



## Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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### Area Agencies on Aging

#### Area Agency on Aging, Region One

##### Marcopa County

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##### Pima Council on Aging

##### Pima County

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#### Northern AZ Council of Governments

##### Coconino, Yavapai, Navajo, & Apache Counties

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#### Western AZ Council of Governments

##### Mohave, La Paz & Yuma Counties

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#### Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens

##### Gila & Pinal Counties

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#### SouthEastern AZ Governments Org.

##### Graham, Cochise, Greenlee & Santa Cruz Counties

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#### Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

##### Inter-Tribal Council

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### The Area Agencies on Aging FY 2019 Legislative Request

The Area Agencies on Aging, of which there are eight regional locations in the state leading the way in helping older Arizonans by providing resources to and advocating for older adults, urge the support of the Governor's FY 2019 Budget Proposal.

The Executive Budget has requested \$3,900,000 as a part of the Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services Budget (DES/DAAS). Specifically, the Adult Services State Line Item (SLI) requests \$700,000 to make one time Health Services Lottery Monies Fund (HSLF) permanent. In addition, the Executive requests an additional **\$471,000 in General Funds** to support the growth in Adult Protective Services (APS) client referrals to the AAAs. APS refers approximately 11% of their cases to the AAAs for continued non-medical home and community-based services (NMHCBS). APS correctly anticipates a growth in cases based on population projections.

NMHCBS are critical to keeping older adults in their home as they age, a mission every AAA is charged with. Services like Adult Day Health, assistance with bathing, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, bed linen changing, and like housekeeping, are the types of NMHCBS that AAAs can count on the state of Arizona to continue to help provide.

In addition to the Executive request, the AAAs are requesting a **small supplemental increase of \$232,000** to be appropriated to cover the Proposition 206 \$0.50/hour wage increase. The stated amount equates to the 1.4% fee for service rate increase the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) implemented effective January 1, 2018. This increase is critical for the AAAs to maintain competitive in contracting with providers of these services.

Arizona's older adult population continues to increase and is outpacing the general population growth. DES has noted, "the 65 and older age group is the fastest growing population in Arizona for the last several years, increasing by approximately 24 percent between 2010 and 2016." In spite of the much appreciated additional funds appropriated during the last session, the AAAs continue to have more than 3,200 individual waiting for these vital NMHCBS statewide.

**With the growth in population, the economic need, and the State's fiscal constraints, the AAAs urge legislators to support the Executive Budget request by supporting an increase of \$471,000. Additionally, the AAAs urge legislators to help maintain the AAA's competitiveness by appropriating an additional \$232,000 to compensate for the minimum wage increase, taking effect on January 1, 2018.**

Vision: All Arizonans experience successful aging

Mission: Lead Arizona in aging successfully through innovative resources, collaborations and advocacy