

GRANT REQUEST PONY

**Department of Human Services
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers**

(Reported out of Subcommittee on June 11, 2013)

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the US Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of up to \$212,620 for twelve months to provide outreach to older Americans with limited income regarding their eligibility for programs that would help with the costs of Medicare premiums and prescription drug benefits.

Many older Americans are eligible for, but not receiving Medicare benefits. This grant will allow the Department of Human Services to support Area Agencies on Aging, and Aging and Disability Resource Centers in reaching these individuals and enrolling them in programs for which they qualified.

The grant application is due on June 20, 2013. If approved, the funding would begin September 30, 2013 and end September 30, 2014. No new staff will be needed to implement the activities of this grant. Neither state matching funds nor maintenance of efforts are required by the grant. .

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Human Services

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers

Analyst: Kim To

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, in the amount of approximately \$212,620 for one year, to provide outreach to older Americans with limited income regarding their eligibility for programs that would help with Medicare premiums, and prescription drug benefits costs.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Department of Human Services is requesting approval from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to apply for the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. The grant is estimated to total \$212,620 for one year. No state matching funds are required for the grant, nor is there a requirement for maintenance of effort.

Many older Americans are eligible for, but not receiving federal and state benefits. The grant funding will go to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) that are also Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) programs. The Department of Human Services will collaborate with these agencies to reach older individuals with the greatest economic need, and to enroll these individuals in programs for which they are qualified. These programs include:

- Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) which helps individuals with limited income and resources with the cost of their Medicare prescription drugs.
- Medicare Savings Program (MSP) which helps eligible individuals with Medicare costs such as Medicare Part B premiums.
- Wellness and disease prevention benefits available under Medicare.

No new staff will be needed to implement the activities of the grant.

The grant application is due on June 20, 2013. If approved, the funding would begin September 30, 2013 and end September 30, 2014. If necessary, the additional expenditure limitation could be included in the OHA 2013-15 budget, or be added later in the biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.