
Issue Brief – Meal Costs

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

NUMBER DHS-07-24

MEAL COSTS

The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) under the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is requesting an appropriation from General Funds of \$315,000 for the increase costs in food, transportation and to expand services in underserved areas of the state.

OBJECTIVE

AAA provides nutritious home delivered and congregate meals to senior citizens.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

DAAS is requesting an increase in funding for three areas: 1) increase cost in food for congregate meals; 2) increase in transportation costs for meals-on-wheels; and 3) expansion of delivered and congregate meals in underserved parts of the state.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Analyst that \$115,000 from the General Fund be appropriated for FY 2007 for meal costs. In addition, the Subcommittee may want to consider prioritizing the remaining \$200,000 for program expansion.

Increase Cost of Food for Congregate Meals - \$52,500

Congregate meals are provided at the Senior Centers located throughout the state. The funding dedicated for FY 2006 for congregate meals is \$2.1 million. To continue the same level of services, DAAS is requesting an increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.5 percent to cover the increase costs of food.

Increase in Transportation Costs for Meals-on-Wheels – \$62,500

The home delivered meals program has experienced an increase in costs due to the rising cost of fuel. The acting director of State Fleet estimates the cost of fuel was up 50 percent over last year but because of the recent drop in rates, it is now approximately 20 percent. DAAS is requesting a 2.5 percent increase based on the CPI to help offset the cost of fuel.

Expansion of Delivered and Congregate Meals in Underserved Areas - \$200,000

DAAS is requesting funding to expand services from 3 days a week to four days in four areas of the state: 1) Bear River; 2) Five County; 3) Six County; and 4) Uintah Basin.