

# *C4A Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging*

Committee on Aging  
3/6/12 Public Hearing

## **Please SUPPORT House Bill 5336 – An Act Increasing Funding for Elderly Nutrition**

- Many older adult residents on fixed incomes in Connecticut have seen their quality of life negatively impacted by the rising cost of food, heating their homes and purchasing other essential services. Consequently, demand for service from the Elderly Nutrition Program has increased at a time when revenue received from federal and state funding sources remains flat.
- Rising prices for commodities including food and fuel have increased costs for service providers of the Elderly Nutrition Program. In addition, augmented service and administrative requirements have also added to program costs.
- Growing demand, rising costs and static revenues have necessitated service cutbacks to the Elderly Nutrition Program throughout the state including reduction in service days at congregate café sites and the implementation of waiting lists for clients seeking home-delivered meals.
- In FY'12, an estimated 67,575 additional meals will need to be cut from the program.
- As proposed in RB 5336, appropriating \$3,700,000 from the general fund to the elderly nutrition program would allow for the restoration of 5 day per week meal service at all congregate café sites, where applicable, and the elimination of home-delivered meal waiting lists.
- The additional appropriation would also allow the elderly nutrition providers to implement innovative programming and increase outreach to frail low income and minority older adults who are nutrition deficient but unaware or unable to participate in the Elderly Nutrition Program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF HB 5336. Please contact Attorney Bobby Shea with any follow-up questions or comments: (860) 989-5567.