



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## Department of Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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May 20, 2014

### **Request for Your Input to Develop ACoA's Budget & Policy Recommendations, FY2015-2016**

Dear Senior Advocate:

The Alaska Commission on Aging presents funding and policy recommendations to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority ("the Trust") to strengthen the foundation of services and policies benefitting older Alaskans. The Commission respectfully requests *your input* as we prepare these recommendations for the coming fiscal year which will provide the foundation for the Commission's advocacy platform directed to the Administration and the Legislature. The State's budget process begins in the summer, long before the Legislature convenes in January. The ACoA plays an important role in developing the State's budget for senior services and advocating for legislation that affects Alaskan seniors. We ask for your help to do this important work!

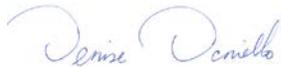
Last year, ACoA received input from concerned Alaskans about the need to increase the availability of core services for seniors that include senior meals, transportation, and homemaker services to meet the pressing senior demand for these services in communities statewide. Based on the information received, the Commission put forward an operating budget recommendation to DHSS and the Trust for the Nutrition, Transportation & Supports (NTS) program to increase base funding for this program in the amount of \$545,000. Last year, the NTS program served 11,200 seniors. This budget recommendation was supported by the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services along with the Trust which helped ACoA and the senior advocacy community to wage a successful advocacy campaign that resulted in additional base funding being approved by the Legislature for the full amount requested, **\$545,000!** According to Senior and Disabilities Services, these additional funds will serve approximately 900 more seniors statewide and provide extra funding for senior provider agencies to address increased costs to provide these essential services.

We look to you for guidance to tell us how to improve services for Alaska seniors in your community, region or statewide. Your information will complement input we received this year through senior community forums and public comment provided at ACoA's quarterly board meetings. The ACoA firmly believes that seniors, caregivers, and those concerned about the welfare of Alaska's senior citizens are most aware of senior needs and know best how to address them.

The attached information includes a short fillable form to provide your input. Please feel free to share this request with seniors, their families, and senior provider agencies in your community and encourage them to provide their input. We ask for your recommendations by **Tuesday, June 10, 2014**. Please use the attached form to submit your input by email, [hss.acoa@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.acoa@alaska.gov), or by fax, 907-465-1398. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or thoughts about this process.

Thank you for your interest and support of programs and policies serving Alaskan seniors. Together, we can make Alaska the best place to live, meaningfully contribute, and grow old with dignity!

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Daniello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Daniello,  
ACoA Executive Director  
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*ACoA's Purpose: Plans services for seniors, educates Alaskans about issues affecting Alaskan seniors, and advocates on behalf of all older Alaskans to improve services that affect the quality of life for Alaska Seniors and Elders so that they may live with dignity and have access to appropriate services where they live close to family, friends, and ways of life.*

**Alaska Commission on Aging  
Call for Stakeholder Input  
Budget & Policy Recommendations for FY2015**

**1. Name & Contact Information (not required):**

**2. Do you see a need for funding to preserve core services for older Alaskans in your community? Please tell us more.**

**3. Do you think funding is needed to fill an unmet need for seniors and their caregivers in your community? Please describe the service gap and if known, how to address this need.**

**4. How could the State improve public policy to better serve seniors to ensure their safety and well-being?**

**5. Please tell us about any other issues affecting seniors in your community &/or suggestions to improve their quality of life.**

Please send your completed form by email to [hss.acoa@alaska.gov](mailto:hss.acoa@alaska.gov) or fax 907-465-1398 by June 10, 2014. Thank You!

