

# 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.

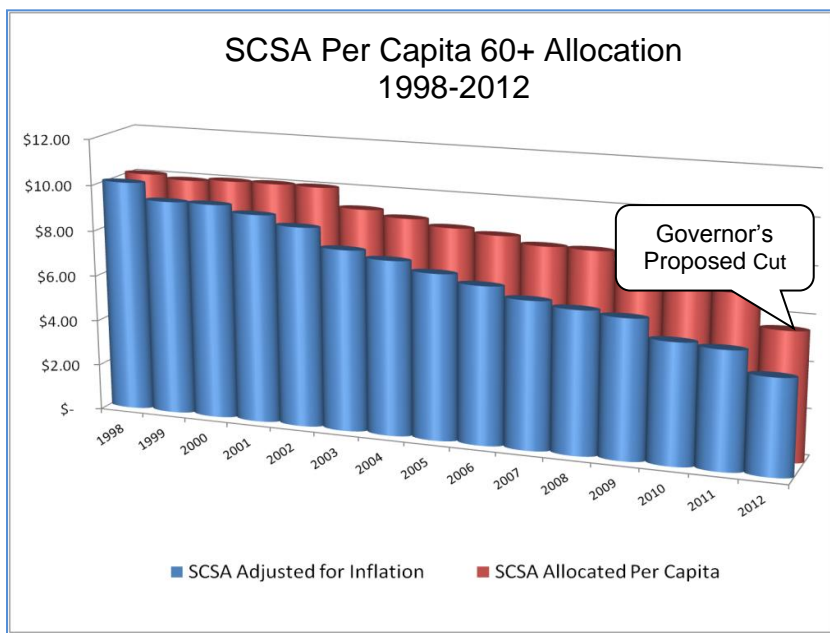
The Senior Information and Assistance Specialist interviewed her to assess for other helpful resources and determined that Jennie would qualify for programs that would pay her Medicare premiums and help with her co-pays. In addition, they helped her sign up for a prescription scholarship, which paid 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	194,138 one way trips	11,109
Information and Assistance	387,408 contacts/assists	196,319
Case Management - Aging Network	2,582 cases	1,885
Resident Services Coordination	1,600 cases	1,600
Personal Care Services - Aging Network	4,288 hours	81
Health Maintenance	1,987 contacts/hours	398
Bath Assistance	6,451 contacts/hours	111
Visiting/Telephone Reassurance	15,574 contacts	14,689
Minor Home Repair	921 contacts	421
Adult Day Services	22,550 days	375
Congregate Meals	1,501,491 meals	66,285
Home Delivered Meals	1,480,898 meals	13,574
Medication Management	7,678 contacts	4,927
Senior Drug Education	1,398 trainings	11,070
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion	6,147 hours	9,840
Mental Health Supports	2,294 hours	788
Long Term Care Ombudsman	5,177 investigations	6,182
Foot Care	10,685 sessions	2,520
Outreach	7,000 contacts	7,000
Total People Served with SCSA		349,174

\* Estimates only. Actual numbers not yet compiled for 2011.



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.