

# In Hard Times, Protect What Works!

## The Senior Citizens Services Act Keeps Seniors at Home in their Community

### What is SCSA?

The Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA) was passed by the legislature in 1977 to build a system of community-based services to help seniors stay home for their long term care and avoid costly institutionalization. This network of services created through SCSA meets these goals in an extraordinarily cost effective manner. At its current funding level of \$8.4 million dollars per year, SCSA provides an incredible return on that investment in the services it funds directly and in its leveraging of matching funds from grants.

### SCSA Funds a Range of Essential Services:

**Senior Information and Assistance (Senior I&A)** programs, in communities throughout our state, are the first point of contact for older adults and their families. Senior I&A specialists, experts in eligibility for programs that serve older Washingtonians and trained to handle the concerns and issues of older people, answer a host of questions ranging from Medicare Part D to planning for Long Term Care services. Senior I&A is a one-stop access point where elder-friendly offices assist seniors achieve and maintain their maximum level of independence. Without good information and proper guidance to navigate unfamiliar problems and a confusing system, many older people make decisions that jeopardize their health and well-being. Senior Information and Assistance programs, funded with SCSA resources, help prevent these costly missteps. **Please keep SCSA at current funding levels.**



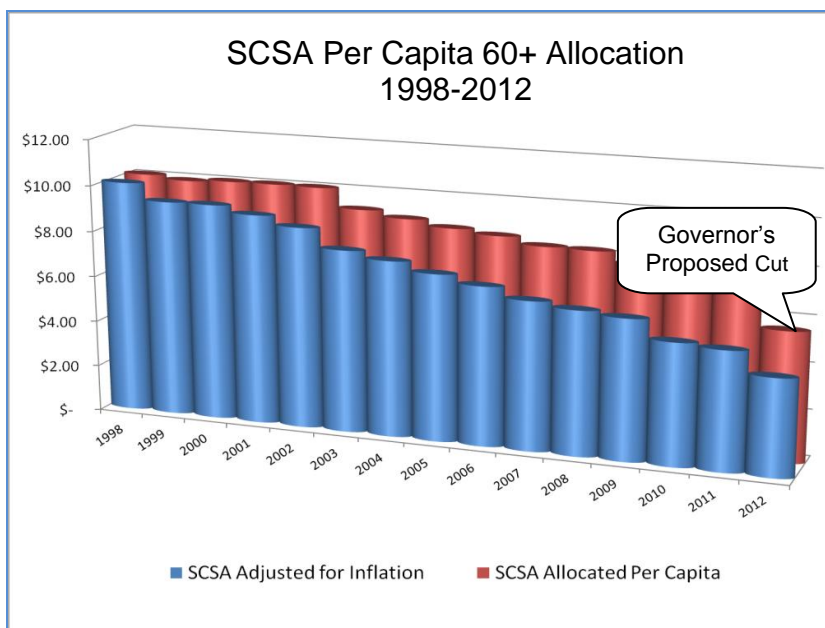
Jennie Arenas learned quickly that the “golden years” don’t always shine brightly. When she retired from her position at a local furniture store, she assumed that her Social Security would be sufficient to live on. What she didn’t factor in was the cost of Medicare co-pays and premiums, and the cost of medication not covered by Part D. When these costs were paid, she didn’t have sufficient income to pay her rent.

The Senior Information and Assistance Specialist interviewed her to assess for other helpful resources and determined that Jennie would qualify for programs that would pay her Medicare premiums and help with her co-pays. In addition, they helped her sign up for a prescription scholarship, which paid for the medications not covered by Part D. She was able to stay in her apartment and is saving money to visit her sister-in-law in June!

**SCSA funds help Jennie to live within her means.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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Service	Approximate Units Provided, 2011	People Served
Transportation	194,795 one way trips	9,000
Information and Assistance	263,155 contacts/assists	122,684
Case Management - Aging Network	1,819 cases	1,819
Personal Care Services - Aging Network	5,285 hours	88
Bath Assistance	6,406 contacts/hours	120
Foot Care	8,600 sessions	2,000
Visiting/Telephone Reassurance	14,752 contacts	10,180
Medication Management	7,853 contacts	4,753
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion	5,439 hours	6,209
Falls Prevention	63 classes	264
Minor Home Repair	805 contacts	487
Congregate Meals	1,470,510 meals	61,144
Home Delivered Meals	1,492,055 meals	13,406
Adult Day Services	14,571 days	228
Elder Abuse Prevention	309 hours	1,125
Mental Health Supports	2,728 hours	547
Long Term Care Ombudsman	5,108 investigations	6,935
Outreach	7,000 contacts	7,000
Locally Determined Services	75,573 contacts	75,573
Total People Served with SCSA		323,562



The services provided using SCSA funds vary tremendously by region in the state. The local control of these resources allows Area Agencies on Aging to apply the funds to service needs tailored to their communities. While the increasing need for services corresponds to the continued growth in the 60+ population, the per capita allocation has continued to decrease since 1998.