
Issue Brief – Nursing Home Alternatives Program

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DHS-09-20

NURSING HOME ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) requests \$500,000 from the General Fund for the Nursing Home Alternatives program to provide services for 144 new clients. The Analyst recommends that this request of \$500,000 from General Fund be placed on the priority list for the Nursing Home Alternatives program to provide services for FY 2009.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this program is to provide seniors with services in their home or community rather than in a long-term care facility.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

DAAS is the designated state agency authorized to coordinate all state activities related to the Older Americans Act of 1965. DAAS is the advocate for the elderly, contracts for services and administers the State and federal programs for the elderly. The programs are administered by the State's twelve local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) under the direction of DAAS. Programs funded through the Older Americans Act are distributed to the AAA's through an approved formula.

The Nursing Home Alternatives program provides in-home services, personal care, home health aides, respite care, day care, and transportation for elderly clients who do not qualify for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Nursing Home Prevention Placement (Aging) waiver.

Clients must meet income and eligibility requirements to receive services, and fees are assessed and collected by the AAA's based on ability to pay. The average cost of services for the Alternatives program is \$3,465 (1/3 SSBG and 2/3 State funding) per year in contrast to an annual cost of \$72,000 (70% federal and 30% state funding) (this includes nursing home service dollars, state plan services and medication) for nursing home placement. In 2007, 1,068 seniors received services from this program with 471 being denied access to the program because of funding limitations.

Alternative Program Funding

The Alternatives program is funded with General Fund and federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds. The current budget for this program is \$4,020,400 with \$2,945,800 in General Fund and \$1,074,600 in SSBG. All but about \$70,000 is passed through to the AAAs. In addition, any funding passed through a formula for contract to the AAA's to provide services shall be matched by the AAA's with 15 percent of service dollars and 25 percent of administration dollars with cash, property or in-kind contributions (UCA 62A-3-105).

RECOMMENDATION

The Analyst recommends that this request of \$500,000 from General Fund be placed on the priority list for the Nursing Home Alternatives program to provide services for 144 new clients for FY 2009.