

To Whom It May Concern,

Please support aging in Greater Minnesota by ensuring an **equitable** Intrastate Funding Formula through your valuable public comment. The health of older Minnesotans depends upon it. The Minnesota Board on Aging is tasked with submitting a new formula and public comment will be open in April 2023. The current formula is heavily weighted to 60+ demographics and favors the seven-county metro region. Greater Minnesota needs your voice.

According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, **older residents are more common in non-urban areas**. Living in rural areas can mean limited options for services such as meal delivery programs, lack of transportation, limited access to technology and resources, and smaller workforce to support programs. Inadequate services can have a negative impact on health, erode quality of life and contribute to rising healthcare costs.

Programs that provide services to older adults living in greater Minnesota are at risk of being severely underfunded and not meeting the needs of older Minnesotans. The upcoming changes to the Minnesota's formula for Federal Title III funding, the Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF), will significantly decrease the number of resources rural agencies have to provide home and community-based services for older adults. Older Americans Act (OAA) funding is the payer of last resort and in rural Minnesota many older adults depend on it for services like Meals on Wheels, transportation, caregiver respite, and many more. **At the moment, only 2% of all foundation dollars in Minnesota are specifically directed toward aging services. Additionally, 42% of the 2% is allocated to the metro area, leaving less funding for agencies outside of the metro area.** Implications of not having an equitable formula for rural MN include loss of jobs for OAA funded programs, greater population migration to the metro area, and increased admissions to long-term care settings.

I implore you to prevent cuts to vital services for seniors in the greater Minnesota. Please advocate for an Intrastate Funding Formula weighted as follows: **20% for population 60+, 5% for 60+ with disability, 20% for 60+ low income, 15% for 60+ minority, 25% for 60+ rural, 5% for 60+ population density, 10% for 60+ living alone to meet minimum nutritional needs for older adults.** Visit www.GreaterMinnesotaAging.org for more information.

Sincerely,

Name Signed

Name Printed