Community Services for the Elderly
February 2015

Last year, the Legislature provided an additional $5 million for the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) program for state fiscal year 2014-15.

The local areas agencies on aging (AAA) have used the additional Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) funding in multiple ways, illustrating why the flexibility of Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) is so important. The examples outlined below illustrate that AAAs leverage existing resources and partnerships with local organizations to efficiently and effectively use the additional CSE funds.

While we celebrate the positive, we also look to the horizon and see unmet demand for aging services, which is why we’re asking for an additional $21 million for Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) for state fiscal year 2015-16.

The following are several examples of how the additional Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) funds are being used by local offices for the aging:

Chautauqua County Office for the Aging
Dr. Mary Ann Spanos, Director

- Reduced wait list for home care and community-based services, including personal care levels I & II, adult day care, and Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS).
- Have long wait lists for home repairs, therefore, used some of the additional CSE funds for ramps, safety rails, and other critical home repairs when no other funding was available.

Cattaraugus County Office for the Aging
Cathy Mackay, Director

- Used CSE monies to increase coverage for people needing social day services (transportation, meals, and respite included). This was especially helpful to those folks that had no other means of funding, such as MHA, OPWDD, Medicaid, etc and couldn't afford to private pay more.
- When we increased our CSE, we met with The Rehabilitation Center and the reps from the VA & used this as leverage for them to increase their funding. For example, the VA would cover a veteran for 1 day a week. We covered 1 day a week with CSE. When we increased our coverage to 2 days/week, we asked the VA if they could match it. They then increased their coverage to two days a week. In the end, the person now gets 4 days/week day program instead of two. We were successful in using the CSE funds to leverage additional resources from the VA.
- The additional CSE funds in our county enabled us to expand many services that keep seniors at home (day care, meals, transportation, PERS, homecare) and ward off premature admittance to skilled living and spend-down to Medicaid.
Putnam County Office for the Aging  
Patricia Sheehy, Director

- Provided more Shower Out With Assistance (SOAP) opportunities for seniors to come to two of our sites and shower with assistance from a certified home Health Aid and also help doing their own laundry. This social model adult day services program assists family caregivers as well as seniors whose homes are not handicapped accessible
- Utilized additional funds for social adult days services programs, and transportation to senior centers and other locations.

Dutchess County Office for the Aging  
Mary Kaye Dolan, Director

- Additional CSE funding has primarily gone toward Home Delivered Meals.

Erie County Department of Senior Services  
Randall Hoak, Commissioner

- Provided additional funding for Legal Services, which has experienced an increase in demand as a result of Medicaid changes.
- Started a pilot program involving Erie Department of Senior Services, Buffalo Care Share, The Salvation Army and RSVP, all directed at increasing transportation services to older adults.
- Provided churches and other faith-based organizations with start-up funding to start small respite programs in their communities.
- Reduced wait lists for home care, social model adult day programs and transportation.

Fulton County Office for the Aging  
Andrea Fettinger, BA, Med, Director

- Increased Senior Transportation routes.
- Offered more home care.
- Reduced wait lists for personal care services.

Monroe County Office for the Aging  
Julie Allen Aldrich, Director

- Covered 3,000 additional units of service to handle increase in call volume and client caseload.
- Printed materials for use in Health Insurance Information and Counseling Program presentations (HIICAP) for 3,000 participants.
- Supported salary for part-time HIICAP advisor during open enrollment season.
- Supported salary for 2-3 part time Financial Management Assistance to support volunteers and consumers with complex debt that require working with creditors and banks.
• Increased hours of kitchen staff.
• Provided additional monthly trips for grocery shopping.
• Increased meal capacity.
• Built up resources for Caregiver library.
• Supported roll out of Powerful Tools for Caregivers – staff training, travel, recruitment of peer coaches, materials for program and snacks for sessions.
• Partial purchase of a van.
• Reduced wait list for home care (Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly).
• Provided respite service hours to 30 overburdened low-income family caregivers.
• Provided services to 60 family caregivers that care for their aging loved ones suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease and other forms of dementia.
• Provided PeerPlace software database training.
• Enrolled an additional 100 older adults into education, health, wellness and fitness classes that enhance their health quality of life.

Niagara County Office for the Aging
Ken Genewick, Director

• We have been able to use our additional CSE funding by enhancing our transportation, in-home contact and support, and legal services provided to our communities. This has come through entering into new contractual partnerships with two agencies, who as a result have expanded services into our county.
• Legal Services for the Elderly, Disabled and Disadvantaged of WNY have been able to begin outreach and educational events in our county, and provide additional personal legal assistance to our clients and caregivers.
• Hearts and Hands, Faith in Action, Inc., which is a faith based volunteer led agency, has been able to link seniors to volunteers in the community in order to provide assisted transportation to medical appointments, shopping, and other events, while also bringing assistance into the home, such as handy work, home visits, and other services.
• Also, given the flexibility of CSE funding, we have been able to increase funding into other services, such as transportation, to shift funding from other over-matched funds, thereby reducing county match to meet budgetary constraints while not diminishing services.

Westchester County Department for Senior Programs and Services
Mae Carpenter, Commissioner

• Contracted with Food Bank for Westchester to provide SNAP Assistance
• Contracted with Elderserve Licensed Home Care Agency Services, Inc., the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester Encore Plus Program and Westchester Community College Mainstream program to administer evidence-based health and wellness programs.
• Contracted with Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. to provide Shared Housing services. Inter-municipal agreement with the City of Yonkers and the Town of Eastchester to provide Information and Assistance and Case Management Services.
- Entered into agreement with the Volunteer Service Bureau of Westchester Inc., The Volunteer Center of United Way to provide Livable Communities Volunteer Coordination services.
- Contracted with the Westchester Public/Private Membership Fund for Aging Services Inc. to provide Livable Communities Volunteer Coordination services.
- Contracted with Westchester Jewish Community Services to provide Case Management Services for Home-Delivered Meal assessments.

**Wayne County Department for Aging and Youth**  
Penny Shockley, Director

- The CSE funding was primarily used to increase Home Delivered Meal distribution.