

Summary of the Impact on Senior & Disabled Services
of the
2006 Special Session of the Oregon Legislature

At the April Executive Committee of the LCOG Board, a written summary was requested regarding the impact of the 2006 Special Session of the Oregon Legislature on the programs administered by Senior & Disabled Services. This memo is in response to that request.

General Information:

During the short Special Session held on April 20, 2006 Senate Bill 5644 was passed, which partially addressed the rebalance of the Department of Human Services budget. Senate Bill 5644 allocated \$54 million in General Fund and \$23.5 million in Federal Funds expenditure limitation towards DHS programs. The information available indicates much of this is for cleanup of federal match and the impact of the approved federal cost allocation plan. \$1.1 million General Fund was appropriated for an expansion of eligibility in the Children's Health Insurance Program. Senate Bill 5644 also includes funding for several targeted staff increases. Positions funded include those working with the developmentally disabled, the Children, Adults and Families Division (funding Substitute Care programs that were not fully funded in the Legislatively Adopted Budget), and 16 positions at Eastern Oregon Psychiatric Center (to insure adequate staff, patient safety, and to improve the quality of care). There were also 3.5 FTE added for Estates Recovery.

Impact on Senior and Disabled Services:

While there were no new benefit packages for Senior and Disabled Services' clients as a result of Senate Bill 5644, there was some good news that came out of the Special Session. The continuation of the temporary Medicare Modernization positions for an additional five months was approved. This will allow us to continue offering the "dual eligibles" (people that have both Medicare and Medicaid coverage) assistance with enrollment and problem solving. We have been informed that this will translate into an additional \$160,000 (approximately) for our agency. While we have not yet received official confirmation of the funds, we have begun the process of creating a temporary staffing plan to address our specific needs. Hopefully we will

have firm numbers by July, along with the authority to begin using the funding to hire staff.

Final Note:

As was mentioned earlier, the Legislature chose not to fully fund the rebalance of the Department of Human Services programs. The Legislature did, however, appropriate \$83.3 million to the Emergency Board for the Department of Human Services for increased caseloads, cost-per-case, and program needs. At each Emergency Board meeting, the Department of Human services must report on its progress in meeting the DHS Finance Management Plan recommendations and timelines.

If you would like additional, more detailed information on the 2006 Special Session, copies of the Legislative Fiscal Office report on the 2006 Special Session will be available at the Executive Committee meeting.