

## Why Added Support for Home and Community Care Block Grant is Needed

- On May 1, there were **10,227 people 60 and older on the waiting list** for Block Grant services including three of the services in the most demand – home delivered meals, in-home aide services, and transportation assistance.
- The majority of the people waiting for services do not make enough income to pay federal or state taxes and **would not receive benefit from a state tax cut.**
- Most of the people waiting for services do not qualify for Medicaid and many have **high out-of-pocket medical costs.** Data is not available on medical cost of those waiting for Block Grant services, but a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that in 2010, Medicare beneficiaries spent on average \$4,734 out of their own pocket for health care spending. With the increase in health care cost, that number is likely more today. Out-of-pocket spending is more for those with advanced age and for those in poorer health.
- Those waiting for services typically fit the profile of **those who are currently receiving Block Grant services:**
  - Average age of 78.2
  - 69% female
  - 49% living alone
  - 45% have incomes at or below the federal poverty level (\$12,060 per year) and a large percentage of the rest have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level
  - Have 3 impairments that interfere with their ability to carry out daily activities