

## **KEEP LOTTERY FUNDS FOR SENIORS; STOP RAIDING THE FUND**

### **CONCERNS:**

**Pennsylvania's long-term care system is out of balance and ignoring home and community –based care programs has stretched these programs, such as Meals on Wheels, local senior centers and home support services, to the breaking point. The Pennsylvania lottery's express purpose is to generate funds for programs for Pennsylvania's seniors.**

- PA ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in nursing home population but 2<sup>nd</sup> in nursing home expenditures
- Only 14% of Lottery funds go to PA Department of Aging grants, including home & community care programs & senior centers
- 90% of long-term care expenditures for seniors go to nursing home care
- The Governor has made a commitment to rebalancing the long-term care system by 2012
- Thousands of seniors are on waiting lists for assistance
- Senior Centers have cut hours and buildings need repairs
- Areas of the state have no adult day care
- Low reimbursement rates hurt recruiting & retaining professional caregivers
- Limited alternatives mean seniors are being forced into nursing homes

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Lottery revenues Are available to provide older Pennsylvanians what they desperately need...assistance in remaining at home. Lottery revenues should be used to address documented needs by eliminating waiting lists for services and stabilize struggling senior centers and service programs.**

- Home and community-based services can be provided at an average cost that is almost one-third of annual nursing home costs
- Governor's 2009-10 budget projects significant Lottery surplus
- Stop transfers from Lottery fund to supplement the Medicaid long-term care budget
- Invest the lottery fund surplus by eliminating waiting lists for assistance
- Keep Lottery exclusively dedicated to established senior support programs
- Make long-term care rebalancing a budget priority and bring our home & community care programs in line with other states

*Where do you most want to be when you retire?*

## LOTTERY FUNDS USED TO FILL BUDGET GAPS

### 2006-07 Budget

DPW Medicaid LTC	\$249 million
(Previously 100% General Fund)	

### 2007-08 Budget

DPW Medicaid LTC	\$249 million
Dept of Aging Worker Salaries	\$ 8 million
(General Govt Ops)	

### 2008-09 Budget

DPW Medicaid LTC	\$298 million
Dept of Aging Worker Salaries	\$ 8.7 million
(General Govt Ops)	

Source: Governor's Executive Budget 2008-2009