

# **SC Department on Aging Budget Priorities Summary FY 2026-2027**

## **Priority 1 - Federal Authorization & Maintenance of Effort**

**\$10,000,000 Total | \$2,500,000 State | \$7,500,000 Federal**

- Ensures budget authorization and required 25% state match for federal grant awards.

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## **Priority 2 - Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) – Part II**

**\$10,431,000 State**

- Part II - Remainder of FY26 Request plus 4% inflation.
  - Requested \$19.8 million last year; appropriated \$10 million.
- Supports services that allow older adults to age safely at home and avoid costly institutional care.

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## **Priority 3 - Increased Agency Operations**

**\$621,902 State | 2 FTEs**

- Strengthens agency capacity to manage increased demand and operational complexity.
- Supports:
  - **IT Division** – Critical IT systems
    - **1 FTE**: eLearning/Learning Management System Program Coordinator
  - **New Marketing & Communications Division** - To improve outreach and public awareness
    - **1 FTE**: Communications Coordinator

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## **Priority 4 – Ombudsman Allocations to AAAs – Part II**

### **\$500,000 State**

- Part II of FY26 request.
  - Requested and appropriated \$550,000 last year.
- Strengthens Ombudsman Program staffing, training, and outreach through Area Agencies on Aging.
- Addresses growing demand for advocacy to ensure safety, dignity, and quality care for long-term care residents.

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## **Priority 5 - FTE Rebalancing**

### **Moves 5 FTEs from Other – 1.2 State | 3.8 Federal**

- Repeat FY26 request
- To comply with Proviso 177.14: FTE management
- No net increase; realigns **5.0 FTEs** to state and federal funding sources.

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## **Proviso Requests**

- **Amend Proviso - 40.5 (HCBS):** Allows Aging to direct funding to core services (meals and transportation) during a funding emergency.
- **New Proviso – Return of Unused Agency Reserves:** Allows Aging to return unused AAA allocations pulled from the agency reserves, promoting fiscal accountability.