# Presentation to the 2025 Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

Senior and Long-Term Care Division Medicaid and Health Services Practice



## Overview

Lindsey Carter, Division Administrator



## **Division Overview**

SLTC's mission is to advance dignity and independence through quality, long-term care services and supports.

SLTC's FY 2025 Budget was \$418.9 million, with 64.8% funded with federal funds.

SLTC is comprised of four bureaus and includes 75 PB:

- Adult Protective Services
- Aging Services
- Community Services
- Fiscal Services



# Summary of Major Functions

Lindsey Carter, Division Administrator



## **Adult Protective Services Bureau**

Adult Protective Services promotes safety, independence, and quality of life for older adults as well as for individuals aged 18-59 with disabilities through investigations of suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In 2024:

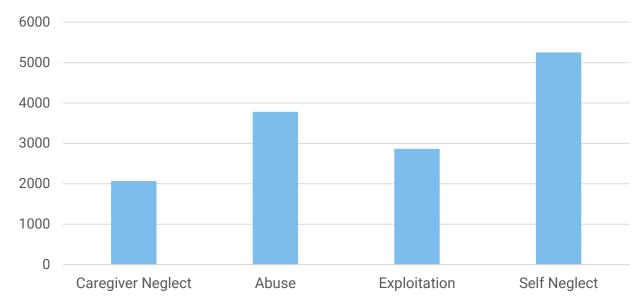
- 33 investigators worked on 14,000 allegations
- 5 intake workers answered/responded to 13,915 phone calls, processing more than 9,000 reports

## **Adult Protective Services**

### **Increasing demand for APS**

- 12,779 allegations SFY 2023
- 14,000 allegations SFY 2024

### **APS ALLEGATIONS COUNT SFY 2024**





## **Adult Protective Services**

### **Guardianship Unit**

Five APS social service workers serve as guardians to 75 wards. Guardians are required to:

- Maintain monthly contact with wards
- Conduct in-person visits every 90 days to ensure quality of care and promote support service sustainability
- Provide an annual written report to the court of origin on the status of the ward's health, safety, well-being, and financial accounting

These social service worker positions are funded by grants set to expire Sept. 30, 2025.

## **Aging Services Bureau**

The Aging Services Bureau is Montana's designated State Unit on Aging (SUA), which oversees programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA).

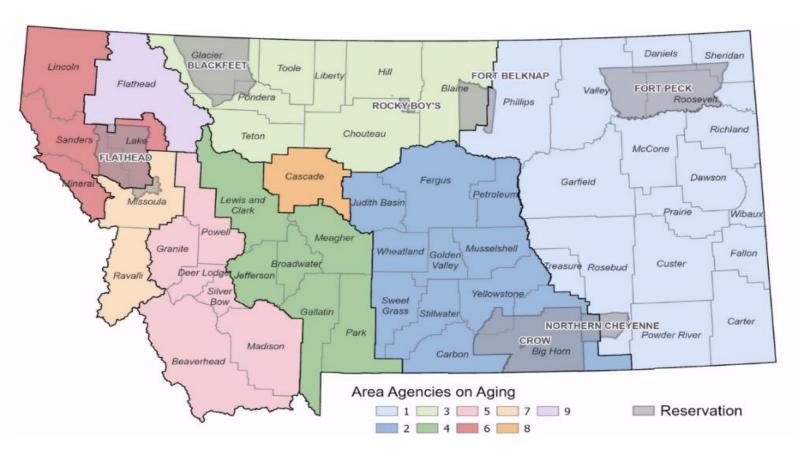
The bureau contracts with the state's nine Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), which provide supportive services to help older adults maintain independence in their homes and communities.

### OAA Programs Available Through Area Agencies on Aging

- Elder Justice
- Legal Services Developer Program
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Supportive Services and Senior Centers

- Nutrition Services
- Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- Family Caregiver Support



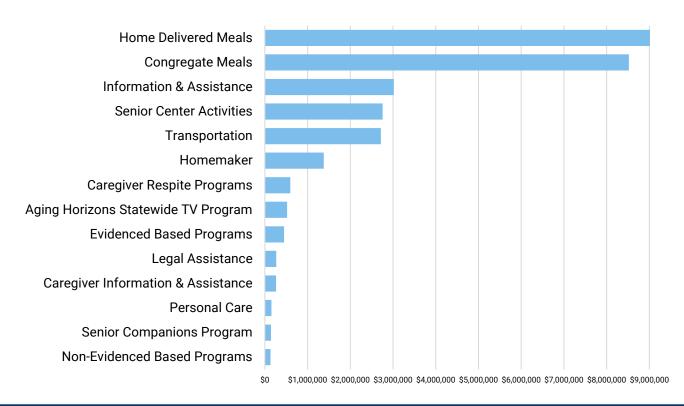


### **Area Agencies on Aging FFY 2023**

Info and Assistance Calls: 64,818



### FFY 2023 Total Program Expenditures for OAA Core Programs





### **Legal Services Developer Program**

- 610 cases opened in 2023
- 1,653 legal issues addressed
- 656 legal estate planning documents developed

### **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program FFY 2023**

- 3,754 routine visits to long-term care facilities
- 2,122 individual consultations
- 3,321 consultations to facility staff
- 22 training sessions for facility staff
- 25 community education sessions
- 334 resident council meetings to support self-advocacy

### State Health Insurance Assistance Program

- AAAs employ more than 90 SHIP counselors across the state
- About 60 SHIP counselors represent community health centers, independent living organizations, hospitals, Urban Indian Organizations, and Indian Health Services
- 10,475 consultations with Medicare recipients in FFY 2023

### **Food and Nutrition Programs**

These programs serve eligible older adults, their spouses, and disabled individuals living with them, to help maintain health and independence.

- Congregate Meals
- Home-Delivered Meals
- Commodity Supplemental Food
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition
- Nutrition Education and Counseling

### **Other Programs**

- BigSky Rx
  - Helps qualified residents cover monthly Medicare Part D premiums, providing up to \$42.20 per month
- <u>Lifespan Respite Discretionary Grants</u>
  - Respite Vouchers
  - Respite Retreats
  - Caregiver Respite Food Box Program



## **Community Services**

The Community Services Bureau oversees a variety of Medicaidfunded programs that allow eligible Montanans to receive inhome services and supports.

- Big Sky Waiver
- Community First Choice / Personal Assistant Services
- Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project
- Hospice
- Home Health
- Nursing Facility Services

### **Big Sky Waiver (BSW)**

The BSW enables Montanans to receive long-term services and supports in their homes or communities rather than in nursing facilities or institutional settings. Example services include:

- Case Management
- Personal Assistance
- Residential Habilitation
  - Assisted Living
  - Adult Foster
  - o Group Home

- Environmental/Vehicle Accessibility Adaptations
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Specialized Equipment and Supplies
- Homemaker Services



### **Community First Choice / Personal Assistance Services**

Provide medically necessary in-home and community-based services to Medicaid members with health conditions that limit their ability to perform activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs).

### **ADLs**

- Personal Hygiene
  Transferring
- Bathing
- Dressing

- Eating
- Toileting

### **IADLs**

- Laundry
- Shopping
- House Cleaning
- Personal Care Support



### Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration Project

Supports state's efforts to rebalance long-term services and supports, giving members the choice of where they live and receive services.

- Reduces reliance on institutional care
- Provides enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for 12 months of qualified home and community-based services (HCBS) for members transitioning into community
- After 12 months, state must continue providing HCBS as long as eligible member needs services

### Hospice

 Provides palliative care to terminally ill members, wherever they reside, focusing on comfort rather than curative treatments.

### **Home Health Services**

- Delivered by certified agencies to Medicaid members recovering from acute illnesses or injuries
- Provided in a member's home and typically initiated following a hospital stay
- Help to reduce hospital readmissions by supporting members through recovery, ensuring appropriate level of care



### **Nursing Facility Services**

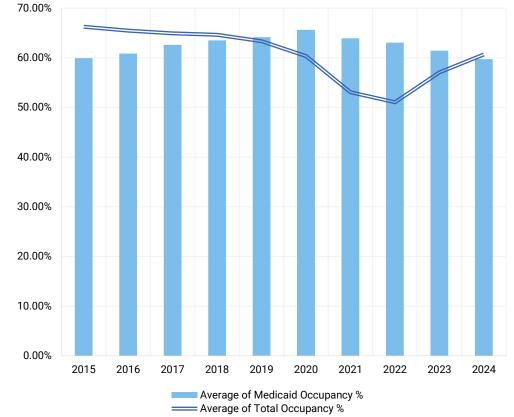
Provide comprehensive support across the state's 58 licensed nursing homes, which also include:

- 3 Veterans' Homes
- 2 Tribal Nursing Facilities
- 8 Out-of-State Facilities
- 48 swing beds Providers



### **Nursing Facilities Services Occupancy**

- SFY 2017 occupancy dropped to 63%
- During COVID-19 dropped to 50%
- SFY 2024 rebounded to 60%



# Highlights and Accomplishments During the 2025 Biennium

Lindsey Carter, Division Administrator

## **Tackling Opioid Misuse in APS Cases**

- Opioid disorder rate among alleged victims was 4.1%, a figure significantly higher than the national average of 2.2%.
- Introduced a structured follow-up protocol to ensure individuals received the services they needed
- Resulted in reduced recidivism rate from 25% to 16%

## **Expansion of Supports for Caregivers**

- Lifespan Respite Grant Program
- TCARE Program Implementation and Expansion
- GoGo Grandparents Transportation Pilot Program

## Increasing Capacity to Serve Complex Populations

- SLTC Provider Rate Increases
  - **OBSW 23.1%**
  - ○CFC 59.9%
  - Nursing Facility 33.2%
- BSW Assisted Living Facility Level II Rates
- Skilled Nursing Facility Complex Care Add-On Rate Structure

## **Division Collaboration with Stakeholders**

- Expanded Funding for Federal Financial Participation
- OAA Intrastate Funding Formula
- Capacity Building in Montana's Long-Term Service System
- Olmstead Plan Implementation and Engagement
- Decennial Veterans Long-Term Care Needs Assessment

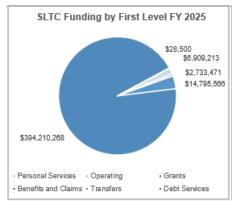
# Funding and PB Information

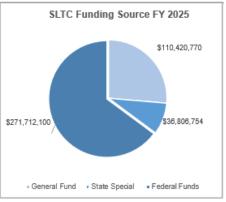
Gene Hermanson, Medicaid Chief Financial Officer



## **Funding and PB Information**

SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2026 REQUEST	FY 2027 REQUEST
PB	75.75	79.75	79.75
Personal Services	\$6,909,213	\$6,865,954	\$6,880,228
Operating	\$2,733,471	\$3,084,643	\$3,109,252
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Assistance	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grants	\$14,795,566	\$14,795,566	\$14,795,566
Benefits and Claims	\$394,210,268	\$364,913,542	\$374,662,941
Transfers	\$28,500	\$28,500	\$28,500
Debt Services	\$262,606	\$262,606	\$262,606
TOTAL COSTS	\$418,939,624	\$389,950,811	\$399,739,093
	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2026 REQUEST	FY 2027 REQUEST
General Fund	\$110,420,770	\$115,118,591	\$118,809,127
State Special Fund	\$36,806,754	\$30,275,484	\$30,289,986
Federal Fund	\$271,712,100	\$244,556,736	\$250,639,980
TOTAL FUNDS	\$418,939,624	\$389,950,811	\$399,739,093





## Change Packages

## Change Packages – Present Law (PL) Adjustments

### **SWPL 1 - PERSONAL SERVICES**

The budget includes a reduction of \$366,953 in FY 2026 and \$352,679 in FY 2027 to annualize various personal services costs including FY 2025 statewide pay plan, benefit rate adjustments, longevity adjustments related to incumbents in each position at the time of the snapshot, and vacancy savings.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$505,420	(\$6,712)	(\$865,661)	(\$366,953)
FY 2027	\$516,089	(\$6,712)	(\$862,056)	(\$352,679)
Biennium Total	\$1,021,509	(\$13,424)	(\$1,727,717)	(\$719,632)

### **SWPL 3 - INFLATION DEFLATION**

This change package includes a reduction of \$7,514 in FY 2026 and \$5,078 in FY 2027 to reflect budgetary changes generated from the application of deflation to state motor pool accounts.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	(\$7,057)	\$0	(\$457)	(\$7,514)
FY 2027	(\$4,769)	\$0	(\$309)	(\$5,078)
Biennium Total	(\$11,826)	\$0	(\$766)	(\$12,592)

### PL 22100 - MEDICAID CORE SERVICES CFC - SLTC

This present law adjustment for caseload growth in the Community First Choice Program in the Senior and Long-Term Care Division covers the projected change in the number of eligible individuals, utilization, acuity levels, and cost per service for medical care for Core Medicaid. This adjustment does not include any changes in eligibility criteria or allowable plan services. This package requests \$13,258,092 in total funds for the biennial funding, including \$4,118,813 in general fund and \$9,139,279 in federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$1,356,416	\$0	\$3,102,236	\$4,458,652
FY 2027	\$2,762,397	\$0	\$6,037,043	\$8,799,440
Biennium Total	\$4,118,813	\$0	\$9,139,279	\$13,258,092

### PL 22993 - MEDICAID FEDERAL SERVICES - SLTC

This present law adjustment is for the decrease of caseload in the Senior and Long-Term Care Division which covers the projected change in the number of eligible individuals, utilization, acuity levels, and cost per service for medical care for Federal Medicaid. This adjustment does not include any changes in eligibility criteria or allowable plan services. This package requests a reduction of \$91,694 in federal funds for the biennium.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$0	\$0	(\$45,847)	(\$45,847)
FY 2027	\$0	\$0	(\$45,847	(\$45,847)
Biennium Total	\$0	\$0	(\$91,694)	(\$91,694)



### PL 22101 - FMAP ADJUSTMENT MEDICAID CORE SERVICES CFC - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to maintain existing services for the Community First Choice Program in SLTC. The request adjusts the FY 2025 budgeted expenses from the FY 2025 FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) rate of 29.48% state funds and 70.12% federal funds to the FY 2026 rate of 32.39% state funds and 67.61% federal funds, and the FY 2027 rate of 32.53% state funds and 67.47% federal funds. The biennial funding increases general fund by \$3,475,798 and includes an offsetting decrease in federal funds. The total cost for the program does not change.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$1,737,899	\$0	(\$1,737,899)	\$0
FY 2027	\$1,737,899	\$0	(\$1,737,899)	\$0
Biennium Total	\$3,475,798	\$0	(\$3,475,798)	\$0

### PL 22204 - CONTRACTUAL ADJUSTMENTS - SLTC

This present law adjustment requests an increase to cover the anticipated budget shortfall in the contracted services budget in SLTC. An increase in contracted services budget has not been requested since the 2017 legislative session. This has resulted in a budget deficit due to increased services and costs. The package requests \$716,795 of total funds for the biennium, including \$502,940 in general fund and \$213,855 of federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$243,902	\$0	\$99,359	\$343,261
FY 2027	\$259,038	\$0	\$114,496	\$373,534
Biennium Total	\$502,940	\$0	\$213,855	\$716,795



### PL 22891 - EXPANSION CORE SERVICES- SLTC

This present law adjustment for caseload growth in SLTC covers the projected change in the number of eligible individuals, utilization, acuity levels, and cost per service for medical care for Core Expansion. This adjustment does not include any changes in eligibility criteria or allowable plan services. This package requests \$2,008,209 in total funds for the biennium, including \$200,821 in general fund and \$1,807,388 in federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$80,000	\$0	\$720,001	\$800,001
FY 2027	\$120,821	\$0	\$1,087,387	\$1,208,208
Biennium Total	\$200,821	\$0	\$1,807,388	\$2,008,209

### PL 22892 - EXPANSION CORE SERVICES CFC - SLTC

This present law adjustment is for the decrease of caseload in the Community First Choice Program in SLTC, which covers the projected change in the number of eligible individuals, utilization, acuity levels, and cost per service for medical care. This adjustment does not include any changes in eligibility criteria or allowable plan services. This package requests a reduction of \$1,425,603 in total funds for the biennium, including a decrease of \$584,867 in general fund and a decrease of \$840,736 in federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	(\$296,739)	\$0	(\$523,695)	(\$820,434)
FY 2027	(\$288,128)	\$0	(\$317,041)	(\$605,169)
Biennium Total	(\$584,867)	\$0	(\$840,736)	(\$1,425,603)

### PL 22991 - MEDICAID CORE SERVICES - SLTC

This present law adjustment is for the decrease of caseload changes in SLTC which covers the projected change in the number of eligible individuals, utilization, acuity levels, and cost per service for medical care for Core Medicaid. This adjustment does not include any changes in eligibility criteria or allowable plan services. This package requests a reduction of \$62,849,925 in total funds for the biennium, including a decrease of \$18,096,698 in general fund and a decrease of \$38,679,225 in federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	(\$9,416,388)	(\$3,037,001)	(\$19,985,659)	(\$32,439,048)
FY 2027	(\$8,680,310)	(\$3,037,001)	(\$18,693,566)	(\$30,410,877)
Biennium Total	(\$18,096,698)	(\$6,074,002)	(\$38,679,225)	(\$62,849,925)

### PL 22992 - FMAP ADJUSTMENT MEDICAID CORE - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to maintain existing services for the Medicaid Core Program in the SLTC Division. The request adjusts the FY 2025 budgeted expenses from the FY 2025 FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) rate of 35.88% state funds 64.12% federal funds to the FY 2026 rate of 38.39% state funds and 61.61% federal funds, and the FY 2027 rate of 38.53% state funds and 61.47% federal funds. The biennial funding increases general fund by \$11,360,038 and includes an offsetting decrease in federal funds. The total cost for the program does not change.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$5,531,645	\$0	(\$5,531,645)	\$0
FY 2027	\$5,828,393	\$0	(\$5,828,393)	\$0
Biennium Total	\$11,360,038	\$0	(\$11,360,038)	\$0

### PL 22994 - MEDICAID OTHER SERVICES IGT - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to align county fiscal participation for the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Program in the SLTC Division. This change does not impact services. This package requests \$3,405,798 in total funds for the biennium, including \$1,309,870 in state special revenue and \$2,095,928 of federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$0	\$653,743	\$1,049,156	\$1,702,899
FY 2027	\$0	\$656,127	\$1,046,772	\$1,702,899
Biennium Total	\$0	\$1,309,870	\$2,095,928	\$3,405,798

### PL 22995 - FMAP ADJUSTMENT IGT - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to maintain existing services for the Medicaid Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) Program in the SLTC Division. The request adjusts the FY 2025 budgeted expenses from the FY 2025 FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) rate of 35.88% state funds 64.12% federal funds to the FY 2026 rate of 38.39% state funds and 61.61% federal funds, and the FY 2027 rate of 38.53% state funds and 61.47% federal funds. The biennial funding increases state special revenue by \$243,663 and includes an offsetting decrease in federal funds. The total cost for the program does not change.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$0	\$118,546	(\$118,546)	\$0
FY 2027	\$0	\$125,117	(\$125,117)	\$0
Biennium Total	\$0	\$243,663	(\$243,663)	\$0

### PL 22996 - MEDICAID WAIVER SERVICES - SLTC

This present law adjustment is for the decrease of caseload in the SLTC Division which covers the projected change in the number of eligible individuals, utilization, acuity levels, and cost per service for medical care for Medicaid Waiver Services. This adjustment does not include any changes in eligibility criteria or allowable plan services. This package requests a reduction of \$348,930 in total funds for the biennium, including a decrease of \$132,268 in general fund and a decrease of \$216,662 in federal funds.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	(\$596,177)	\$0	(\$956,772)	(\$1,552,949)
FY 2027	\$463,909	\$0	\$740,110	\$1,204,019
Biennium Total	(\$132,268)	\$0	(\$216,662)	(\$348,930)

### PL 22997 - FMAP ADJUSTMENT WAIVER - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to maintain existing services in the SLTC Division. The request adjusts the FY 2025 budgeted expenses from the FY 2025 FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) rate of 34.12% state funds and 65.88% federal funds to the FY 2026 rate of 38.39% state funds 61.61% federal funds, and the FY 2027 rate of 38.53% state funds and 61.47% federal funds. The biennial funding increases general fund by \$3,518,741 and includes an offsetting decrease in federal funds. The total cost for the program does not change.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$1,711,130	\$0	(\$1,711,130)	\$0
FY 2027	\$1,807,611	\$0	(\$1,807,611)	\$0
Biennium Total	\$3,518,741	\$0	(\$3,518,741)	\$0

### PL 22998 - FMAP ADJUSTMENT DCW-HCHCW - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to maintain existing services for the Direct Care Wage and Healthcare for Healthcare Workers Program in the SLTC Division. The request adjusts the FY 2025 budgeted expenses from the FY 2025 FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) rate of 35.88% state funds 64.12% federal funds to the FY 2026 rate of 38.39% state funds and 61.61% federal funds, and the FY 2027 rate of 38.53% state funds and 61.47% federal funds. The biennial funding increases general fund by \$459,003, increases state special revenue by \$313,793 and includes an offsetting decrease in federal funds by \$772,796. The total cost for the program does not change.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$223,059	\$154,123	(\$377,182)	\$0
FY 2027	\$235,944	\$159,670	(\$395,614)	\$0
Biennium Total	\$459,003	\$313,793	(\$772,796)	\$0

### PL 22999 - FMAP ADJUSTMENT CFC DCW-HCHCW - SLTC

This present law adjustment is necessary to maintain existing services for the CFC Direct Care Wage and Health Care for Health Care Workers program in the Senior and Long-Term Care Division. The request adjusts the FY 2025 budgeted expenses from the FY 2025 FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) rate of 29.88% state funds 70.12% federal funds to the FY 2026 rate of 32.39% state funds and 67.61% federal funds, and the FY 2027 rate of 32.53% state funds and 67.47% federal funds. The biennial funding increases the general fund by \$556,098 and includes an offsetting decrease in federal funds. The total cost for the program does not change.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$271,623	\$0	(\$271,623)	\$0
FY 2027	\$284,475	\$0	(\$284,475)	\$0
Biennium Total	\$556,098	\$0	(\$556,098)	\$0

## Change Packages - New Proposals (NP) Adjustments

### NP 22001 - AGING SERVICES ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROGRAM OFFICER - SLTC

This new proposal requests 1.00 PB for an aging services assessment and review program officer in the SLTC Division Aging Services Bureau. This position will be responsible for overseeing the federal OAA including program monitoring and providing technical assistance to AAA's. This service is funded with 100% general fund and includes \$161,847 of total funds for the biennium.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$80,924	\$0	\$0	\$80,924
FY 2027	\$80,923	\$0	\$0	\$80,923
Biennium Total	\$161,847	\$0	\$0	\$161,847

### NP 22002 - REALIGN APPROPRIATION WITH REVENUE I-149 BIGSKY RX - SLTC

This new proposal reduces the appropriation of I-149 state special revenue to the Big Sky Rx program to align appropriation with anticipated expenditures. This change package requests a reduction of \$1,400,000 in state special revenue in each year of the biennium.

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$0	(\$1,400,000)	\$0	(\$1,400,000)
FY 2027	\$0	(\$1,400,000)	\$0	(\$1,400,000)
Biennium Total	\$0	(\$2,800,000)	\$0	(\$2,800,000)

### NP 22003 - ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES GUARDIANSHIP PB - SLTC

This new proposal is requesting 3.0 PB Social Services Worker II (SSW) for the Adult Protective Services (APS) Guardianship Program. These positions will be responsible for monitoring APS guardianship cases. SSWs are required by law to render an annual report and accounting to the court of origin. At minimum, the SSW conducts in-person visit with wards under guardianship on a quarterly basis to assess the ward's health and safety and ensure their needs are being met appropriately. The SSW also conducts monthly contacts with the ward's support network (family, medical provider, support staff, case manager, etc.). APS currently monitors 75 guardianship cases with approximately 10-15 new requests for guardianship monthly. Due to the increase in reports received, the ever-increasing caseload per staff person, and complexity of caseloads, it is difficult for current staff to maintain these levels of guardianship cases. This request includes \$508,291 in general fund for the biennium

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$258,195	\$0	\$0	\$258,195
FY 2027	\$250,096	\$0	\$0	\$250,096
Biennium Total	\$508,291	\$0	\$0	\$508,291



### NP 22004 - REALIGN APPROPRIATION FOR MED NURSING HOME

This new proposal reduces the appropriation of state special revenue to the Medicaid Nursing Home program to align appropriation with anticipated expenditures. This change package requests a reduction of \$3,013,969 in I-149 state special revenue in each year of the biennium with an offsetting increase in general funds

	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2026	\$3,013.969	(\$3,013,969)	\$0	\$0
FY 2027	\$3,013,969	(\$3,013,969)	\$0	\$0
Biennium Total	\$6,027,938	(\$6,027,938)	\$0	\$0

## Conclusion