



COLORADO CENTER  
on LAW & POLICY

## SB 127: Helping Older Adults Live Independently

### CCLP Position: Support

#### FACT SHEET

**Bill title:** Sales Tax Revenue to Older Coloradans Fund

**Bill No.:** SB127

**Sponsor:** Sen. Guzman, Rep. Primavera

**Our position:** Support

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**The number of Coloradans 65 and older is expected to more than double between 2010 and 2030.**

The Older Coloradans Program provides services to older adults to enable them to stay at home in their own communities for as long as possible.

Overwhelmingly, people prefer to age with dignity where they currently live, rather than moving to nursing homes and other facilities.

#### What the bill does:

Increases funding for the Older Coloradans Cash Fund by \$4 million per year from the current \$8 million, until it reaches \$20 million per year. As the state collects sales and use tax, 15 percent goes to the state General Fund, minus the amount diverted to this Older Coloradans Cash Fund.

#### What is the Older Coloradans Cash Fund used for?

Services provided include:

- Meals on wheels and other home delivered meals
- Congregate meals
- Rides to medical appointments and the grocery
- Homemaker and personal care services
- Legal help, including protection against fraud and abuse and benefit denials

Funding is awarded to programs by 16 regional Area Agencies on Aging.

#### Who is served?

Services are available to all those in need over 60. However the oldest and most frail seniors are the most likely to receive services. National data shows that almost half of those receiving home delivered meals lived below the federal poverty level, while at least 90 percent live below 200 percent of Federal Poverty Level. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index calculates the minimum income an older Coloradans needs to meet basic needs. A single person who rents, for example, needs an average of \$21,828 to meet basic needs — just about 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. (See *Elders Living on the Edge: When Basic Needs Exceed Income*, CCLP, 2011)

#### What is the benefit to the State?

Services provided by the Older Coloradans Program frequently prevent more costly institutionalization in a nursing home under Medicaid. Community life is also enriched by keeping older adults integrated within our neighborhoods.

Currently many Older Coloradans Programs have long waiting lists. With an aging population, these cost effect alternatives are more critically needed.