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Your Update from AgeOptions

November 2017

A Message from the CEO

By Jonathan Lavin, AgeOptions president and CEO

AgeOptions and others in the Aging Network are facing delayed state and federal payments.

Illinois - After the special election for the Office of State Comptroller, there was a flood of past due bills sent from State departments to the newly elected comptroller. Even with an increase in income tax, the effects of two years without adequate revenue and no state budget were catching up. Except for a few programs, the Aging Network has not received the majority of funding for the state's 2017 fiscal year which concluded on June 30, and no funding for State Fiscal Year 2018 that began on July 1, 2017. Late last month, the comptroller reported more than \$9 billion in unpaid bills.

Added to the state situation is the short-term Continuing Resolution enacted by the U.S. Congress and signed by the President. As a result we are receiving only portions of the federal funding we would expect at this time of year. AgeOptions is sending payments to community agencies that are between 30 and 100 percent of what was billed. The first 2017 funds were received just before Thanksgiving, but with the federal slowdown we envision a tough December and January.

On the positive side, Illinois' cash situation will improve during December with increased employment of seasonal employees for the holidays, higher sales tax revenue and in mid-January, the receipt of estimated taxes and 2017 tax returns.

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Federal - At the federal level, there is concern that agreement on debt limit increases, tax legislation, immigration, continued efforts to end the Affordable Care Act and other divisive issues will stall the 2018 federal budget and payment of aging network agencies. In a surprise move this past fall, an agreement was reached to avoid a potential federal close down, but we do not know if that same logic will prevail as we enter the 2017 holiday season.

[Caring Together, Living Better](#) is a partnership of faith-based and community organizations dedicated to supporting the approximately one in four west suburban families that are caring for an older adult.

AgeOptions Information and Assistance specialists provide information about resources and help connect individuals and caregivers with services and benefits. Please call (708)383-0258.