

# The Senior Alliance

## COLLOQUY

*The Senior Alliance's Monthly Advocacy Update*

**February 26, 2026**

*Volume 7.2*

*Welcome to The Senior Alliance's advocacy newsletter, COLLOQUY!  
This monthly e-mail is a look at the issues, legislation, and events impacting aging.*

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### **FY 2026 Federal Budget**

On February 5th, the FY 2026 federal funding package was signed into law, ending a four-day government shutdown. The funding package funds most federal departments through September 30, 2026, including the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Older Americans Act (OAA) programs are fully funded for the remainder of the fiscal year. Below is a snapshot of OAA funding in the budget:

- **\$414 million** for OAA Title III B Supportive Services: *\$4 million increase*
- **\$209 million** for OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP): *\$2 million increase*
- **\$395 million** for OAA Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP): *\$10 million reduction*
- **\$40 million** for OAA Title VI A Native American Aging Programs: *\$2 million increase*
- **\$14 million** for OAA Title VI C Native American Caregiver Support Program: *\$2 million increase*

This funding provides support for nutrition services, caregiver programs, and community-based services that help older adults to remain independent.

These funding levels reflect the ongoing efforts of advocacy across the aging network. Thank you for your continued advocacy!

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### **FY 2027 State Budget**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer released her budget recommendation for FY 2027 on February 11th. State Budget Officer Director Jen Flood recently presented the Governor's FY 2027 budget proposal to a joint session of the House and Senate appropriations committee.

A key proposal in the Governor's budget is a property tax refund of up to 10% of property taxes paid for residents aged 65 and older. Approximately 355,000 older adults are expected to qualify. It is estimated to cost \$90 million.

### **Medicaid Stabilization Plan**

The recent federal changes related to provider taxes, enrollment practices, and work requirements led to a projected Medicaid deficit in Michigan. To address the gap, the Governor proposes:

- \$630 million in departmental efficiencies
- \$400 million from Medicaid reserve funds.
- \$780 million in new revenue from vaping and tobacco taxes.
- This proposal aims to maintain program stability and protect access to care.

### **Direct Care Worker Support**

Proposal FY 2027 includes continued support for Michigan's direct care workers:

- \$258.4 million (gross) to replace expiring American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) wage funding.
- \$69.5 million (gross) for 2027 minimum wage increases.
- \$24 million (gross) for increased Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) costs.
- Continuation of the previously enacted \$3.40/hour wage increase
- Onetime funding of \$10 million to support Skilled Nursing Facility Staffing.

### **Key Line-Item Changes (Compared to FY 2026)**

- MI Choice received \$45.8 million in funding: 8.2% increase
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) received 47.4 million: 1.8% increase
- The General fund for aging services received \$11.4 million dollars: 23% increase. Further analysis is underway to determine what this increases funds
- Programs for All Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) received \$38.1 million: 13.1% increase.

### **What's Next**

The Governor's budget release starts the FY 2027 budget negotiation process. Michigan House and Senate subcommittee hearings will begin as lawmakers review the Governor's FY 2027 proposal and draft their own respective budgets.

The Senior Alliance will continue to monitor the budget process to keep you informed.

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### **We Want Your Feedback!**

Help us gain insight on aging and community needs in Western Wayne County and Downriver through our Multi-Year Plan survey.

The fiscal year (FY) 2027-2029 Multi-Year Plan outlines our priorities and strategies to address the evolving needs of older adults and caregivers in our

community. Completed every few years, this plan guides our work over the next three fiscal years by identifying gaps, setting goals, and shaping programs that help older adults remain healthy, independent, and connected.

Your responses directly shape how federal and state funding is prioritized for programs and services that support older adults, adults living with disabilities, and caregivers. By taking our survey, you help guide our planning efforts for the years ahead.

The survey is open to everyone and community members of all ages are encouraged to participate. Please feel free to share this with your networks so we can hear from as many people as possible.

Use the button below to complete the survey today!

[2027- 2029 Multi-Year Plan Survey](#)

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[Advocate!](#)