



**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of September 8, 2007**

DATE: September 8, 2007

SUBJECT: Appropriation of state and federal funds to the Arlington Agency on Aging

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

1. Appropriate \$81,473 from the Virginia Department of Aging (VDA) to the Department of Human Services (101.53101) to provide home delivered meals, long-term care ombudsman services, data collection for submission to the state, and assistance to Arlington elders in accessing available transportation services. The \$81,473 total includes \$32,857 in state funds (101.365500) and \$48,616 in federal funds (101.372500).
2. Authorize 0.5 FTE permanent grant funded position to link frail seniors to senior transportation services.
3. Authorize 0.1 FTE permanent grant funded position to complete monthly data entry as required by the state.

ISSUES: Should additional state and federal funds be appropriated for specified activities? Should 0.6 FTE permanent grant funded positions be authorized to assist older Arlington residents with accessing services?

SUMMARY: A total of \$81,473 in additional state and federal funds are available to expand services to Arlington residents age 60 and over. These funds will increase the availability of subsidies for low income home delivered meals participants, connect frail seniors to the transportation services they need, and maintain the availability of the Long Term Care Ombudsman program. This expansion of services will further implement several Elder Readiness Task Force recommendations.

DISCUSSION: Additional state and federal appropriations to Virginia's agencies on aging network are distributed via an interstate funding formula. VDA recently notified each of the twenty-five Virginia area agencies on aging of the amount of additional funds available. These funds must be used to expand services, not to supplant local or state funds. The funds will be used for several purposes:

- Currently, home delivered meals are provided to over 350 persons, 174 of whom receive a subsidy. The weekly cost for Meals on Wheels is \$26. The new funds will subsidize an additional 50 Meals on Wheels recipients and eligible residents of independent senior residences (\$42,176).

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Terri Lynch, DHS, Aging and Disability Services

- Offer home-based, personalize mobility management counseling to 100 physically and/or cognitively impaired elders, to help them obtain senior transportation services, and to enter relevant data into state mandated collection system (\$34,297). Over the past several years, the variety and quantity of paratransit and human service programs designed for elders who should not or cannot drive, yet cannot use public transit, has increased. However, accessing the services is confusing because the programs have differing eligibility criteria and application processes. As a result, many physically frail and/or cognitively impaired elders do not avail themselves of services for which they are eligible. This program includes assessing an elder's mobility needs, completing a Uniform Assessment Instrument (UAI), identifying appropriate transportation services, assisting the elder to complete the necessary applications, providing follow-up assistance, and tracking the results as required by VDA.
- Increase the Arlington share of the cost of the regional Long-term Care Ombudsman Program administered by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (\$5,000). The Ombudsman Program is financed by federal Older Americans Act funds that is provided by VDA directly to the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and by the five local jurisdictions served by the program. The Arlington funding budgeted for FY 2008 for this program share is \$5,000 less than required.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. The grant funds to be appropriated will be ongoing. There is no impact on net tax support.