

**Kristi Kane, Director of Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging**, asks you to provide your comments during the Minnesota Board on Aging's (MBA) public comment period.

"Hello! I am Kristi Kane, Director of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging a division of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission. We serve the 7 county region in Northeast MN, known as the Arrowhead.

We need your help to support successful aging in the Arrowhead and statewide in greater Minnesota.

The Intrastate Funding Formula, or IFF is being reviewed. This formula determines how much of the Minnesota's share of the Federal Older American Act funding any given region is allowed to invest in programming for older adults.

The current formula is largely weighted on the amount of people 60+ and where they live, which hurts outstate Minnesota. In greater MN we need to see more emphasis on the weighted factors of 60+ living rural and 60+ living alone. After all, aging affects all of us, and this is the last chance to impact this funding for the next 10 years.

Older American Act funding is intended to provide supports to keep our 60 and older community members healthy, active and in their own home as long as possible. It provides programs such as rides to medical appointments, nutritious meals, snow removal, lawn mowing and wellness classes. It helps working caregivers have peace of mind and support their families. It is intended to be support and funding of last resort when no other options are available, and everyone is eligible regardless of income.

In many places in outstate MN – there are no other options. I live 4 miles from Grand Rapids MN and I can't get a pizza delivered to my door. If an older individual is home bound, even if they can afford to pay, many times they can't get to a grocery store or a doctor. Perhaps they can't drive, maybe they are recovering from a procedure, maybe no one has been there to shovel their driveway and likely – even if they could get out of the house, there is no public transportation or taxis available. They need a volunteer driver program, or a hot meal delivered to their home. They need someone to help. Much of greater Minnesota still doesn't have access to broadband, so telemedicine is not an option for many. Our aging community members need services brought to the door.

We need you to speak up on behalf of your community.

Outstate Minnesota stands to lose funding, and it is not because of statewide cuts. It is a reallocation of funds from Greater Minnesota into the most populated region of the state. But here, in greater MN resources are scarce, and the distance barrier is great. This funding supports our neighbors and helps them age successfully, but it also supports our communities through jobs and resources that provide supports to caregivers. Those who choose to aging in greater MN deserve an equitable share of the Federal Resources. Tell the Minnesota Board on Aging.

You can help your older community members age where they want to age and, in the communities, they know and love, by providing your public comment to the Minnesota Board on Aging during the month of April.

Please provide your comment. Start having conversations in your communities. Encourage your friends, neighbors and elected officials to provide public comment and ask for a formula that supports aging in Greater MN. **20% for population 60+, 5% for 60+ with disability, 20% for 60+ low income, 15% for 60+ minority, 25% for 60+ rural, 5% for 60+ population density, 10% for 60+ living alone.** Visit this website to see the formula in writing. Help us Prevent Cuts and Support Aging in Greater MN.

Hello! I am Kristi Kane, Director of the Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging. I am asking you today, on behalf of all the outstate AAA's in Minnesota, to speak up on behalf your communities.

Start having conversations with your friends, neighbors, and elected officials. Ask them to provide comment and ask for a formula that supports aging in Greater MN. The formula that supports all outstate AAA's the best will reflect a 20% weight for population 60+, 5% for 60+ with disability, 20% for 60+ low income, 15% for 60+ minority, 25% for 60+ rural, 5% for 60+ population density, and 10% for 60+ living alone. Visit this webpage to see the ask in writing.

Help us Prevent cuts! Support aging in Greater MN. Speak up and provide public comment.”