

Issue Brief – Meals on Wheels

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

NUMBERDHS-08-16

MEALS ON WHEELS

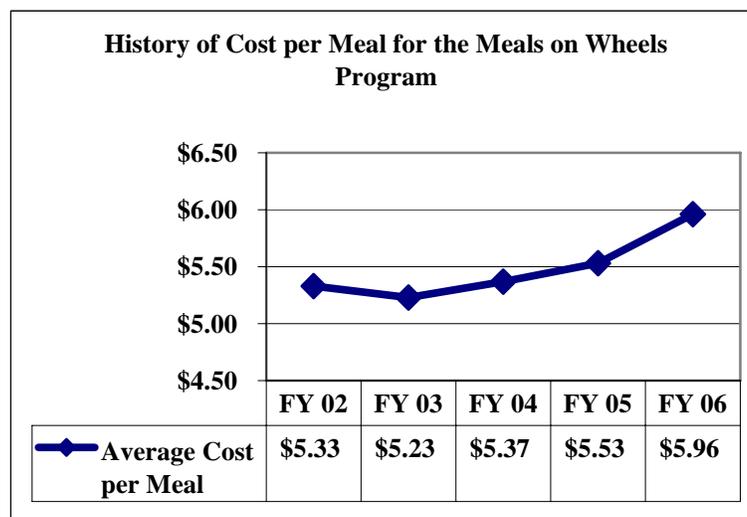
The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) under the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is requesting an appropriation from General Funds of \$146,000 to provide 26,400 meals for 100 additional clients.

OBJECTIVE

AAA provides nutritious home delivered to senior citizens.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Meals on Wheels Program assists homebound seniors at risk for malnutrition by providing a nutritious, hot meal. One of the values of this program is to help the elderly remain in their homes. In addition, this program is inexpensive to operate because the AAA's utilize volunteers. In FY 2006, the program served about 1,163,982 meals to 10,200 individuals state-wide at an annual cost of \$6,123,000. In addition, about 24.3 percent or \$1,487,900 of the contributions for this program comes from donations provided by seniors. The average cost per meal for the Meals on Wheels program has increased by 11.8 percent from FY 2002 to FY 2006 (estimated cost). The average cost per meals includes the cost of food, transportation and overhead. The following chart shows the history of the average cost per meal for the Meals on Wheels program:



In the past year, in any given month, between 60 to 100 seniors were unable to access this program because of funding constraints. DAAS is requesting funding to expand the program to allow 100 seniors access to the program. The funding request is based on FY 2005's average cost per meal of \$5.53.

RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Analyst that \$146,000 from the General Fund be appropriated for FY 2008 to provide meals on wheels for 100 additional individuals.