

# 2018 Budget Bill (SB 99) Provisions of Particular Interest to Aging Advocates

## Items in the Budget Committee Report

- **Food and Nutrition Services Outreach for Medicaid/Medicare Dual Eligibles:** Continues a pilot program to increase access to Food and Nutrition Services benefits for dual eligible. Along with the estimated carryforward funding from FY17-18, the total requirements for this outreach pilot is \$1.2 million, and the revised net appropriation is \$600,000 (non-recurring) for FY18-19. (Found on page C 33).
- **Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP):** Budgets an additional \$8,563,229 in LIEAP block grant federal receipts to assist households with their heating bills. The revised LIEAP total federal receipts are \$112.6 million for FY18-19. (Found on page 34).
- **Crisis Intervention Program** (assists low income recipients with emergency heating or cooling needs): Budgets an additional \$8,563,229 in LIEAP block grant federal receipts for this purpose. The revised LIEAP total federal receipts are \$112.6 million for FY18-19. (Found on page 37).
- **Adult Guardianship:** Budgets additional Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) federal receipts of \$987,309, along with local match receipts, for local county departments of social services to provide additional adult guardianship services. (Found on page C-38).
- **Temporary Assistance to Facilities that Serve Special Assistance Recipients:** Reduces funding to facilities that serve Special Assistance recipients due to the decreasing caseloads in the Special Assistance Program. The revised total requirements for this temporary assistance is \$7.8 million and the net revised appropriation is \$3.9 million for FY18-19. (Found on page C-39).

- **Emergency Shelter Program of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services:** Funds four local programs: Allied Churches of Alamance County, Inc. (\$50,000), Cleveland County Rescue Mission (\$127,000), Town of Sanford (\$57,000), and Open Door Community Center in Washington, NC (\$100,000) for a total of \$334,000 in non-recurring funding. (Found on page C-46).
- **Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Congregate Nutrition Expansion:** Budgets \$150,000 in additional Social Service Block Grant (SSGB) federal receipts and an additional \$16,667 in local match for congregate meals. (Found on page C-47).
- **Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Expansion:** Increases access to HCCBG community based services and supports by budgeting \$850,000 in additional SSBG federal receipts and an additional \$94,444 in local match. The HCCBG provides funding for in-home and community based services in support of older adults, allowing them to continue residing at home. (Found on page C-48).
- **Alzheimer's and Dementia Support – Memory Center Charlotte:** Provides funding for the Charlotte Neuroscience Foundation – Memory Center in the amount of \$125,000 in non-recurring funding. (Found on page C-48).
- Budgets additional SSBG receipts for 1 full time **Social Work Planner/Evaluator to support the Adult Protective Services (APS) and Guardianship** social work staff in North Carolina's 100 county departments of social services to provide adult guardianship services. (Found on page C- 49).
- **Funds 8 local programs (non-recurring funds) through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services with reserves and transfers** as follows (found on pages C-50 and 51): Friends of the Homeless Shelter in Kinston - \$10,000; East Arcadia Senior Center for the purchase of a building - \$25,000; Lincoln County Senior Center for the purchase of a van and for senior center furnishings and technology - \$231,155; South

Granville Senior Center - \$5,000; Person County Senior Center - \$5,000; Senior Resources of Guilford for the renovation of a new building - \$250,000; Montgomery County Council on Aging for acquiring a new building - \$125,000; and Columbus County for the purchase of a van to be shared by the 7 Columbus County senior centers - \$20,000.

- Reduces the **Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging** allotment of the HCCBG by \$43,731 (recurring) and provides additional funding to the Commission Area Agency on Aging **for a HCCBG contract with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians** in the amount of \$43,731(recurring). (Found on pages C-51 and 52).
- Provides \$250,000 for **North Carolina 2-1-1** (included in Disaster Recovery Funding). (Found on pages E-9).

### **Key provisions in the Budget Document**

- Section 11D.1. - **Plan for Allowing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to Assume Responsibility for Administering the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)**. Requires that by February 1, 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging and Adult Services, in consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) shall develop and submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division a plan to enable the EBCI to assume the responsibility for administering the HCCBG on behalf of the Tribe. (Found on pages 78-79).
- Section 11G.1.(a) – Approval for **Nursing Home Administrators to Serve as Adult Care Home Administrators**. Specifies that the Department of Health and Human Services shall approve as an adult care home administrator any individual licensed as a nursing home administrator who, within 90 calendar days after commencing employment as a ~~nursing home administrator~~, (changed to adult care home administrator in the Budget Technical Corrections Bill)

successfully completes the written examination administered by the Department for assisted living certification. (Found on pages 93-94).

- Section 11H4.(a) – Establishes **Medicaid Coverage for Ambulance Transports to Alternative Appropriate Care Locations**. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) any State Plan amendments or any waivers necessary to establish Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance transport of Medicaid recipients in behavioral health crisis to behavioral health clinics or other alternative appropriate care locations. (Found on pages 95-96).
- Section 11H.7. – **Study Expansion of PACE Program**. Directs the Department of Health and Human Services, no later than December 1, 2018, to submit to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice a follow-up report regarding Item 1 of the Next Steps: *Consider Expansion of PACE* contained in the March 14, 2018, report entitled “Study of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. (Found on page 98).

## **2018 Budget Technical Corrections Bill (SB 335) Provisions of Particular Interest to Aging Advocates**

- Section 11H.13.(b) – Appropriates \$5,500,000 in recurring funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be used to increase the rate to no more than \$3.90 per 15-minute billing unit for in-home aide services provided under the **Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP-DA)** waiver pursuant to Clinical Coverage Policy 3K-2 effective January 1, 2019. (Reduces the Medicaid Rebase to fund this). (Found on page 13).
- Section 11H.13.(c) – Appropriates \$2,000,000 in recurring funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to be used to provide **adult optical Medicaid**

**coverage**, effective January 1, 2019. (Reduces the Medicaid Rebase to fund this). (Found on page 13).

- Section 19.4 – Transfers \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds for 2018-2019 from the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management to provide a grant-in-aid to **The Veterans Leadership Council of North Carolina-Cares** to be used for the Veterans Life Center in Butner. (Found on page 19).
- Section 36.7.(d) – Authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to fund the construction of two **new State veterans homes located in the Triangle and Triad Regions** with funds available to it from the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund in an amount not to exceed \$27,223,560. The funds shall be used to provide the required State match for federal funding for the veterans home construction projects. (Found on page 24).
- Section 36.7.(g) – Authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to apply for federal funds for the expansion of **Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery and Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery** to make site improvements at the cemeteries. The Department is authorized to use the fund balance from Budget Code 23050 and any other funds available to the Department, up to \$874,053 for the required 10% match for this grant. (Found on page 24).