



Just the Facts:

Senior Community Services

What is Senior Community Services funding?

Senior Community Services (SCS) funding is state funding for basic services like home-delivered meals; housing services, especially for home repair, counseling and information and assistance; personal care services, including adult day health services, homemaker, personal care and chore services; and some caregiver respite services. Approximately 40% of SCS funding is used for home-delivered meals. SCS funding augments funds from Title III of the Older Americans Act and leverages matching funds, including federal funds from Title XX, the Nutrition Services Incentive program and local donations.

Who receives services through SCS funding?

Eighty percent of the older adults who receive services have incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level. All consumers are 60 and older and meet local program eligibility. The amount and types of services consumers receive depends upon individual needs.

Are these services available throughout Ohio?

SCS funded services are available throughout the state, but many older adults remain on waiting lists for months because of limited resources. A June 2004 survey of the Area Agencies on Aging reported that 65 counties had waiting lists. In some areas, the waiting time for services exceeds two years.

How are SCS funds administered?

The Ohio Department of Aging releases SCS funds through a funding formula to the Area Agencies on Aging. Each Area Agency on Aging has contractual agreements with local service providers to deliver the necessary services to qualifying individuals.

Does other funding exist for these services?

Consumers pay on a sliding fee scale or voluntarily for some services. The Older Americans Act provides \$38 million, but funding has remained flat while the need for services has grown. SCS funding has been cut from \$16 million in FY 2001 to \$10.5 million in FY 2004.

Is SCS funding supported by county senior services levies?

Although SCS funding and senior services levies both fund basic community services, they are very different. SCS funding is state funding and senior services levies are county property tax levies.

Do services provided through SCS funding keep older adults from entering more restrictive institutional long-term care settings?

Basic community services often prevent older adults from entering nursing facilities. Most older adults privately arrange for care, with family and friends meeting more than 80% of long-term care needs. Coupled with this support, senior community services are often enough to allow older adults to age in place in the community. Senior community services also enable older adults without informal caregivers to remain at home.

Who do families contact if they are interested in learning about community-based services?

Families can contact their local Area Agency on Aging. Contact information for the Area Agencies is available at www.ohioaging.org.