

## **Alexandria Commission on Aging**

### **Testimony to City Council 01-21-2023**

Good morning, Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council – my name is Michael Schuster. I am the Chair of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, and I am here this morning representing the Alexandria Commission on Aging. The Commission voted at its last meeting to alert you to a funding situation that has arisen since you adopted your legislative platform for 2023.

The Director of the City's Division of Aging and Adult Services has learned that the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (or DARS) has altered its intrastate funding formula (IFF) as it is required to do every 10 years after the decennial census. The IFF determines how DARS will allocate federal and state funding to local area agencies on aging for the next 10 years. DARS has changed the IFF by adding a new category based on the percentage of a jurisdiction's population of persons aged 60 or older. That, and other formula changes, will cause the City of Alexandria to lose about \$19,000 in funding for the next fiscal year. Losing that amount of funding amounts to 12 fewer older adults receiving a meal – a total of 2750 meals, 591 hours of homemaker services, and a 4% reduction in personal care services. The current waiting list of 40 older adults will only grow, having a ripple effect, since many of these individuals may need government funded nursing home care.

Statewide, 11 of the 25 local area agencies on aging stand to lose funding under this new formula. The Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) has secured patrons in the House of Delegates and the Senate to introduce budget amendments that would add \$700,000 for DARS to address this funding change and hold all agencies harmless due to this change. We know you have already adopted your legislative platform for 2023, but we would like to ask for your support of these budget amendments to prevent Alexandria and 10 other jurisdictions – including Arlington – from losing any [Older American Act] funding this year. We know this will be a tight budget year for the City, so we ask that you make a statement in support of the amendments. If that is not something you can do at this late date, then we request that the Commission on Aging be allowed to advocate for this amendment with our legislators. Thank you for your consideration.



## Homemaker Services

Provides in home basic care and cleaning service to eligible residents, helping them maintain independence

## Home-Delivered Meals

Meals on Wheels provides 2 meals daily 5 days per week to homebound older adults.

## Personal Care Services

Personal Care Services provide services to help keep individuals in their homes, ultimately saving taxpayer funds by delaying the need for nursing homes

**591  
Hours**

**2750  
Meals**

**4%  
Reduction**

**12  
Clients**

**40  
Residents**

**\$18,915.80**

What does \$18,915.80 mean to Alexandria's older adults?

## Congregate Meals

The Congregate Meals program provides nutrition 5 days a week at 2 Senior Centers and the Adult Day Care Center. This number represents 10 fewer residents who can be served per year.

## Waitlist

Our current waitlist for Adult Services is at 40. Not only will we further delay services to these 40 residents, but this list will grow as we endure these cuts.