

Response to Questions on the FY 2019 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: Does the \$379,979 increase in Local Cash Match in the Federal-State Grant Fund for Congregate Meals and Home Delivered Meals include the Meals on Wheels Program?

Response:

The Congregate Meals Program and the Home Delivered Meals Program are both administered by the Department of Family Services and the funding for the programs is administered in the Federal-State Grant Fund. The Congregate Meals Program provides one meal a day, five days a week in congregate meal sites around the County including the County's senior and adult day health centers, several private senior centers, other sites serving older adults such as the Alzheimer's Family Day Center, and the County senior housing complexes. The County's Home Delivered Meals Program includes Meals on Wheels, which provides meals to frail, homebound, low-income residents age 60 and older who cannot prepare their own meals. Meals are delivered by individual volunteers and through partnerships with community organizations and businesses.

Funding for the programs comes from a combination of federal pass-through and state funding provided by the Virginia Department for the Aging, reimbursements from the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church for services provided by Fairfax County, donations from program participants, and the General Fund (i.e. Local Cash Match). Both the Congregate Meals Program and the Home Delivered Meals Program have a required Local Cash Match; however, due to the size of the programs and demand for services, the County provides additional General Fund resources to be able to serve all program participants. The \$379,979 in additional Local Cash Match that is included in the FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan includes funding for both the Home Delivered Meals Program and the Congregate Meals Program. The additional Local Cash Match is required primarily due to an increase in participation in both programs as well as increased food costs. Additionally, as the result of a program audit, the process by which donations are collected was changed. This has resulted in a decline in donations over the last several years. The increase in Local Cash Match is necessary to maintain the two programs at their current levels of operation and to be able to continue to serve all those in need of services.