
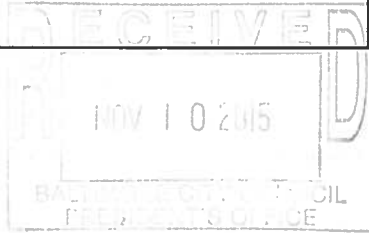


F R O M	Name & Title	Leana Wen, M.D., M.Sc. Health Commissioner	Health Department  MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	15-0273R – Request for State Action - Restore Senior Center Operating Fund Cuts		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
409 City Hall

November 10, 2015



The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to appear in support of Council Bill 15-0273R – Request for State Action - Restore Senior Center Operating Fund Cuts. The purpose of this bill is to call upon the Maryland Department of Aging to immediately reverse the more than two-thirds cut to Baltimore’s Senior Center Operating Funds award and restore FY2016 funding levels to at least those awarded in FY 2015 to avoid further endangering the health and well-being of our vulnerable elderly population. **BCHD supports this bill and encourages the Committee and the Council to report this bill favorably.**

The Maryland Department of Aging has issued Senior Center Operating Funds (SCOF) as a supplemental support funding to senior centers across the state via the local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Baltimore City Health Department serves as the AAA for Baltimore City via its Division on Aging and CARE Services. The funds have traditionally been issued to areas known as “distressed jurisdictions” of which Baltimore City has long since been designated as such. These treasured funds are used to support program budgets at local senior centers across the city. The distribution of these funds varies from center to center but are used to offset the cost of staff salaries including those of contract instructors, utilities, rent, transportation, material and supplies, equipment and so on.

Traditionally, Baltimore City received State funding through the SCOF. Although the fiscal year begins on July 1, generally programs continue to operate through the beginning of the fiscal year anticipating the receipt of SCOF funds. Historically, Baltimore City has received the following:

- FY 2013= \$126,269.00, supported 12 programs
- FY 2014= \$168,000.00 (which included and extra \$20K of Competitive Funds to programs with evidence based programming or new health initiatives) supported 14 programs including two designated senior activity sites.
- FY 2015- \$168,000.00 (which included and extra \$20K of Competitive Funds to programs with evidence based programming or new health initiatives) supported 13 programs including two designated senior activity sites.
- **FY 2016= \$45,000.00 to support 16 programs including the two designated senior activity sites.**

*Far w/ comm*