

June 2018

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



FY19 House Budget

As spring arrives in Massachusetts, so too does the state budget process for Fiscal Year 2019. The intention of the House budget, passed in late April, is to serve as a blueprint for continued economic growth in Massachusetts while making critical investments in programs and services across the Commonwealth. As I write this update, the budget is being considered in the Senate and will be signed by the Governor this summer.

The House of Representatives remains committed to serving the unique needs of our growing senior population. Elder programs that received funding in the FY19 House budget include:

- **Councils on Aging:** Municipal COAs are the first stop on the elder care continuum and provide invaluable services and resources to the seniors in our communities. The FY19 House budget increases the Councils on Aging formula grant from \$10 to \$12 per individual, per year.
- **Home Care Services:** The Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides Home Care services to 45,000 elders each month; this includes home health services, personal emergency response, grocery shopping/delivery and more.
- **Supportive Senior Housing:** The Supportive Senior Housing Initiative provides a supportive living environment in state-funded public elderly and disabled housing.
- **Elder Protective Services:** These services allow for the investigation of elder abuse and neglect.
- **Elder Nutrition, including Meals on Wheels:** 27 nutrition programs located throughout the state serve over 9.1 million meals to seniors each year.
- **Elder Homeless Placement:** The FY19 budget provides funding for assessment, placement, and homelessness prevention services for homeless and at-risk elders.

I was proud to sponsor an amendment to the House budget that increased funding for Massachusetts' Independent Living Centers (ILCs), bringing funding for FY19 up to \$6.3 million. There are 11 ILCs across Massachusetts that provide services and advocacy by and for people with all types of disabilities, including 30,000 Massachusetts residents of all ages and abilities. The MetroWest Center for Independent Living empowers individuals with disabilities in our region with the practical skills and self-confidence they need to take control over their lives and become active members of the communities in which they live.

Local Transportation

On behalf of my district, I secured \$75,000 in the FY19 House budget to be used for the Maynard & Acton Senior Shuttle. This program provides transportation for approximately 4,000 individual appointments per year. The vans are most often used to bring seniors to appointments at Emerson Hospital in Concord; as a result, those who need transportation for local appointments, grocery shopping and to-and-from the Council on Aging are limited to odd time slots or long waits because the vans must wait for the appointments at Emerson to finish before returning to Maynard or Acton. This funding will add an *additional* driver for a van exclusively dedicated to medical trips in order to provide local seniors with the freedom to maintain their appointments and independence.

I publish an annual E-Newsletter with details about the House Budget. If you would like to receive this E-Newsletter, please call 617-722-2130 or email my Communications Director at Kelsey.Schiller@MAhouse.gov.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- District Office Hours will be held in **Bolton** on Tuesday, June 5th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton.

All questions, ideas, or concerns are welcome. If you are unable to attend office hours, call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment. Staff is also available at the District Office on all Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Closed Holiday Mondays).

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow
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