

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Joint Budget Committee Members  
**FROM:** Kevin Neimond, Joint Budget Committee Staff, 303-866-4958  
**SUBJECT:** Senior Services Data Collection (DHS)  
**DATE:** March 13, 2015

## *Background*

The Department of Human Services' Aging and Adult Services unit provides funding for a variety of services designed to help seniors remain safely in their homes. Funding is allocated by the State to Area Agencies on Aging, which cover all areas of the state, for the administration of services, including home-delivered meals (aka "Meals on Wheels"), congregate meals, transportation, homemaker assistance, and personal care assistance. Funding allocated to Area Agencies on Aging is made up of State moneys from the General Fund and Older Coloradans Cash Fund (moneys that would otherwise go to the General Fund), local funds, and federal moneys from Title III of the Older Americans Act.

Colorado has one of the fastest growing aging populations in the U.S., according to the Colorado Commission on Aging. From 1990 to 2014, the population of individuals 60 years of age and older has grown by 121.0 percent from 451,108 to 996,776. During this same time period, overall population growth in the state is 62.4 percent. The State Demographer indicates that the population of individuals 60 years of age and older will increase in the future. From 2014 to 2030, the population of individuals 60 years of age and older is projected to grow by 62.9 percent from 996,776 to 1,623,502. During this same time period, overall population growth in the state is projected to be 29.2 percent.

## *Issue*

The Department of Human Services indicates that the increasing number of older adults will require an expansion of services in many of areas of the state, especially rural areas with more difficult to reach seniors. The Committee has included an increase of \$4,000,000 General Fund in the FY 2015-16 Long Bill to expand services. Staff projects future costs averaging an increase of \$11.2 million per year beginning in FY 2015-16 and continuing through FY 2029-30 (totals \$167.7 million over this period) for senior services to maintain status quo FY 2014-15 per capita level of \$33.53. Staff is concerned that data do not exist on a statewide level to determine the impact of moneys invested by the State in expanding senior services.

## *Recommendation*

To begin the process of providing the legislature with data needed for a cost benefit analysis of senior services funding, **staff recommends an appropriation of \$150,000 General Fund for FY 2015-16.** Moneys will be used to contract for an independent evaluation of current practices, and will culminate in recommendations on the data collection and analysis changes required to measure the impact of the State's investment in services for seniors.

Department of Human Services				
GF	CF	RF	FF	TF
\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000