

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.