



NEWS RELEASE
WICOMICO COUNTY COUNCIL

MAC, Inc. Funding Shortage

The County Council is greatly concerned about the recent announcement from Executive Director Pattie Tingle of MAC, Inc. that the funding for senior nutrition services has been reduced 46%, which is an anticipated reduction of \$113,000, effective July 1, 2019. Without this funding, MAC, Inc. will be forced to slash more than 15,000 senior meals, affecting approximately 120-150 senior citizens in need. In addition, there will be a forced reduction in jobs as MAC, Inc. is one of only a few who prepare and deliver these meals to seniors.

In an effort to address this matter, the Wicomico County Council has sent a letter to Governor Hogan expressing its concerns regarding the funding cuts made by the Maryland Department of Aging to MAC Inc., - Area Agency on Aging. We have also asked for the Governor's influence in helping to restore these funds to this agency. In addition, we are working with our local delegation to address this matter.

The Wicomico County Executive has requested authorization for an immediate transfer of the total funding shortage of \$113,000 from the County's contingency fund to MAC, Inc. so they can continue senior nutrition services. It seems reasonable, however, for us to see if we can, first, restore this funding on a state level, not only for this year, but to guarantee protections for future years.

In addition, the Wicomico County Council feels it is necessary to point out that MAC, Inc. serves four counties (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester), all of whom are impacted by these funding cuts. Such substantive funding, as proposed, would have Wicomico citizens subsidizing a program in support of all four counties and we don't think that is an equitable solution. It is our understanding that Wicomico County's obligation could only be \$40,000, which is less than half of the total funding shortage. We are waiting on confirmation on exact numbers.

The Wicomico County Council has, therefore, postponed voting on the Executive's proposal to approve funding to MAC, Inc., in the amount of \$113,000 until there is a better understanding of the state's true intentions and a more accurate understanding of our exact obligations.