

**Statement of Josefina G. Carbonell, Assistant Secretary for Aging
On the Release of the FY 2009 Budget Request to Congress
Monday, February 4, 2008**

On February 4, 2008, the Administration on Aging's FY 2009 budget request to Congress of **\$1.381 billion** was released as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services budget request. The Administration on Aging FY 2009 budget request will strengthen the national aging services network in meeting the challenges presented by the aging of the baby boomers and the need for more options for long-term living.

The Administration on Aging 's request maintains FY 2008 appropriated funding levels for Administration on Aging services programs and reflects our commitment to support the core programs that provide home and community-based long-term care services to millions of older persons through the national aging services network. The network, made up of state, tribal and area agencies on aging as well as more than 29,000 community-service providers, has been a proven force in advancing healthy living and independence in the community and serves over 9 million individuals each year. Administration on Aging's Aging Services Programs have been rated effective – the highest rating a program can receive – as part of the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART).

The Administration on Aging FY 2009 budget request provides continued support for activities that help give people choices, control and independence as they grow older, and will enhance our ability to address the future of long-term care in this country. The FY 2009 request again includes a request for \$28 million to evaluate, through a time-limited, randomized trial design in three to five States, whether the Choices for Independence proposal achieves savings in Medicaid and Medicare through its use of low cost home and community-based alternatives. Choices holds the potential to improve the quality of life for millions of adults as they age, support the network's efforts to help high-risk individuals who are not Medicaid eligible to remain at home through the use of low-cost alternatives, and assist State efforts to rebalance their systems of care.

The Choices demonstration builds on existing, successful investments in U.S. Department of Health and Human Services programs and best practices from the field that will:

- Help individuals make informed decisions about care options, plan for long-term care needs and streamline access to publicly supported long-term care programs through Aging and Disability Resource Centers.
- Assist seniors to make behavioral changes that have proven effective in reducing the risk of disease and disability through evidence-based prevention efforts designed to address chronic disease and disability.
- Help seniors at high risk of nursing-home placement avoid or delay institutionalization and unnecessary spend-down to Medicaid through an array of flexible services.

Choices for Independence advances the Administration's New Freedom Initiative, which supports people's desire to live in the community, and complements the Secretary's prevention and health promotion priorities. It supports the Administration's efforts to modernize Medicare and Medicaid and the reforms in Medicaid under the Deficit Reduction Act, such as *Money Follows the Person*. It builds on partnerships with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services including outreach efforts on prescription drug coverage and the prevention focus of *My Health. My Medicare*.

FY 2009 Budget Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

Program	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Enacted	FY 2009 President's Budget	FY 2009 +/- FY 2008
State & Community-Based Services:				
Home & Community-Based Supportive Services	\$ 350,595	\$ 351,348	\$ 351,348	\$ --
Congregate Nutrition Services.....	398,919	410,716	410,716	--
Home-Delivered Nutrition Services	188,305	193,858	193,858	--
Nutrition Services Incentive Program 1/	147,846	153,429	153,429	--
Preventive Health Services	21,400	21,026	--	(21,026)
Family Caregiver Support Services	156,167	153,439	153,439	--
Subtotal, State & Community-Based Services....	\$ 1,263,232	\$1,283,816	\$1,262,790	\$ (21,026)
Services for Native Americans:				
Native American Nutrition & Supportive Services ...	\$ 26,134	\$ 26,898	\$ 26,898	\$ --
Native American Caregiver Support Services	6,241	6,316	6,316	--
Subtotal, Services for Native Americans	\$ 32,375	\$ 33,214	\$ 33,214	\$ --
Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans:				
Long Term Care Ombudsmen Program	\$ 15,010	\$ 15,577	\$ 15,577	\$ --
Prevention of Elder Abuse & Neglect	5,146	5,056	5,056	--
Subtotal, Vulnerable Older Americans	\$ 20,156	\$ 20,633	\$ 20,633	\$ --
Program Innovations /2	\$ 24,058	\$ 30,867	\$ 32,918	\$ 2,051
<i>Choices for Independence (Non-Add)</i>	--	16,212	28,000	11,788
Aging Network Support Activities /2	\$ 13,133	\$ 15,377	\$ 13,133	\$ (2,244)
Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grants	\$ 11,668	\$ 11,464	\$ --	\$ (11,464)
Program Administration /3	\$ 18,379	\$ 18,064	\$ 18,696	\$ 632
Total, Discretionary Budget Authority	\$ 1,383,001	\$1,413,435	\$1,381,384	\$ (32,051)
Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control /4	\$ 3,128	\$ 3,128	\$ 3,128	\$ --
Total, Discretionary Program Level	\$ 1,386,129	\$1,416,563	\$1,384,512	\$ (32,051)

1/ Includes \$2,659,000 in FY 2008 budget authority appropriated to AoA and transferred to the Department of Agriculture for commodities purchases pursuant to Public Law 110-19.

2/ The FY 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act appropriated funding for Choices for Independence under Aging Network Support Activities. This table has been comparably adjusted.

3/ In FY 2008 HHS proposed appropriating funds for certain TAPs to the General Departmental Management section. FY 2007 has been adjusted by -\$6 thousand for comparability.

4/ FY 2009 is a placeholder; the Secretary and the Attorney General will determine the final amount.