

Tammy Lemmer

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House Silver Key Coalition Testimony
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

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Silver Key Coalition

Working to Make Michigan a No Wait State for Senior In-Home Services

www.silverkeycoalition.org

Tri-County Office on Aging:

Honorable Chairwoman Whiteford and members of the Committee, my name is Tammy Lemmer and I am Community Relations Director for the Tri-County Office on Aging. I am here today with Katie Wendel from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B and Lisa Wideman from Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, a Service Provider working with the AAA of Western Michigan.

Demographics:

My agency serves Region 6, which consists of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties. The area is a wonderful mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities, and we have experienced a 33% increase in the older adult population, defined as age 60 and older, since 2010. In that year according to US Census data, the area population was just over 79,400 older adults. According to the annual American Community Survey (ACS), in 2018 that number rose to just under 106,000 across our three counties. As the Committee heard last week from AASA's Senior Deputy Director Dr. Alexis Travis, these changing demographics are not unique to the Capital area. She noted, among other data, that seniors currently out number school age children (ages 5-18) in the state. The statistics and trends are noted in the infographic made available to you.

Dr Travis also discussed our status as one of the "older states" in the country by population age. According to the 2018 single year ACS Michigan has the 8th largest Senior population (60+) (we are 10th largest by total population.) At present, Michigan is home to more than 2.4 million older adults accounting for just over 24% of Michigan's total population.

	Total population	60 years and over
1 California	39,557,045	7,963,713
2 Florida	21,299,325	5,765,648
3 Texas	28,701,845	5,139,025
4 New York	19,542,209	4,480,458
5 Pennsylvania	12,807,060	3,227,151
6 Illinois	12,741,080	2,804,799
7 Ohio	11,689,442	2,792,679
8 Michigan	9,995,915	2,421,416

2018 American Community Survey

We are here today representing the Silver Key Coalition which was formed in 2014 to advocate for increased state support for non-Medicaid senior in-home services provided through the Aging and Adult Services Agency (or AASA) within the Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services. The Coalition's membership of over 40 separate organizations are united for the goal of securing state funding to eliminate wait lists for services often needed by older adults to maintain their independence and dignity as they strive to age in place in their homes and communities. We thank the Michigan legislature for appropriating increases in four of the last six fiscal years for AASA's in-home services line

Services Agency (AASA) FY 2021 budget. Funding for these important services would be distributed to the 16 Area Agencies on Aging through AASA's statewide funding formula.

Addressing the unmet needs of Michigan's seniors should be a FY 2021 budget priority – significant population growth, the shortage of direct care workers, flat state funding in FY 2020 and an unanticipated shortage of \$600,000 in escheats funding for respite care have put strain on Michigan's aging network- we need your help to keep pace with our community's needs.

Seniors who have limitations in their ability to perform activities of daily living, and who go without help because they cannot afford to pay for services at private market rates, often deteriorate faster and end up costing more in health and long-term care services. Our research has shown that we can pay for these services now or pay the price later when the negative outcomes of languishing on wait lists emerge. A recent study in southeast Michigan found that those who were on wait lists and never got help were:

- Five times more likely to enter a nursing home than their counterparts who received services; and
- Less likely to be alive after two years due to a 26% higher mortality rate.

For those who did receive help:

- Family caregivers were three times more likely to report their caregiving responsibilities no longer interfere with their ability to work; and
- The number of family caregivers who report their greatest difficulty is the creation of a financial burden was cut in half.

Silver Key Coalition members recognize that you have difficult choices to make in this budget process. Please remember that AASA in-home services have proven they reduce nursing home admissions, reduce family caregiver burden, and increase life expectancy of those who are served. We ask for your continued support to meet the unmet needs of our aging population.

For further information contact Katie Wendel- kwendel@aaa1b.org



Silver Key Coalition

Working to Make Michigan a No Wait State for Senior In-Home Services
40+ Member Organizations Strong

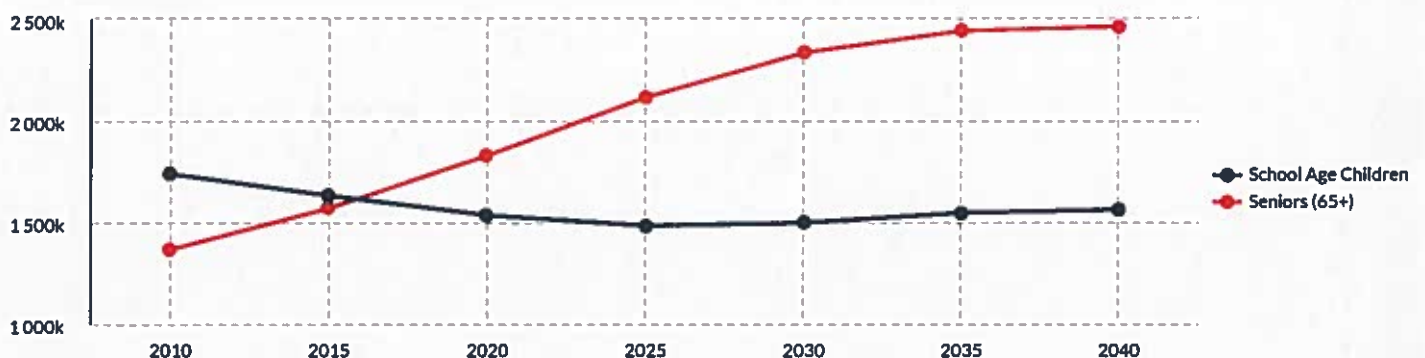
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Michigan's Seniors are Waiting for Care

Invest in AASA Services to Keep Seniors at Home

The Silver Key Coalition is requesting \$6 million for senior in-home services and \$1 million for Home Delivered Meals in the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) FY 2021 budget.

- ▶ **6,182** Michigan Seniors are on Waiting Lists for AASA Services, including Personal Care and Home Delivered Meals.
- ▶ Seniors who remain on waiting lists are **5x** more likely to end up in a Nursing Home.
- ▶ If AASA Services keep just **103** seniors out of Medicaid Nursing homes for 1 year, this increase will have paid for itself.
- ▶ Michigan's Senior Population is growing **3%** each year.





MEALS on WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN

*Silver Coalition
Tammy Lerner
Silver Key*

FY 2019 Summary

All Programs Data:

Unduplicated clients served - 6, 894

858 veterans

3,503 live alone

2,653 live at or below the poverty level

5,283 are low income (<200% poverty)

2,643 Male

4,245 Female

Age (all programs):

Under 60 Eligible Spouses- 131

60-69- 2,467

70-79- 2,209

80-89- 1,544

90-99-52

Over 100-12

Race (all programs):

African American- 1,401

Asian- 77

Hispanic- 311

Native American- 40

Hawaiian- 19

Multi- 9

Caucasian- 5,317

Congregate Meals (Dining Sites)

clients served- 1,911

#meals served- 118,506

Home Delivered Meals (HDM)

clients served- 3,155

#meals served- 593,674

Senior Pantry

#clients served- 2,091

#visits- 22,235

Pounds of food distributed: 1,116,400

Senior Project Fresh

#clients served-600

Well Being Impact:

14 Emergency Assists

120 Well Being Concerns

57 Adult Protective Services Referrals

1,128 referrals to other needed services

Volunteers:

920 Volunteers

74 Groups

32,000 hours

Other:

93% of HDM Clients say the services helps them stay in their homes.

97% of HDM clients say their basic food needs are being met.

98% of HDM clients say they are satisfied with their meals.

82 % of HDM clients say their health has improved.

96% of all clients say they have received valuable health and nutrition information.

86% of congregate meal clients participate in activities at the dining sites.