



COUNCIL on AGING

YOUR SOURCE AND VOICE ON SENIOR ISSUES

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The mission of Council on Aging is to transform Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a *senior-friendly** community through education and advocacy.

CURRENT EMERGING ISSUE STATUS REPORT

DATE: April 2009

IDENTIFIED ISSUE: MORE FUNDING NEEDED FOR PROJECT C.A.R.E

As the aging population is increasing, more and more people with Alzheimer's disease is also increasing. More than 150,000 older adults in North Carolina are suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias, and this number will only increase in the coming years. Caregivers face many challenges in caring for their loved ones with dementia, including physical, psychological, social and emotional trials due to the demands of caregiving responsibilities.

One resource for caregivers has been the newly initiated Project C.A.R.E (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty), which aims to improve the quality of life for low-income and minority families who care for their loved ones with dementia. It provides comprehensive support services to caregivers through a family consultant model. Family consultants visit the homes of caregivers in crisis and offer them timely help and intervention.

[House Bill 145](#) / [Senate Bill 190](#) would allocate funds to Project C.A.R.E, which primarily focuses on providing resources for people with dementia and their caregivers. This bill is recommended by the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The North Carolina General Assembly has enacted a law (143B-181.1(a) (11)), which provides grants for older adults who need in-home and community based services. The position of bill in the House of Representatives and Senate is as follows:

- 02/11/2009: House - Filed
- 02/12/2009: House - Passed first reading
- 02/12/2009: House - Reference to the Committee on Aging, if favorable, Appropriations
- 02/17/2009: Senate - Filed
- 02/18/2009: Senate - Reference to Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget
- 03/11/2009: House - Report Favored
- 03/11/2009: House - Re-reference Committee on Appropriations

Eligibility for Project C.A.R.E Services:

- Confirmation of Alzheimer's disease diagnosis (or dementia) is required from caregivers, physicians or other service providers.
- Individual with dementia should be a resident in one of the 14 counties served by Project C.A.R.E (Mecklenburg, Haywood, Swain, Jackson, Buncombe, Forsyth, Surry, Stokes, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Rutherford, Transylvania and Polk).
- Individuals should not be a recipient of Medicaid Community Alternatives Program (CAP) services.
- There are no age limitations for individuals with dementia or caregivers.

COUNCIL ON AGING EDUCATION/ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- Council on Aging has created an [Advocacy Alert](#) to increase community awareness about the need for additional Project C.A.R.E funding.
- Council on Aging's [Caregiving Task Force](#) is currently offering [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](#) training courses.

RESOURCES/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Project C.A.R.E [brochure](#)
- NC Division of Aging & Adult Services information on [Project C.A.R.E demonstration](#)
- Alzheimer's Association [website](#), or call the 24-hr toll-free helpline: 1-800-272-3900

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Help Council on Aging raise awareness about Project C.A.R.E and its need for additional funding by making this information available to your community, organization, friends and loved ones. Print and share this information!
- Contact Council on Aging's [Speakers Bureau](#) to set up a presentation on this issue.
- [Donate](#) today to help ensure a *senior-friendly* tomorrow.

*A *senior-friendly* community allows aging adults to maintain independence, dignity and quality of life.