

## Issue Brief – Meals on Wheels

DIVISION OF AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

NUMBERDHS-09-21

### MEALS ON WHEELS

The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) under the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) requests an appropriation from the General Fund of \$318,300 to provide 57,870 additional meals on wheels. The Analyst recommends that \$318,300 from the General Fund be placed on the priority list for FY 2009.

### OBJECTIVE

AAA provides nutritious home delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) and congregate meals to senior citizens.

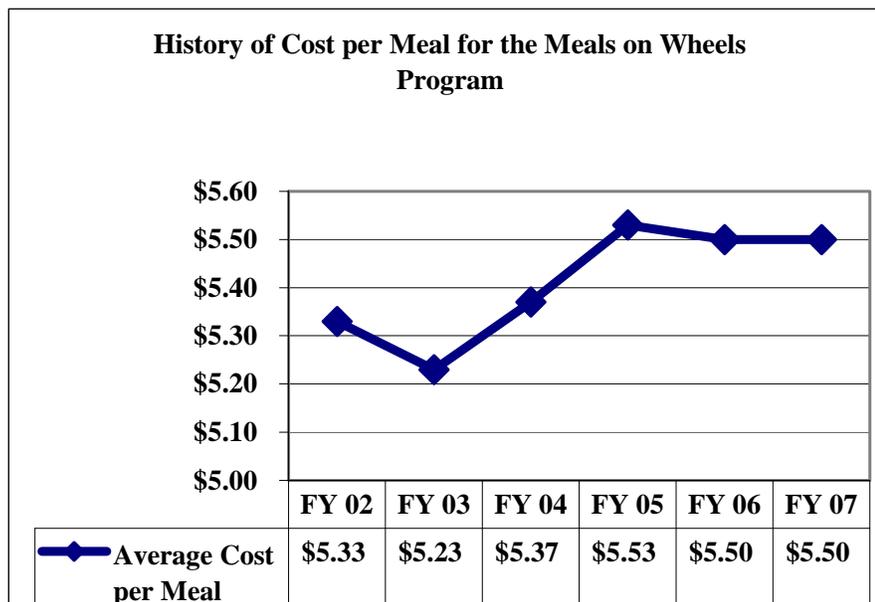
### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The AAAs administers two programs, the Meals on Wheels Program and the Congregate Meals.

Funding for these programs come from four sources: the federal government contributes 33 percent; the local governments provide 23 percent; the State's contribution is 18 percent and the senior citizens through donations provide 26 percent of the total funding.

#### *Meals on Wheels*

The Meals on Wheels Program assists homebound seniors at risk for malnutrition by providing a nutritious, hot meal. This program allows the elderly remain in their homes. In FY 2007, the program served about 1,151,847 meals to 10,057 individuals state-wide at an annual cost to the State of \$1,993,800. The average cost per meal for the Meals on Wheels program has increased by 3.19 percent from FY 2002 to FY 2007 (estimated cost). The average cost per meal 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, about 50 seniors were unable to access this program because of funding constraints. DAAS is requesting funding to allow 57,870 more meals based on projected growth (100 meals per person annually). The funding request is based on FY 2007's average cost per meal of \$5.50.

***Congregate Meals***

Congregate meals are provided two to five days per week at the Senior Centers located throughout the state. State funding dedicated for FY 2007 for congregate meals was \$222,200 which provided 958,726 meals to about 24,405 individuals.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Analyst recommends that \$318,300 from the General Fund be placed on the priority list for FY 2009 to provide 57,870 additional meals for the Meals on Wheels Program for about 579 individuals.