



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF  
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

## 2024 Legislative Priorities

### Senior Meals – Language Revision

m4a advocates for supporting the Senior Nutrition program in Minnesota. In 2023, the State of Minnesota made historic investments in the Senior Nutrition program. This funding will assist in meeting the needs of the growing aging population. It is imperative that we target these dollars to those most in need and support innovative approaches.

***m4a supports:***

- Innovation in delivering congregate meals, home-delivered meals, and food security for older adults and caregivers.
- Focus on providing meals and other nutrition support to family caregivers that reside within the older adult recipient home.
- Allocation of 10% of state senior nutrition program funds to Area Agencies on Aging. These dollars would be to award funds to community providers, establish program outcomes, monitor the use of funds, provide technical assistance to service providers, and ensure program compliance and reports to the State.
- Sustainable funding for older adult meals to meet the increasing demographics.

### Volunteer Drivers

m4a advocates for transportation options that enable older adults to access services and reduce social isolation through continued support for volunteer drivers. m4a is an active member of the Minnesota Volunteer Driver Coalition.

***m4a supports:***

- House Resolution 3032, Volunteer Driver Tax Appreciation Act of 2023, introduced by Representative Peter Stauber (MN-08), with bipartisan support.
- Changing the charitable mileage rate, from \$0.14, to be equal to the current business rate
- Allowing the IRS to adjust the mileage rate on a regular basis utilizing a similar mechanism to the business rate.
- Raising awareness to Minnesota-based companies on the recent legislation changes around the definition of a volunteer driver and reimbursement rates.

## Caregiver Supports

m4a advocates for increased awareness, and funding to support caregivers (formal and informal) who care for older adults. Special focus on care recipients who suffer from Alzheimer's and other Cognitive Diseases.

### ***m4a supports:***

- Partnering with the Alzheimer's Association to raise awareness around caregiving options.
- Allocating caregiver funding through the Area Agencies on Aging to ensure that services across the state are met.
- Partnering with employers and organizations to support employees who are also caregivers.