

## **Why Fund Senior Caregiving Programs**

- Support provided to caregivers helps them continue to act in their role of meeting the long-term care needs of their loved ones at home, reducing taxpayer expenses today and in the future.
- Providing caregiver support programs for caregivers can offset harmful physical, mental, and emotional consequences of being a caregiver.
  - 67% of caregivers do not go the doctor themselves because they put their family's needs first.
  - Older caregivers experiencing stress from caregiving have a 63% higher mortality rate than non caregivers of the same age.
  - 40%-70% of caregivers have symptoms of depression.
- In the future there will be more individuals needing care and fewer caregivers. We need to prepare today by developing efficient programs to support caregivers.
  - In 2010 there were 7 potential caregivers for every person 80+. In 2030 the ratio drops to 4-1 and then to 3-1 by 2050.
- In a local caregiver survey, 54% requested respite care and 60 % requested educational assistance for stress management.

## **How Successful Performance will be Measured**

Through our Caregiver Support Services Program the caregiver will be able to sustain their caregiving responsibilities, over a longer period of time, and reduce the likelihood of the care receiver being placed in a long-term care facility.

The Division of Aging & Adult Services is developing performance/outcome measures state-wide which address such issues as: whether caregivers receiving assistance are healthier; experience less stress; take better care of themselves; are more knowledgeable about taking care of someone else; have improved their skills in providing care; and because of the support received to carry out their caregiving functions, the likelihood of the care receiver being placed in a long-term care facility has been reduced\prolonged.