

## RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARD

**Program Name:** Congregate Facilities Operation Costs - C.G.S. §8-119I (DECD)

### I. Brief Program Description

Grants are provided to housing authorities and nonprofit corporations who own/operate state-financed congregate rental housing for the elderly to offset the cost of social and supplementary services.

These grant funds are distributed in four categories: rental assistance, core services, expanded core services, and assisted living services. Core services include one main meal a day, housekeeping services, and a 24-hour emergency service to enable semi-independent living in a residential setting for frail elderly. The program also provides rental assistance for those tenants who pay no more than 30% of their adjusted gross income toward rent. Expanded core includes the cost of hiring a resident service coordinator, emergency transportation service, and a wellness program. The assisted living service component is voluntary, and currently 13 of the 23 projects participate, where residents needing assisted living services can receive a subsidy of up to \$856 per month to offset the cost of these services. This component operates in essentially the same way as the ALFF program.

Program participation and the availability of the DECD grants allow the elderly residents to age comfortably in their apartment, and prevent many of them from premature placement in a nursing home or other higher level of care facility. At an average cost of assistance per month of \$438, the State of Connecticut has already seen a significant savings in the cost of providing the necessary care to these individuals, when compared to the cost to the State of providing nursing home care, approximately \$3,000 to \$6,000 per month.

- **Need Addressed by Program:**

Provide funds to assist in the provision of Congregate support services which are necessary to enable semi-independent living in a residential setting for the frail elderly who have low incomes.

- **Target Population:**

Persons 62 years of age or older who have temporary or periodic difficulties with one or more essential activities of daily living such as feeding, bathing, grooming dressing or transferring. These individuals must also meet income guidelines in which their gross income does not exceed 80% of the area median income.

- **Funding History**

FY	Funding Amount (\$)	% of DECD GF Budget (%)	Yr/Yr Change (%)	% of State GF Budget (%)
FY 10-11	6,884,547	23.4	(0.6)	0.04
FY 09-10	6,884,547	24.0	6.2	0.04
FY 08-09	6,345,205	17.8	5.4	0.04
FY 07-08	6,345,205	12.4	(7.6)	0.04
FY 06-07	6,136,979	20.0	0.8	0.04
FY 05-06	5,258,151	19.2	-	0.04

- **Reporting Requirements**

Recipients are required to annually submit a Certification and Tenant Rent Roll and a congregate services management plan as well as quarterly financial statements to DECD.

**II. Quality of Life Result to Which Program Contributes:**

Allows elderly residents to age comfortably in their apartment, and prevent many of them from premature placement in a nursing home or other higher level of care facility.

**III. Program's Contribution to Result:**

The program provides one main meal a day, housekeeping services, 24-hour emergency service, the cost of hiring a resident service coordinator, emergency transportation service, and a wellness program.

**IV. Partners:**

Housing Authorities and nonprofit corporations who own/operate state-financed congregate rental housing.

**V. Performance Measures:**

Performance measures for this program include the average unit subsidy per month and average vacancy loss per month.

<b>FY</b>	<b>Average unit subsidy per month</b>	<b>Average vacancy loss per month</b>
FY 06-07	\$513	\$13.88
FY 07-08	\$534	\$10.31
FY 08-09	\$537	\$12.90

The average unit subsidy is the amount of subsidy provided on average to each unit of congregate housing. The subsidy meets the cost of rent and services which the tenant would not be able to pay on their own. The average unit subsidy allows us to determine how much subsidy funding will be required in future years to allow the program to continue to help elderly residents age comfortably in their apartment, and prevent many of them from premature placement in a nursing home or other higher level of care facility.

The average vacancy loss per month is the average dollars lost per unit each month due to turnover. The lower the dollar amount means that residents are staying longer in congregate housing and that when a vacancy does occur, the owners are renting the units in a timely fashion to applicants who need the services of congregate housing.

**VI. Story Behind the Baseline:**

The first congregate was built as a demonstration project in 1984, in order to help provide a "bridge" between conventional elderly rental housing and nursing home care, the Congregate Housing Program was initiated as a way to promote aging in place and prevent premature institutionalization of the growing elderly population in the state. At that time, the average monthly cost to the State for institutionalization in a nursing home was between \$1,800 and \$2,800 per month. As indicated above, the current monthly cost of maintaining these units is approximately \$537 and continues to be substantially cost effective when compared to the current nursing home cost of \$2,000 to \$4,800 per month.

**VII. Proposed Actions to Turn the Curve:**

Recommend the construction and subsidization of additional congregate units due to the long term cost savings of residents receiving services in a state-assisted congregate facility versus a nursing home.

Savings in nursing home bed expenses can be leveraged into more than 3 times the number of congregate units, and continue to ensure decent safe and sanitary housing opportunities for our aging population.