Expanding the Medicare Savings Plan

After six years of grassroots organizing, MSAC successfully persuaded state lawmakers and Governor Baker to include the first step in our three-step staircase bill in the budget. Photos, videos, news articles, op-eds and social media all played key roles in our successful partnership. We are ready to expand MSP access to even more Seniors in 2020!

Read All About it

Medicare Savings Program (MSP)
Baker includes in his budget:

- AP
- Boston Herald
- Boston 25
- Worcester Business Journal
- MassLive

State officially expands MSP:

- Telegram and Gazette
- Somerville Times
- Andover Townsman
- Haverill Gazette
- The Daily News
- Dot News - Edna Pruce Profile
Gov. Baker proposes expanding Medicare savings program

BOSTON — Low-income seniors would see a break on how much they pay for health care under a plan Republican Gov. Charlie Baker is including in his state budget proposal. Under the plan, seniors who earn 130 to 165 percent of the federal poverty level — from just under $16,000 to about $20,000 each year — would be eligible for Medicare savings programs, which help reduce health care expenses, including out-of-pocket costs. Currently seniors earning from 100 to 135 percent of the federal poverty level — from just over $12,100 to $16,400 — are eligible for the savings programs, which also help cover hospital and general medical services. They also automatically qualify for help with prescription drug coverage.

Baker’s budget would set aside about $10 million in state dollars for the expansion, which would leverage about $100 million in additional federal Medicare dollars for nearly 40,000 seniors — 25,000 of whom are currently not eligible. “This will make a big difference to a lot of people,” Baker said Friday.
When we fight, we win! #SeniorPower has won expanded access to the Medicare Savings Program for Massachusetts elders.

What’s next?

A 3-step staircase to expand it even further. Stay tuned! #WeTakeCharge
Transportation Justice for Seniors

Seniors need accessible, affordable public transportation options to stay independent. Traveling to buy groceries, medicine and being able to access healthy meals, exercise and social support are essential for Seniors’ wellbeing. This year, we secured affordable transport to the grocery store for Seniors in New Bedford. Through a two-year grassroots campaign in Springfield, including news stories, op-eds, videos and social media, we finally achieved a pilot program that answers our calls for a workable plan to get Seniors from neighborhoods where senior centers closed, to the centralized Jordan Senior Center.

Read All About it

- Mass Live
- Springfield Republican
- Seniors Demand Real Solutions to Access Services - Springfield Republican
- Following Pressure From Seniors, City To Offer Free Rides To Springfield Senior Center
- Tripp Towers seniors upset after SRTA stops service to Stop & Shop
- SRTA and Tripp Tower seniors reach compromise on grocery shuttle
SPRINGFIELD — Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said he is “miffed” that a group of senior citizens is planning a rally at City Hall Wednesday to protest the cost of meals and transportation at the Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center at Blunt Park.

The Massachusetts Senior Action Council announced that dozens of seniors are expected to gather at 11 a.m., protesting that the price of lunch is $3.50 — compared with a previous price of $2 — and that the cost of a round-trip van shuttle to the center is $6. Van trips are provided by the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority.
Following Pressure From Seniors, City To Offer Free Rides To Springfield Senior Center

Responding to pressure from activists, city officials in Springfield, Massachusetts have announced a new transportation plan for the senior center.

Starting next month, free door-to-door rides will be offered to seniors who wish to go to the Raymond Jordan Senior Center to enjoy lunch, activities, and camaraderie.

The new city-provided transportation is a response to complaints that many seniors are finding they cannot afford to travel to the $13 million state-of-the-art senior center that opened last year.

It is also an upgrade from the stopgap plan announced by Mayor Domenic Sarno at the senior center last month when he said the city would offer van rides to the senior center from three neighborhood pickup points.
Making Senior Voices Count!

In Lynn, Greater Lynn Senior Services shut out Senior voices and harassed our Senior Center director, prompting her to leave her post. Seniors wouldn't stand for it. Through grassroots events, media coverage, social media and pressure on local officials, MSAC secured a commitment from Lynn's Mayor to hire a first-ever city worker to oversee Senior Affairs. The mayor will also launch a planning committee, including Seniors, to ensure that Seniors have a say in the future of their Senior Center.

Mass. Senior Action Council Endorses Lynn Mayor’s Commitment to Seniors

Lynn, MA - Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC) is commending Lynn Mayor Thomas McGee for his unprecedented leadership on Senior issues. At a Senior Center town hall, Mayor McGee made a series of commitments that will ensure that Lynn Seniors have a seat at the table in City Hall.

Mayor McGee will solicit applications for a new Senior Center director in January. This will be the first-ever city employee dedicated to Seniors’ issues. He or she will oversee the process of choosing a permanent site for the Senior Center, and will oversee the hiring of other Senior Center staff.
Dear Mayor Thomas McGee:

We ask for your help in our fight for Dignity at the Lynn Senior Center. Any lease agreement for the Lynn Senior Center should include:

- The Lynn Senior Center’s Council On Aging Board members should reflect the people who use the center and be representatives for the Lynn Seniors.
- The Lynn Council On Aging Board should oversee the senior center’s activities, funds, and along with the Mayor choose the Senior Center/Council On Aging Director.
- The Lease for the Senior Center must include respect for everyone.
- The Lynn Council On Aging appointments to the GLSS Board should be recognized immediately.

Name_______________________________________________________
Address______________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

Lynn Seniors Deserve Better!

Never Agree To Our Taxes! Our Taxes! Our Taxes! Our Taxes!

GLSS CEO Paul Crowley Resigns

BY DAILY ITEM STAFF - November 4, 2019

LYNN — Following months of speculation, Paul Crowley is out as CEO of Greater Lynn Senior Services.

The Board of Directors of GLSS announced on Monday that the embattled CEO resigned from his position, effective Oct. 31.

No reason was given for Crowley’s resignation, including whether it was voluntary, but he was placed on a 90-day paid leave in September following an unflattering job performance review ordered by the Board of Directors.

Crowley did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Last year, he earned $346,742 with GLSS, according to Guidestar.

Ken Halkin, chief financial officer, and Valerie Parker Callahan, director of planning and development, will continue their roles as interim co-CEOs while the board undergoes a search process to hire the organization’s next CEO, according to a statement from the GLSS Board of Directors.

Holly Jarrell-Marinelli will continue to serve as the liaison for all ASAP-related network activities in the interim period, according to the board.
We closed out our year with a sense of victory and celebration. We visited the State House for one last time in 2019, offering our thanks to lawmakers in the form of new versions of popular Christmas Carols. But we also reminded them that we will be back in 2020 with an even greater commitment to fighting for Senior Justice!

Commonwealth Seniors to Christmas Carol to State Legislators in Support of Medicare Expansion

Boston, MA -- Mass. Senior Action Council Seniors from across the state plan to meet at the State House Wednesday for a twist in their usual advocacy efforts -- Christmas Caroling at legislators’ offices in support of Medicare Savings Program (MSP) expansion.

Seniors will change the lyrics to popular holiday songs to both applaud the steps legislators have taken thus far to expand MSP to more low-income Seniors, and also convince them that there is more work to be done.

Massachusetts’ premiere Senior advocacy group, Mass. Senior Action Council, won a historic victory for Commonwealth Seniors last year when they successfully secured the first step of their three-step MSP expansion plan -- approved as part of the state budget after six years of grassroots action.