



Ma4 Growth and Development Program Initiative Talking Points

The Goal

Ma4 is seeking 2 goals in 2017: 1) an increase in funding appropriated for senior services; and 2) establishment of a sustainable funding source (which is not meant to supplant appropriated funds).

Why

1. There is serious lack of sufficient and sustainable funding for senior services.
 - AAA core budget was cut in 2008 and has never been fully restored.
 - Beyond the restoration of 2008 base core funding, AAAs need a sustainable funding source that recognizes exponential senior population growth and the need to strengthen AAA home and community based services.
 - If funding doesn't increase, services can only continue to shrink.
2. The senior population continues to grow while the appropriated funding has gone down.
 - The result- services are limited; wait lists are growing; Medicaid costs rise as home and community based services suffer.
 - AAAs are only able to serve 10% of the eligible population.
 - Number of senior centers has decreased by 7% in the last 4 years.

The Solution - The Initiative

1. The legislation –proposes that 20% of the fees collected by the Insurance Premium Tax (already in existence) be directed to AAA senior programs and services.
2. This initiative requires NO new taxes.
3. Revenue Generated by the existing 2% Premium Tax:

In 2014 the revenue collected = \$202,590,279

In 2015 the revenue collected = \$239,199,466 (18% increase)

Estimate for 2016 = \$255,000,000

Estimate for 2017 = \$266,000,000

Revenue collected from the insurance premium tax continues to grow; it is fair to say we will not be taking existing GR but rather new dollars. Therefore our proposal would not significantly impact existing GR allocations, if at all. The primarily new growth dollars in this fund could be directed toward one of Missouri's greatest challenges: providing adequate, fiscally helpful services to seniors.

Benefits

1. Adequate funding would allow the AAAs to reach more seniors to provide the services necessary to keep seniors in their own homes.
2. Increased funding to AAAs also benefits the state:
 - State funds would be better spent on services for seniors that allow them to stay in their homes vs having to move to Medicaid nursing homes, costing the state three times as much. Supporting this bill is a fiscally conservative move.
 - It saves the state money by providing more cost-effective service management

Your Story - Make it personal