



The N.C. Coalition on Aging

2015 Priority Issue

Restore Cuts to Home and Community Care Block Grant

Issue:

The \$969,549 cut to Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) last year is resulting in approximately 1,500 people not receiving needed services which allow them to remain in their homes and communities. Without this support, many face placement in assisted living or nursing facilities at a much greater cost to the State.

The Coalition's Position:

Restore 2014 reductions of \$969,549 in HCCBG support.

Services Funded by HCCBG:

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| ☯ Adult Day Care & Adult Day Health | ☯ Information & Options Counseling |
| ☯ Care Management | ☯ In-Home Aide (levels I-IV) |
| ☯ Congregate & Home-Delivered Meals | ☯ Institutional Respite Care |
| ☯ Group Respite | ☯ Legal Services |
| ☯ Health Promotion, Screening & Disease-Prevention | ☯ Mental Health Counseling |
| ☯ Housing & Home Improvement | ☯ Senior Center Operations |
| | ☯ Senior Companion |
| | ☯ Skilled Home Health Care |
| | ☯ Transportation |

Background Information:

HCCBG is the primary source of public support to help older adults in North Carolina, who are age 60+, remain living in their homes and communities. Persons who are victims or are at-risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation are given priority, as well as individuals with extensive impairments in activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living.

Established in 1992 under NCGS 143B-181.1(a)(11), the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) provides a “common funding stream” for a comprehensive and coordinated system of home and community-based services and opportunities for older adults. The “average” client is nearly 80 and the program targets individuals who are socially and economically needy. Many of those served are among the non-Medicaid ‘poor’ and ‘near-poor’ who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford to pay privately for the services they need.



Administered through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, HCCBG combines federal and state funds with a local match to give county commissioners and their local advisory groups the responsibility to choose how best to spend available dollars in support of senior needs.

Building a case:

- The population of older adults in need of supportive services in their homes continues to grow. In 2013, 1 in 5 NC residents were 60 and over in the state; by 2033, this will be one in four. By 2018, the state as a whole will have more population 60 and over than ages 0-17—already 60 counties do.
- 62,539 seniors were assisted by HCCBG in FY 2013-14, many of whom would have otherwise been at risk due to their social and economic needs. Nearly half of those served (30,573) reported income at or below poverty.
- In FY 2013-14 24,900 persons received a nutritious congregate meal and 17,134 received home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels). According to the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger research, NC is #5 for seniors at risk for food insecurity.
- 7,038 seniors were helped with in-home aide services and 9,958 received help with transportation to health care, essential shopping, and other activities.
- As of January 2014, 8,462 persons were on waiting lists of HCCBG funded services. These services help the most frail elderly, such as home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) and in-home aide services.
- Family caregivers rely on adult day care and adult day health centers for respite and daytime supervised care where 1,190 participants utilized HCCBG funds for 109,305 days during FY 13-14. An additional 21,783 one-way trips were made possible to and from the adult day centers through HCCBG funding. Attendance at an adult day care center includes at least 6 hours of supervision, hot meals and snacks, group interaction, therapeutic activities, administration of medication, case management, assistance with personal care, low impact exercise and medical services by a nurse (in health centers).