

Support increased funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant to reduce the waiting list for those elderly persons needing services in order to stay in their homes.

- More than 11,500 frail adults, many over 85, are on the waiting lists for services in their homes where they hope to remain. Without help, they may be forced into institutional care that would be very expensive for them, their families, and eventually for the state.
- The Home and Community Care Block Grant can fund eighteen different home and community-based services (counties choose which ones they will fund). These services include Meals on Wheels, adult day care and adult day health care, transportation assistance, respite care for family caregivers, and personal care services by an in-home aide. With such help, many seniors can live at home even when family members go out to work.
- There is no income test for services, but most recipients are low-income. Those who can pay something are asked to do so. Persons eligible for services are over 60 and have difficulty with activities such as walking, dressing, or bathing. In 2006-07, 46 percent receiving services lived alone, 67% were unable to manage on their own, and 68 percent were age 75 or older.
- **In the last session of the General Assembly legislators provided an increase of only \$536,000 for the Home and Community Care Block Grant.** Yet as our state's population ages, the need for services grows faster than increases in funding. A sum of \$17.7 million would be necessary to serve all on the waiting list.

H2184 “Home and Community Care Block Grant Funds” (sponsored by Representative Farmer-Butterfield; companion bill S1643, sponsored by Senator Vernon Malone) would provide an increase of \$2.5 million for the block grant.

The proposed House budget allocates \$2 million for the block grant.

Ask your legislators to support at least \$2 million for the Home and Community Care Block Grant for services to frail elderly persons so that they can remain at home.

(Adapted from AARP Issue Briefing on the HCCBG)