



Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging

2023 Budget Priorities

Case Management:

Thank You for 2022 Funding for Case Manager workforce. We are “catching up,” thanks to \$24 million in last year’s budget. Area Agencies on Aging are on track to hire 130+ case managers this year. These funds help reduce staff burnout and help restore services to keep clients living with disabilities safe at home.

Please support technical fix to Case Management Formula—it includes some, but not all, case managers in maintenance level adjustments to keep up with rapid inflation in wages. We need \$4.9 million from the general fund plus federal match to maintain parity with state staff compensation for all of our case management staff. (Budget language on back)

Health Homes:

This Medicaid Program Pays for itself by reducing hospital costs. The Health Homes program provides care coordination for people on both Medicaid and Medicare (dual-eligibles) who have the most expensive and complex chronic health problems. Health Homes services help keep clients healthy, reducing hospital costs. Washington has a shared savings agreement with federal Medicare to send about \$17 million each year back to the state.

Please support a rate increase to keep up with inflation for Health Homes “fee for service” program for dual-eligible clients. (Budget language on back)

Dementia Resource Catalyst Funding to help people stay safe at home (supporting Alzheimer’s Association Request):

The 2021 Legislature funded a two-year pilot program for dementia-capable services at two Area Agency on Aging sites. This program is a vital lifeline for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families. Our staff help families keep their loved ones safely at home and connect them to resources they need.

Please fund \$1.734 million for dementia services at two additional sites.

Contact:

Kate White Tudor 360-402-1272; kate@whitetudor.com
Cathy Knight, 206-612-4006; cathy.knight@agingwashington.org

Area Agencies on Aging proposed budget language:

Please support technical fix to Case Management Formula—it does not keep up with rapid inflation in wages. We need to maintain parity with state staff compensation.

Budget language: “\$4,900,000 of the general fund—state, and \$5,000,000 of the general - fund-federal appropriation for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 is provided solely for Area Agency on Aging Case Management services parity with funding provided for comparable work performed by state employees. DSHS shall maintain parity by adjusting the Area Agency on Aging case management funding on a per client monthly rate by a percentage equal to the percentage increase in the fully budgeted cost for comparable full time equivalent state employees.”

Health Homes needs to keep up with inflation to stay staffed—this program pays for itself.

Budget language: “\$1,607,000 of the general fund-state, and \$1,633,000 of the general fund-federal is appropriated for fiscal year 2024 and \$2,015,000 of the general fund—state and \$2,048,000, of the general fund-federal is appropriated for fiscal year 2025 solely to increase payment rates in the health homes program for dual eligible enrollees.”