



Utah Association of Area Agencies on Aging

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS – 2014

Request

\$400,000 added to the Base Budget of the Aging & Adult Services Division for Meals-on-Wheels and Senior Center Meal Programs.

How the Funds will be Spent

\$400,000 – Meals

57,803 Meals for 385 Seniors.

150 meals per senior, per year, approximately 3 meals per week at \$6.92 ea.

Why

- Keep seniors healthier, which allows them to remain at home, where they want to be, as they age.
- Help reduce future costs by reducing the need for taxpayer supported institutional care.

Need

- There are already more seniors than preschoolers in Utah today.
- Utah’s projected growth (percentage wise) of the senior population between 2000-2020 is almost double that of the rest of the state’s population, 89% versus 47%.
- State funding for meals is \$700,000 less than it was five years ago, over a 24% reduction.
- Food costs and operational costs have increased.
- 50% of seniors receiving Meals-on-Wheels are in poverty and are at high nutritional risk.
- For 60% of seniors eating at senior centers, the meal provides one half or more of their daily food intake.
- In the last five (5) years, (29) twenty-nine lunch serving days have been eliminated at senior centers throughout the state.

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

Bear River Area Agency on Aging
Box Elder, Cache, Rich
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Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services
Salt Lake
Sarah Brenna, Director

Tooele County Aging Services
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Uintah Basin Area Agency on Aging
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Five-County Area Agency on Aging
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Carrie Schonlaw, Director

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Southeastern Utah AAA
Carbon, Emery, Grand
Collette Child, Director

Weber Area Agency on Aging
Morgan, Weber
Paula Price, Director

How Successful Performance will be Measured

1. The value of meals in helping a senior remain healthier and maintain their independence at home.

The Division of Aging & Adult Services is implementing performance/outcome measures state-wide which address whether seniors in our meal programs eat more balanced meals, are better able to avoid sodium/fat, and as a result of the program, they can continue to live in their home.

These outcome measures have been administered over the last ten years in other areas of the country and have already demonstrated that:

- The meal programs are highly rated by participants.
- They are effectively targeted to vulnerable individuals who need the service.
- They provide assistance to individuals and caregivers which is instrumental in allowing older persons to maintain their independence and avoid premature nursing home placement.

2. The cost efficiencies and benefits of reducing additional governmental expenditures are demonstrated by:

- Seniors can receive a meal five days per week for a year for the same cost as 1 day in the hospital or 6 days in a nursing home.
- Studies in the country which demonstrate that investing in Meals-on-Wheels help keep seniors out of nursing homes and saves substantial Medicaid expenditures.

Efficiencies & Endeavors By Area Agencies on Aging

- We use volunteers extensively in senior centers and in delivering Meals-on-Wheels.
- We have raised the suggested donation request that seniors contribute for their meal. Currently over 20% of the total meal program cost is covered by senior donations.
- We have created non-profit organizations to raise funds to augment our programs.
- Directors and staff of Area Agencies on Aging have other full time job responsibilities in their jurisdictions which lessens administrative charges, increasing funds available for senior programs.
- Area Agencies on Aging are partnering with private sector organizations, such as hospitals and healthcare organizations to provide services.

WHAT IS IT WORTH TO HELP A SENIOR REMAIN AT HOME AND BE HEALTHIER AS THEY AGE?

- PRICELESS-