



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging
Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging

***Protect The Homecare Solution:
The Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA)
Keeps Seniors at Home in their Communities***

10 Reasons Why Cutting SCSA will Harm Seniors and Increase Costs to the State

1. Over 65,000 people access SCSA-funded services each year. This number does not include the thousands of people who just receive information or attend educational presentations and for whom no data is collected.
2. SCSA costs the state \$8,999,000 per year. Eliminating it will likely cost the state about \$41,500,000 for the biennium or over \$23,000,000 more than the cost of funding SCSA; AND will likely cost the federal government an additional \$23,000,000 over that same time period.
3. Over 22,000 SCSA clients are functionally eligible for Nursing Facility Level of Care.
4. Over 42,000 SCSA clients are financially eligible for Medicaid long term care services.
5. Over 16,600 SCSA clients are BOTH functionally and financially eligible for Medicaid long term care services.
6. Eliminating SCSA creates a reasonable risk of sending 333 clients to a nursing home and 1,330 clients to a community long term care setting each year.
7. The monthly per capita cost to the state of community LTC settings is 75 times more expensive than SCSA and the cost of nursing homes is 167 times more expensive.
8. If you add in the federal share, the monthly per capita cost of community LTC settings is 150 times more expensive than SCSA and the cost of nursing homes is 334 times more expensive.
9. Eliminating SCSA creates a reasonable risk of over 64,000 clients each year no longer receiving services.
10. SCSA honors the choices and dignity of older Americans who want to stay in their homes and their local communities.

Why Cutting Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA) will Harm Seniors and Increase Costs to the State

1. Mrs. C is 81 years old. After hearing from a bank employee that Mrs. C was writing overdrafts on her checking account, an Information and Assistance (I&A) Specialist helped her to make changes to her insurance policy, apply for Medicare savings program, housing assistance and free medications. The I&A Specialist helped her secure an apartment in public housing, get meals on wheels and arrange for a volunteer to help her.
2. Mr. A, a 63 year old Vietnam Vet, was facing eviction due to confusion and inability to pay his rent and maintain a safe and sanitary household. SCSA-funded Hope Options program, with case management assistance, helped Mr. A get Section 8 housing assistance and Social Security Disability Income.
3. Mr. N, 87, was born and raised on an apple ranch in Eastern Washington. He has macular degeneration and can no longer see well enough to drive. His son and his wife work full time in order to make improvements on the farm. Mr. N is home alone and isolated for long hours. His daughter-in-law contacted Senior Information and Assistance and signed him up for Senior Transportation. Now he goes to town three days per week for congregate meals, doctor appointments, and visits with his friends at the Cougar Café.
4. Doris had been the “designated driver” since her husband’s stroke in 1997. When a broken hip kept Doris from driving, she and Al were dependent upon their working daughter for assistance. An overwhelmed daughter contacted Senior Information & Assistance for help to keep her parents at home. They suggested Meals on Wheels. The meals provided respite for their daughter and a good source of nourishment for Doris and Al. Doris’s hip healed in three months and the meals played a huge part in her recuperation.
5. Mr. H, a former City Council member and church pastor sought help for an ailing 94 year old whose family was not available. Mr. H recounted that when he learned about Senior Information & Assistance, “Within twenty minutes, we had more information than weeks of our efforts searching for solutions. It’s nice to have my tax dollars work for us, providing real solutions to our current problems is of great value to me and us all” –Mr. H.
6. Ms. Y has been attending and volunteering for the Camas Senior Center for five years. Ms. Y comments: “I have no way of getting anywhere without the Senior Transportation program. Because of my breathing problems, I cannot walk to the bus stop. There are so many seniors that would love to go to the meal site and enjoy the social aspect as well as the nutrition of the meal site. The meal site provides educational and outreach opportunities that are very valuable. I will really miss going to the Senior Meal Site if funding continues to diminish.”
7. Mr. M is a Vancouver, WA resident and relies on non-ambulatory transportation services. “We need the transportation for Senior Citizens to be funded. It is very important. I am a diabetic, have COPD, Congestive Heart and a lot of other things. My family cannot transport me. I am in a wheelchair and I need assistance into the vehicle. If I fall, I need help getting up.” Without the senior transportation program, Mr. M would be stuck at home only getting out when he had a doctor’s appointment. When he attends the Adult Day Health Center he receives restorative treatment and an opportunity to socialize.
8. Ms. G is an 80 year-old living independently at home and recently retired. Ms. G suffered a heart attack, which left her feeling too weak to cook and fearful of bathing without assistance. Senior Personal Care provided the support she needed to safely remain in her home for a couple of months until she recovered.