

SOLICITING PUBLIC COMMENT ON OHIO'S APPLICATION TO REQUEST A WAIVER OF OLDER AMERICANS ACT MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE) REQUIREMENTS

The downturn in the nation's economy has resulted in a decrease in General Revenue Funds (GRF) to support many state funded programs, including the Ohio Department of Aging's (ODA) Senior Community Services (SCS) program, which is used to meet the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement [Section 309 (c)] in the federal Older Americans Act (OAA). This reduction in SCS program funds will impact ODA's ability to meet this MOE requirement for FFY 2010 and FFY 2011.

Not meeting this MOE requirement jeopardizes ODA's ability to draw down more than \$14 million of Ohio's allocation of OAA funding. This could result in the potential loss of services to more than 26,000 seniors across the state. In Ohio, OAA funds support the delivery of nutrition, supportive services, wellness and caregiver programs.

In early August, ODA will apply to U.S. Administration on Aging Assistant Secretary Kathy J. Greenlee to request a waiver of the OAA MOE requirements for FFY 2010 and 2011, the remainder of Ohio's current state plan period.

ODA continues to meet the allocation requirements (i.e., non-federal match, ombudsman support) contained in Section 304 (d) of the OAA.

The Older Americans Act waiver provisions (Section 316) require that the proposed waiver be made available for public review and comment within the State and that a summary of all of the comments received be included in the application.

Please review the attached draft waiver request letter. If you would like to make comments, please e-mail them to Marc Molea, Chief, Older Americans Act Programs Division at mmolea@age.state.oh.us or call him at (614) 752-9167. **Marc will accept comments through close of business on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2009.**

For more information about these requirements you can consult the Older Americans Act: http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/oa_full.asp

DRAFT

August 6, 2009

Kathy J. Greenlee
U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging
Administration on Aging
Department of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Greenlee:

The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) on behalf of the State of Ohio, is requesting a waiver of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement [Section 309 (c)] in the Older Americans Act (OAA) for FFY 2010 and FFY 2011, the remainder of our current state plan period. The downturn in the nation's economy has resulted in a decrease in General Revenue Funds (GRF) to support many state-funded programs, including ODA's Senior Community Services (SCS) program. Historically, we use the GRF-funded SCS and Alzheimer's Respite programs to meet our MOE requirement.

ODA continues to meet and exceed the allocation requirements contained in Section 304 (d) of the OAA. Historically, Ohio has reported all of our state funds that support OAA programs in our MOE calculations, not just the minimum amount needed to meet non-federal match requirements.

We made this waiver proposal available for public review and comment within the State between July 31, 2009 and August 6, 2009. A summary of all of the comments received is attached to this request. ODA also consulted with our area agencies on aging, service providers (i.e., senior centers) and consumer groups (e.g., AARP) in developing this waiver proposal.

Without this waiver ODA will not meet our MOE requirement, which jeopardizes our ability to draw down more than \$14 million of Ohio's allocation of OAA funding. This could result in the potential loss of services to more than 26,000 seniors.

If you have questions about this request please contact Marc Molea, Chief, Older Americans Act Programs Division at mmolea@age.state.oh.us or (614) 752-9167.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Barbara E. Riley
Director

c. Jim Varpness, AoA Regional Administrator, District V