



# Invest in Ohio's Seniors

Ohio Association of Area  
Agencies on Aging

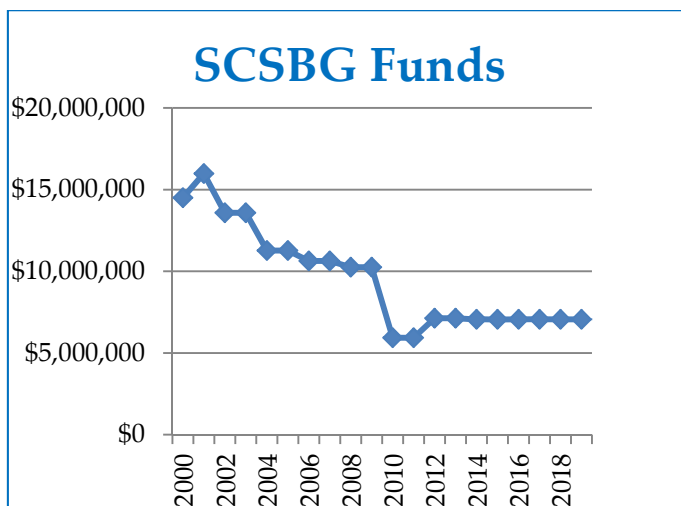
State Biennium Budget Request  
SFY 2018-2019

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## *Increase the Senior Community Services Block Grant*

### Background

- The **Senior Community Services Block Grant (ALI 490-411)** funds services that enable older adults to remain living in their homes for as long as possible, rather than a more expensive alternative such as a nursing facility.
- This line item funds a **diverse array of services** for adults 60 and older including home delivered and congregate meals, transportation, personal care, respite, and caregiver supports.
- The Ohio Department of Aging uses these funds to draw down federal Older Americans Act dollars. **These services are not part of the Medicaid program** but may prevent the functional and financial decline that leads to Medicaid dependence.
- Since 2001, the Senior Community Services Block Grant line item **has been cut by 54%** - from over \$15 million to \$7 million per state fiscal year.



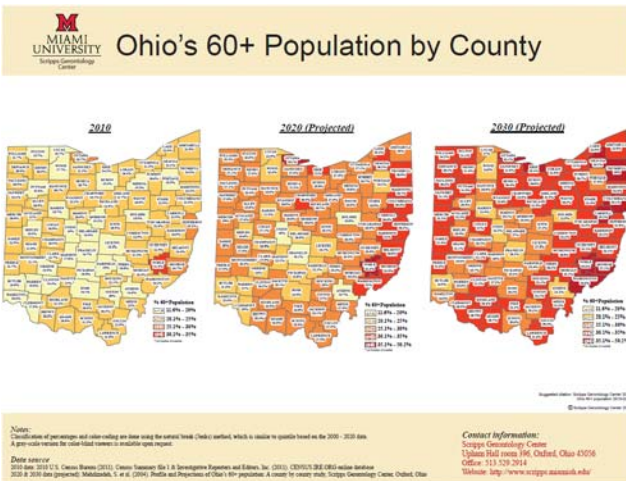
### *The need is evident:*

Ohio ranks **10th in the nation and first in the Midwest** for seniors suffering from hunger.

- *A Brown University study found that providing more home-delivered meals is one way to keep older adults with low care needs out of nursing homes.*

Prolonged social isolation can equal the health risks of **smoking 15 cigarettes a day** greatly increasing the health care needs of individuals.

- *SCSBG services such as transportation, home delivered meals, and personal care not only provide a much needed service but combat the deadly effects of social isolation.*



## What is the issue?

The senior population is growing. By 2030, adults 65 years and older will make up nearly 25% of Ohio's population, up from 14% today. The fastest growing segment, age 85+ population, is most likely to need long term care services and supports.

The Medicaid budget is unsustainable. Since many of these individuals deplete their assets to pay for long term care that Medicare doesn't cover, the burden for their care falls to Medicaid—a growing threat to Ohio's budget.

## What is the solution?

- A greater investment in lower cost interventions that can delay or divert from Medicaid. By restoring the allocation for the Senior Community Services Block Grant (ALI 490-411) to **\$15 million per state fiscal year**, the state will be better positioned to meet the growing needs of vulnerable older Ohioans. Home and community-based services keep older adults in the community for as long as possible prior to or even without ever becoming impoverished and in need of Medicaid services.
- Measure the impact. Scripps Gerontology Center will conduct a program evaluation for **\$150,000 each fiscal year**. This will assess the effectiveness and efficiency of non-Medicaid interventions through the Senior Community Services block grant along with improved health outcomes and subsequent additional Medicaid savings.

**Too many seniors in Ohio are left behind, alone and hungry, struggling to stay independent and healthy.**

