



### **Member Agencies:**

Advocates for Children and Youth  
Baltimore Jewish Council  
CASA of Maryland Inc.  
Catholic Charities  
Energy Advocates  
Episcopal Community Services  
Health Care for the Homeless  
Homeless Persons  
Representation Project  
Interfaith Works  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
of Greater Washington  
Job Opportunities Task Force  
League of Women Voters of Maryland  
Maryland Budget & Tax Policy Institute  
Maryland CASH Campaign  
Maryland Catholic Conference  
Maryland Community Action  
Partnership  
Maryland Family Network  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Maryland Interfaith  
Legislative Committee  
National Council on Alcoholism & Drug  
Dependence – Maryland Chapter  
Public Justice Center  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
United Way of Central Maryland  
Welfare Advocates

### **Maryland Alliance for the Poor**

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## **STATEMENT ON THE FISCAL 2011 BUDGET DEPARTMENT OF AGING**

**House Appropriations Committee,  
Subcommittee on Health and Human Resources  
Wednesday February 24, 2010**

***Submitted by Branden A. McLeod, Chair***

The Maryland Alliance for the Poor (MAP) is a statewide network of advocacy organizations, research organizations and faith communities working together to promote policies that benefit Marylanders living in or near poverty. We support the work of the Department of Aging as it funds state and local programs that provide critical services for low-income seniors, and that allow senior citizens to remain independent and age in their communities.

The Governor's allowance provides a \$1.7 million (3.3%) increase in the Department's budget. The increase mostly reflects federally-funded programs, such as senior nutrition services. It also restores funding to the Congregate Housing Services Program (CHSP) and Senior Care Program (Senior Care), both of which were cut during the interim. We thank the Governor for restoring funding to these essential programs and ask that you preserve this allocation.

CHSP and Senior Care allow low-income Marylanders to remain in the community while saving the state the cost of institutional care. CHSP provides frail seniors living in senior citizen apartment buildings with meals, housekeeping and/or laundry, personal assistance as needed and service management. Senior Care provides coordinated, community-based, in-home services to seniors with disabilities who may be at risk of nursing home placement. Seniors eligible for both of these programs must have a monthly income under \$2521 (individual) or \$3296 (couple).

Given that the state's senior-citizen population is projected to increase 115% from 2000-2030, and the increased needs of low-income seniors as a result of the national recession, the modest increase in the Department's budget is much needed. Funding home and community services allows seniors to live independently and age with dignity while saving the state significant dollars as the cost of institutional care is much higher.

We respectfully urge the committee to resist any cuts to the Department of Aging's budget.

Thank you for your consideration.