanks to MI Choice and other home care programs, nursing home expenditures declined for the first time in history from 2007 to 2008, saving \$18 million!

**Area Agencies on Aging  
Association of Michigan**

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