



### **About LeadingAge DC**

LeadingAge DC is an organization of not-for-profit, mission-driven senior service providers throughout the District committed to expanding the world of possibilities for aging in the nation's capital. LeadingAge DC members serve thousands of the District's seniors in affordable housing, assisted living, skilled nursing, adult day, and home and community based services. Our members provide person-centered care through quality programs, shared values and the desire to work collectively to share best practices to help improve the field.

### **LeadingAge DC's FY2017 Budget Recommendations**

- **DC Department of Housing & Community Development Budget**
  - **Maintain the proposed \$100 million a year for the Housing Production Trust Fund.** Seniors, on fixed incomes, are struggling to stay in the District, where they have lived and worked their entire lives. With the elimination of dedicated federal funds for affordable senior housing (Section 202), production of affordable senior housing must receive support on the local level. The Housing Production Trust Fund is crucial to growing and preserving affordable housing for DC's vulnerable seniors. Since Mayor Bowser committed \$100 million of funds for the housing production trust fund
    - 804 units have been funded: 338 will be new units, 466 will preserve and upgrade current affordable housing.
    - 217 units have been funded for extremely low income residents: 76 new units and 140 preservation
    - DC has committed \$82 million of the \$100 million total and is currently soliciting applications for more affordable housing to build, preserve, and improve.
  - **Ensure the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) can provide operating subsidies for extremely low-income seniors.** LRSP is the critical tool that allows DC to produce new units that serve extremely low-income seniors. The DC Housing Authority provides LRSP operating funds to produce new units in concert with the Housing Production Trust Fund and other sources ensuring the Housing Production Trust Fund meets its statutory requirements to use 40% of the Trust Fund at 0-30% AMI. It is important to note that the HPTF alone cannot address the needs of seniors with the lowest incomes. The Local Rent Subsidy Program (LRSP) received just a \$3 million increase from last year, and those funds will be targeted to the formerly homeless. The HPTF projects have no ability to target the lowest income seniors without rental subsidy.
  
- **DC Office on Aging**
  - **Restore the 2.9% reduction to Lead Agency's local funds.** We strongly support the DC Office on Aging's intent to ensure all federal funds are utilized appropriately. This effort should result in "freeing" local funds and increasing services to seniors.
    - The Mayor's FY17 Budget proposes a 2.9% cut – a \$208,123 reduction in local funds - to community based case management services for seniors. While the budget suggests there will be no cut to services the budget ignores the unmet need that the "freed" dollars can address. Meanwhile, the local not-for-profit community partners will

continue to struggle under the current funding structure, which does not meet the actual operating costs.

- **Retention of Funds for Transportation Services.** The FY17 budget's proposed cut of \$500,000 to the DCOA transportation service, Seabury Connector, is based on anticipated cost savings to be generated by transferring seniors who need transportation for medical services to Medicaid transportation. This does not support the growing need for transportation for seniors in the District. The Age Friendly DC Strategic plan specifically identifies expanding transportation as a major priority for the District. Seabury currently documents about 200 calls per month for service trips that they are unable to provide at current funding levels.