

South Carolina **DEPARTMENT ON AGING**

FY 25-26 House Ways & Means
Budget Hearing
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Connie D. Munn, MSW

Agency Attendees

- Connie D. Munn, MSW, Director, SCDOA
- Syeeda Gallman, Finance Director, SCDOA
- Lily Cogdill, Legislative Liaison, SCDOA

Agency Information

Mission

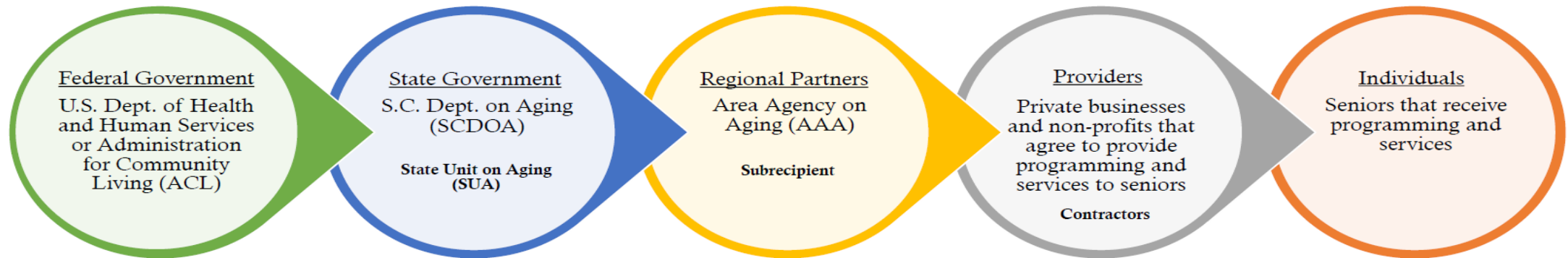
Meet the present and future needs of seniors and to enhance the quality of life for older South Carolinians through advocating, planning, and developing resources in partnership with federal, state, and local governments, non-profits, the private sector, and individuals.

Vision

Provide leadership, advocacy, and collaboration to assure a full spectrum of services, so that South Carolina seniors and/or adults with disabilities can enjoy an enhanced quality of life, contribute to their communities, have economic security, and receive the support necessary to age with choice and dignity.

Agency Information

Funding Services



SCDOA's Responsibilities as the State Unit on Aging:

- Responsible for dividing the state into Planning and Service Area regions
- Responsible for choosing an entity within each area to serve as the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

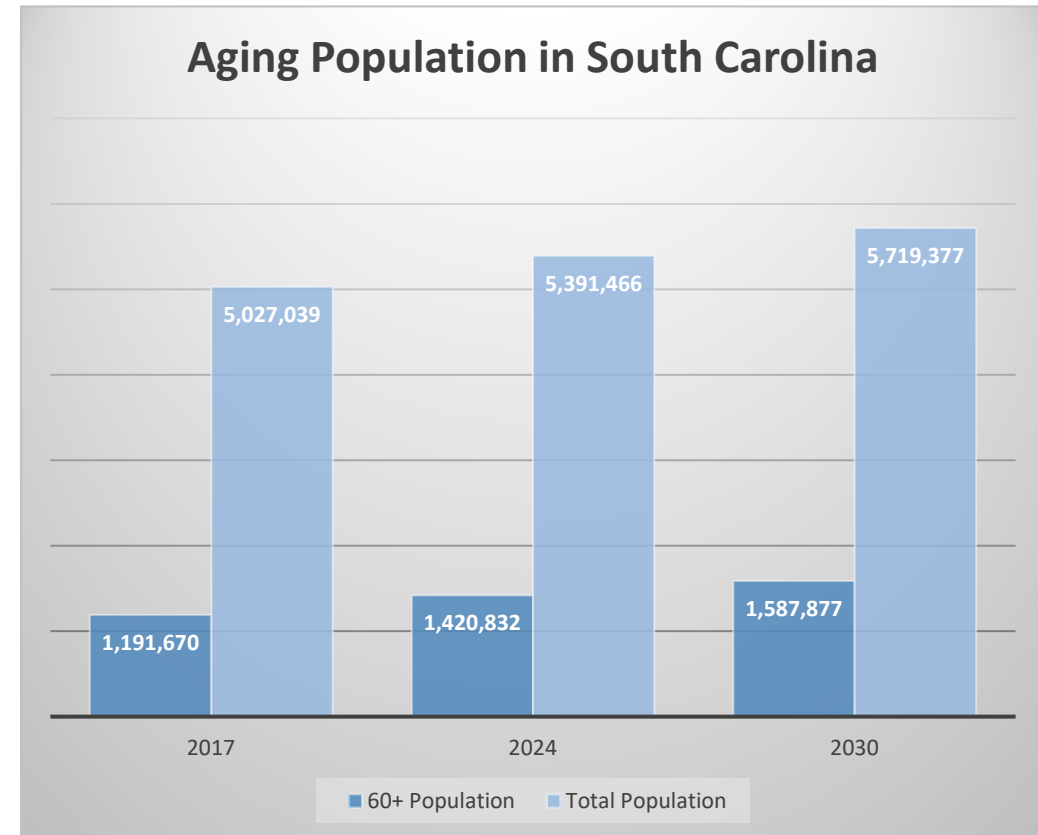
Agency Information

The Department on Aging subgrants with the 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to deliver services regionally through the Aging Network.



60+ Population Growth

- **2017** – 23.7% of population
- **2024** – 26.4% of population
 - + 229,162 older adults
 - 19.2% Increase from 2017
- **2030** – 27.8% of population
 - + 396,208 older adults
 - 33.2% Increase from 2017



Source of Data: Revenue and Fiscal Affairs – October 2024

Agency Priority 1

Older Americans Act (OAA) Compliance

\$527,417 Total | \$255,528 St. | \$271,889 Fed.
6 FTEs Total | 3 St. | 3 Fed.

Older Americans Act (OAA) Compliance

- The Final Rule of the Older Americans Act (OAA) was released in February 2024. This is the first substantial update to OAA programs since 1988.
- The South Carolina Department on Aging has until October 2025 to comply with the OAA Final Rule.
- Additional FTEs are required to carryout the defined duties of the Final Rule.
 1. Veteran's Assistance Specialist
 2. Account/ Fiscal Analyst
 3. OAA Program Coordinator
 4. OAA Administrative Coordinator II
 5. Legal Assistance Developer
 6. OAA Policy & Training Coordinator

Agency Priority 2

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

\$19,870,361 Total State

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

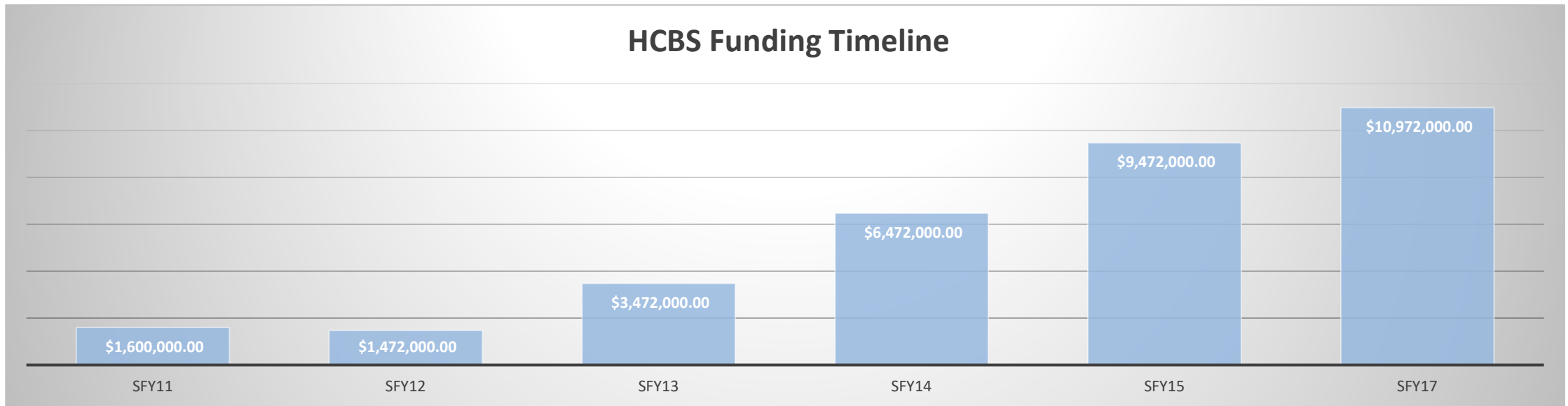
- 3 Factors driving this Request:
 1. Significant growth in the state's 60+ population
 2. Inflationary costs for services
 3. Unwinding of the ARPA Funds provided for COVID-19

- This request was a collaborative effort with the 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to best determine the budget needs to adequately serve older adults statewide.

Service	State Funds Needed
Group Dining	\$ 3,502,840.00
Home Delivered Meals	\$ 11,074,280.50
Transportation - Group Dining	\$ 2,679,555.96
Transportation - Essential Trips	\$ 2,235,012.88
Homemaker	\$ 3,702,910.50
Personal Care	\$ 2,679,300.69
Home Chore	\$ 680,234.04
Legal Assistance	\$ 453,269.50
Assessments	\$ 1,722,105.00
Minor Home Repair/Modification	\$ 2,056,852.00
Pest Control	\$ 56,000.00
Total	\$ 30,842,361.08
Current HCBS Appropriation	\$ 10,972,000.00
FY26 Needs	\$ 19,870,361.08

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

HCBS has remained stagnant at \$10,972,000 since FY2017.



Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Impact of Additional Funding

HCBS Services	Additional Service Units	
Group Dining	117,727	Meals
Home Deliver Meals	777,638	Meals
Transportation to Group Dining	61,075	Miles
Transportation for Essential Trips	275,468	Miles
Home Care I	42,246	Hours
Home Care II	99,261	Hours
Home Chore	4,129	Hours
Home Modification	1,416	Projects
Legal Assistance	7,090	Hours
Assessments	11,323	Assessments

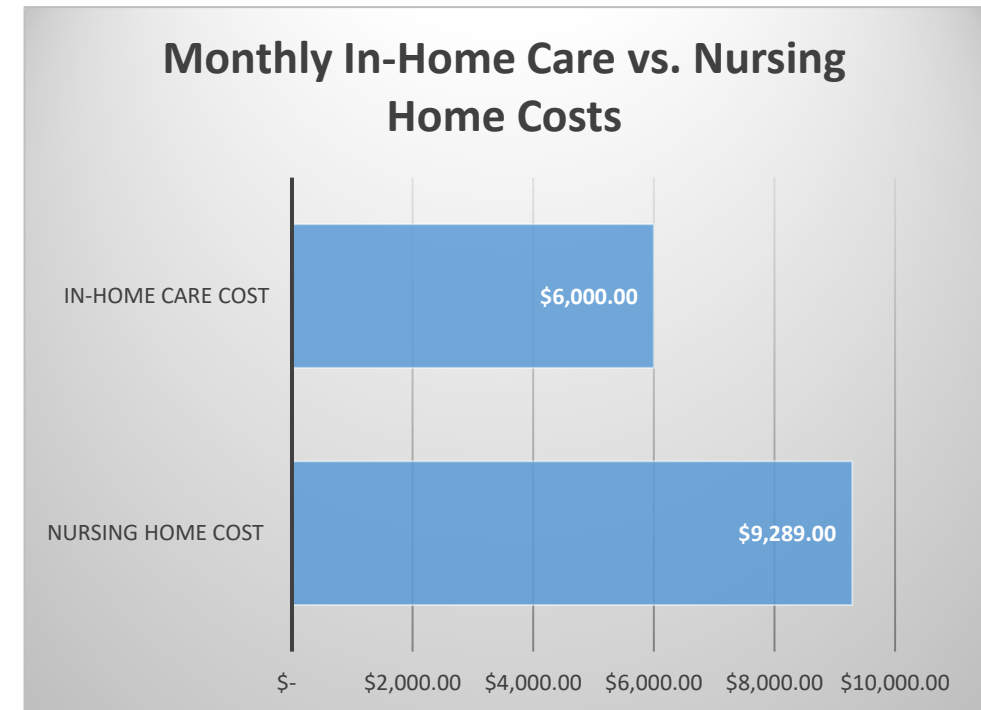
Agency Priority 3

Home Stabilization Program - FTEs

\$403,013 Total State
3 State FTEs

Home Stabilization Program - FTEs

- SCDOA supports services to help older adults age safely in place.
- 2024 Nursing Home costs in SC
Average - \$9,289/month or \$111,468/year



Source of Data: <https://www.seniorliving.org/nursing-homes/costs/>

Home Stabilization Program - FTEs

- This request is a follow-up to last year's request to establish the Home Stabilization Program.
 - Aging was appropriated \$667,078 for funding to complete home modifications and repairs, but positions are needed to administer the program.
- The three requested FTEs are the following –
 1. **Occupational Therapist** - To oversee that the modifications are appropriate for the senior(s) living in the home.
 2. **Occupational Therapist Assistant** - To conduct home visits and document the impact of the home modifications and repairs.
 3. **Program Manager** - To complete documentation and coordinate the work with the contractors.

Agency Priority 4

Ombudsman Allocations to AAAs

\$550,000 Total State

Ombudsman Allocations to AAAs

- Additional funding is needed to expand the DDSN/DMH Ombudsman Program statewide within all ten AAA Regions.
 - **Funded Regions:** Appalachia, Upper Savannah, Waccamaw, Trident and Lowcountry
 - **Not Funded Regions:** Catawba, Central Midlands, Lower Savannah, Santee-Lynches and Pee Dee
- The Program has not received additional allocations since inception through the Omnibus Adult Protection Act in 2005.

Agency Priority 5

Legislative Recommendations

\$348,158 Total State
2 State FTEs

Legislative Recommendations

The House Legislative Oversight Committee (HOC) conducted a study on the Department of Aging which was finalized August 2023. As a result, the following requests are needed to address the referenced HOC Recommendations:

- **Recommendation #5: Implement Agency eLearning/Learning Management System**
1 FTE – Learning Management System (LMS) Program Manager - 100% State
- **Recommendation #12: Establish Marketing and Communications Division**
1 FTE - Communications Coordinator - 100% State
\$167,000 state - Operational Funds for media and marketing

Agency Priority 6

Vulnerable Adult Guardian Ad Litem (VAGAL) FTE

\$79,449 Total State
1 State FTE

Vulnerable Adult Guardian Ad Litem (VAGAL) FTE

- VAGAL employees provide court representation to ensure the rights of vulnerable adults are protected and conveyed in cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- To address the growing aging population, an additional FTE is needed to staff the Vulnerable Adult Guardian Ad Litem (VAGAL) Program and support the increased caseload.

Agency Priority 7

IT - DTO Shared Services

\$99,000 Total | \$41,000 St. | \$58,000 Fed.

IT - DTO Shared Services

- In accordance with **Proviso 117.107: Statewide Strategic Information Technology Plan Implementation**, Aging was evaluated by the Department of Administration's Division of Technology Operations and transitioned to IT shared services.
- Shared services are approximately \$99,000 per year and include the following: Data warehouse, Internet service, managed workstation, network switch maintenance, office 365 and SSL Licenses.

Agency Priority 8

FTE Rebalancing

FTE Rebalancing

- This request is needed to correctly align agency FTEs with funds. Since establishment of the agency in 2019, Aging has strived to effectively align and manage FTEs within a complex funding structure.
- With the amendment of Proviso 117.14: FTE Management for FY25, this is no longer feasible, and the following FTEs adjustments are needed to rebalance the agency:

Move 5.0 FTEs from Other - 1.2 FTEs to State and 3.8 to Federal

Agency Priority 9

Federal Authorization

\$12,000,000 Fed.

Federal Authorization

- The DHHS- Administration for Community Living (ACL) method for awarding funds to States is heavily based on the Interstate Funding Formula (IFF). As South Carolina's older adult population grows, there is a direct correlation in the additional funds received through the Older Americans Act (OAA).
- Aging is requesting additional federal authorization to appropriately spend additional federal fund awards.

Proviso Requests

- 40.5 : Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
 - Amend to include additional services: pest control, dental and other supportive health services
- 40.6: Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Program
 - Amend to increase award amount from \$35,000 to \$50,000
 - HOC Recommendation
- 40.New: Allocations and Aid Carryforward
 - New proviso to allow the agency to carryforward state appropriations for allocations and aid
 - Would allow AAAs to retain funding across fiscal years



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