

ADS Budget Presentation – February 22, 2023

Questions for Follow-up at Work Session (Monday, March 6th 9:00am – 9:45am)

1. Fall Prevention – the number of clients, who provides the services, why was expenditure so low in FY 22?
 - In FY 22, 363 participants received fall prevention education through the evidence-based program Tai Ji Quan (TJQ) Moving for Better Balance. This program was delivered by Connecticut Community Care (CCC) as the leader of the Connecticut Healthy Living Collective (CHLC). TJQ, as an evidence-based program, has been shown to have better outcomes and be more effective than other types of exercise and fall-prevention programs.
 - The previous provider gave up the contract after the retirement of its long-term program instructor, and the Department had to identify a new provider. FY 22 was, in effect, a “building” year for CCC and CHLC – instructors were trained and certified to lead the program and sites were recruited to host the program. During FY 22, CHLC was able to grow their host sites by 10% (for a total of 17 sites) and train 19 instructors operating under CHLC’s license.
 - In total, the expenditures for Fall Prevention were \$77,324.
2. Provide ADS budget by account/program by funding source (Budget at a Glance).
 - The Budget at a Glance document provides the requested information.
3. Independent Livings Centers – How many people are served by the centers?
 - The Independent Living Centers served 1650 individuals in SFY22.
4. Elderly Nutrition – Funding by source and how many are served? How is the funding flowing?
 - In FFY 2022, 2.09 million congregate and home delivered meals were provided to Connecticut older adults. State funds in the amount of \$2,969,528 were received for the Elderly Nutrition Program (SFY 2022); total federal and state funding received in

FFY 2022 was \$12,509,407, which helped to support increased costs to programs.

- Additionally, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was received from the federal Administration for Community Living and allocated to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to spend. Total ARPA funding allocated for congregate and home delivered meals was \$6,911,926. AAAs are able to spend the ARPA funds from FFY 2022 through the end of FFY 2024, which allows programs to utilize funds on a schedule and in a manner that best supports their clients.
- In FFY 2022:
 - 10,330 eligible older adults received 1,806,806 home delivered meals
 - 9,241 eligible older adults received 293,028 congregate meals
 - 615 older adults received 712 units of nutrition counseling
- This program is provided by Elderly Nutrition Providers, selected by the AAAs through a competitive procurement process. In late FFY 2022, AgingCT, the state association of AAAs, began drafting the new Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Elderly Nutrition Program. Due to COVID, there had been approval for three one-year extensions to the contracts, so this is the first RFP to be issued in six years. The RFP was released in January 2023, with final proposals due in early April. The resulting contracts will be in effect from October 2023 through September 2026.

5. How many are served in the Employment Opportunities Program, purpose, details?

- The Employment Opportunities Program (EOP) served 119 individuals in SFY22.
- The purpose of EOP is to provide long-term employment supports to individuals with disabilities that require them to maintain employment, but do not meet eligibility criteria to qualify to receive these services through other sources.
- Services are commonly provided by contracted Community Rehabilitation Provider agencies. Individuals accessing EOP services typically receive less than 5 hours per month of support.

6. Vocational Rehabilitation and Workers Compensation Programs -Is it possible to identify medical loss ratios and how those are computed?
 - Our Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program does not rely on medical loss ratios. There are separate federal eligibility standards for our Pre-Employment Transition Program and for our VR Program.
 - Our Workers Rehabilitation Program does not compute the medical loss ratios. That is done by the Workers Compensation Program itself. These permanent restrictions are not necessarily needed for an initial referral. A referral can be made to us most any time, the earlier the better, so, ideally, we can help the individual return to work before their worker's compensation benefit runs out.
7. Is it possible to identify how many ADS clients are also served by SNAP or receive other benefits?
 - This number would be very difficult to report with any certainty.
8. Federal Funding - Are federally funded employees in ADS in SERS? Is the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program all federally funded?
 - Not all federally funded employees in ADS are in SERS. Teachers have the option to select SERS or Teachers Retirement at the time of hire.
 - The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is supported by a combination of state and federal funds.