



TESTIMONY OF CATHERINE EDWARDS, PhD - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING  
JANUARY 7, 2014

Funding

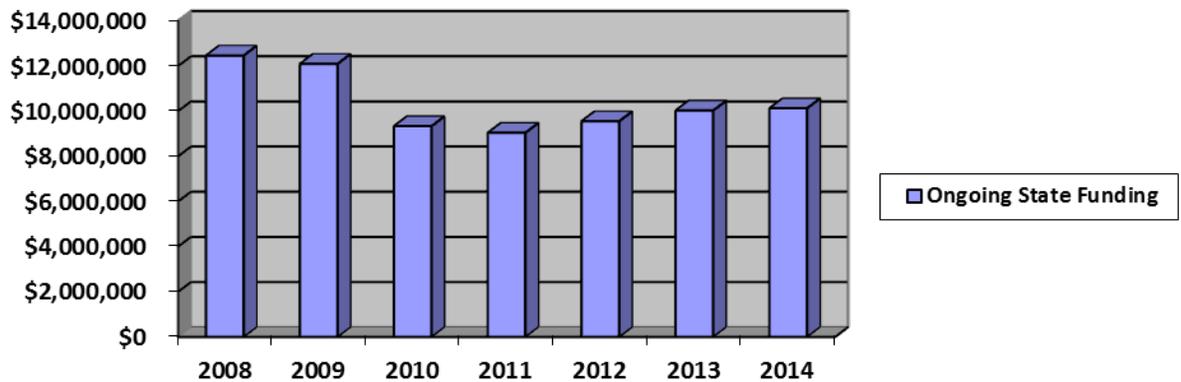
- As a result of sequestration, Missouri's aging programs lost **\$750,000** this year.
- This is only the **first of 10 cuts**, if sequestration is not turned off.
- In general, funding for the AAAs has been trending downwards for the past five years. Federal funding was fairly flat, with the exception of the infusion of ARRA funds in 2010 on a temporary basis. State funding had been steadily decreasing or remained flat. Recent increases have been to make up for "lost ground".
- State funding for the program in 2009 was over \$12.4 million. In 2010 the program was cut by nearly \$3 million. The precipitous drop in funding in 2010 was partially offset by ARRA funds. Still, the net funding cut for that year was \$1.4 million. MA4 has been working over the past three years to have at least that \$1.4 million restored. In this past legislative session \$500,000 was added to the program to finally restore those funds. But there is still a long way to go to get us back to the **2009 level**.
- Over the past five years, the AAAs have experienced a steady increase in the cost of meals and other services. **The impact of funding cuts will be magnified as the cost of meals and other services continues to increase.**
- These trends are eroding the programs and the safety net they provide for seniors most likely to enter a nursing home without them. Further, they are threatening the aging network's ability to serve the emergent senior population who will need services. The latest census indicates that the fastest growing age group within the senior population is the 80+ group, in other words those who tend to be the most vulnerable. 46% of the seniors the AAAs serve are 75+ and over half live alone----the AAAs are often their only resource.

Meals Program

- Home delivered meals help the elderly remain in their homes and communities even as their health and functioning declines by targeting the most vulnerable older adults.
- Home-delivered meals are usually the first step older adults take to stay in their homes, according to the Administration on Aging; it is also the most important.

- 31,662 MO seniors received home delivered meals this past year; 46% were over 75; 54% were single and alone; and 36% were low income.
- The above factors are ALL identifying factors that lead to increased risk of nursing home placement.
- Missouri is ranked number thirteen of the states with the highest rates of food insecurity among senior citizens.
- Recent funding trends have impacted the program. Data gathered by the state's National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) indicate a downward trend in the number of people served in the home delivered meals program. Between 2007 and 2013 the number of people served has declined from 34,241 to 31,662. (This represents a seven percent decrease).
- **MA4 calls upon the Missouri General Assembly to continue to restore funding for the home-delivered meals for seniors program by adding \$1 million in funding to the program for SFY 2015.**

State Funding for Home Delivered Meals Program  
Ongoing State Funding  
2008-2014



	ONGOING STATE FUNDING
2008	\$12,466,573
2009	\$12,096,784
2010	\$9,335,053
2011	\$9,041,042
2012	\$9,555,884
2013	\$10,026,694
2014	\$10,126,034

