

2006 Annual Report

of the

**New Jersey
Casino Revenue Fund
Advisory Commission**

On

Funding recommendations of
The Casino Revenue Fund
Programs for

Seniors and Citizens with Disabilities

February 2006

Presented to

Richard J. Codey, *Senate President*
Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. *Assembly Speaker*
The New Jersey State Legislature

Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission

2006 Annual Report to Legislature

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New Jersey Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission

Members

***Donald J. Boeri, Chair**

Misono I. Miller, Vice Chair; NJ Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging

***Kay Nest, Secretary**

Assemblyman Francis J. Blee – District #2

Assemblyman Douglas H. Fisher – District #3

David J. Rosen, NJ Legislative Budget and Finance Officer – OLS

James Thebery, Chair NJ Association of County Disability Services

***Enid Torok**

***George Vassiliades**

Elizabeth Vosskaemper, N J Dept. of Health and Senior Services

*** - Denotes Public Members**

Staff Support: Department of Treasury - Anna McMullen, Fiscal Manager

Lynn Corsi

Casino Revenue Fund

Funding Recommendations

The Commission recommendations in this report require the allocation of **additional** Casino Revenue Funds (CRF) of \$14.7 million as follows:

1. **Meals on Wheels**
\$2,000,000
2. **Transportation 7 1/2% to 8 1/2%**
\$5,000,000
3. **Safe Housing and Transportation**
\$1,000,000#
4. **Adult Protective Services**
\$1,000,000
5. **NJ Office of the Ombudsman**
\$1,200,000
6. **Jersey Assistance Community Caregiving**
\$2,000,000
7. **Congregate Housing**
\$1,000,000
8. **P. A. S. P.**
\$1,500,000

Total \$14,700,000

Each of the programs recommended to be funded is **essential** to the well being and support of the elderly and/or disabled in their quest to **remain independent** in their own homes. Each of the programs contributes to delaying costlier institutionalization by encouraging and supporting the efforts of elderly and disabled to remain independent in their communities.

The Commission meets regularly to review these programs and to carryout its obligation to the Legislature, to make recommendations regarding the programs funded by the Casino Revenue Fund. The Commission presents its recommendations to the Legislature in good faith that the recommendations will be seriously considered. It is certainly feasible, even in this climate of budget cuts and cost savings, to implement these recommendations in view of increased funding beginning in 2003, and the savings and revenue anticipated to reduce the obligation of the Casino Revenues in other areas. With this in mind, these recommendations of the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission are presented to the Legislature for consideration and implementation in the upcoming 2007 fiscal budget year!

Revised 12-13-05 Updated 1-8-06

Number	Description	FY 2007	Average Cty Benefit	Seniors	Disabled	
1	Nutrition-Meals on Wheels	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 95,000	X	X	
2	Transportation - NJT	5,000,000	238,000	X	X	
3	Safe Housing	1,000,000	47,500	X		
4	Adult Protective Services	1,000,000	47,500	X	X	
5	N J Office of the Ombudsman	1,200,000		X	X	
6	Jersey Assist. Comm, Careg	2,000,000	95,000	X	X	
7	Congregate Housing	1,000,000	47,500	X	X	
8	P. A. S. P.	1,500,000	71,400		X	
		\$ 14,700,000	700,000			
	Department/Agency Dist					
	New Jersey Transit	\$ 5,000,000				Item #2
	Dept. Human Services	1,500,000				" #8
	Dept. Health & Sen. Serv.	8,200,000				All but above
		\$ 14,700,000				

CRFAC Table of Recommendations 06

1. Meals on Wheels, (currently funded with \$950,000 in Casino Revenue Funds), which has not received an increase in Casino Funds, since the initiation of funding assistance for this program as early as 1991. The current Casino Revenue Funded State Meals on Wheels program is funded for weekend meals only and the additional funding should be used for both weekday and weekends.

An additional \$1 million would provide funding to Counties and enable them to serve more meals to frail elderly and disabled on a daily basis. The Meals on Wheels Programs deserve more funding. They provide an essential service that is crucial to elders and disabled who are struggling to maintain their independence at home. It is not a service that is costly in terms of the benefits provided and can be provided at a cost of less than ten dollars per day, with all project costs included.

A network of home-delivered meals programs is in place in every County in New Jersey and additional funds would significantly bolster the amount of meals able to be delivered by each County to its residents. Increasing the allocation by \$2 million could provide 630,915 more meals to New Jersey's elderly/disabled at an average cost of \$3.17 per meal. This will provide considerable relief to counties, which are hard pressed to meet the demands for home-delivered meals. [As the older population increases] Adding this great program for the disabled community will assist Counties in providing for their disabled citizens. New Jersey Counties want to assist all citizens in need. Let us begin to provide this necessity to all! All 566 communities in New Jersey would benefit from the increase and expansion of this program, which would provide some 3,500 meals, spread over 365 days and include weekends and holidays

At present, there is no Federal or State-funding source for home delivered meals for the disabled. Disabled under the age of 60, who are frail and homebound, should also be able to benefit from the receipt of home delivered meals based upon their inability to obtain or prepare regular meals in their own homes. The Commission recommends that \$1 million be funded to current providers and that this expansion of funds also include those disabled under age 60!

2.

Transportation New Jersey Transit (NJT) currently receives 7.5 % of the Casino Revenue Fund, which is distributed to the Counties on a formula basis. This funding has been successful in developing a network of coordinated, paratransit services for elderly and disabled in each of the 21 Counties in New Jersey. However, an increase in funding for transportation services is needed and the need for such funding is becoming crucial according to the experience of the County paratransit providers. The Commission recommends that Casino Revenues be increased for Transit funds to the amount of 8.5% of Casino Revenues. The increase of 1% represents a modest increase of funds allocated for each County.

Two factors need to be considered now. The Counties are pressed to maintain these Countywide systems of transportation, with increasing expenses for staff, staff benefits, maintenance of the vehicles, insurance costs, and increasing cost of fuel, being an ongoing concern in the operation of the programs. The Counties need to have a stable source of funds for the ongoing replacement of equipment and vehicles. A system with 50 vehicles on the fleet, for example, would have to purchase 10 vehicles per year just to enable the vehicle fleet to be maintained with vehicles that are at least five years old or less. Five vehicles per year per system would ensure that the vehicles in the fleet were each replaced in 10-year intervals. The expense of purchasing five vehicles, at a cost of \$60,000 per vehicle is more than ½ of the County's total allocation from the Casino Revenue funds for many of the Counties.

Another factor is the increased demand for kidney dialysis transport that Counties are striving to meet. This type of transport is essential and life sustaining and a priority in service for many of the Counties; however, it is a service that must be provided on a regular basis for each client, at least three days a week. The resources to provide such transport on a daily basis is costly and an increasing burden to the Counties. In 2003 Ocean County conducted a survey which resulted in determining that more than \$6000.00 annually per dialysis client will be necessary and a 'no waiting list' policy will require funding in excess of the present budget. Camden County also prepared follow-up survey findings on dialysis transportation needs in 2004 noting a huge increase in demand for kidney dialysis transport in New Jersey in the past 3 years. The survey found that several Counties are experiencing waiting lists for transport to dialysis centers.

Transportation for seniors and disabled is so desperate that the need must be met! We cannot ignore the inability of those most vulnerable to provide their own transportation. Shall we wait for the crises to escalate beyond repair until we act? The cost to redeem a 'broken' system is by far too expensive to even consider. Good planning of existing conditions rewards the community with an envious result!

3.

Funds for **Safe Housing and Transportation**, primarily for home repairs, and escort transportation are a great program with limited resources. The very limited amount of funds each County receives to operate or fund these programs in the amount of approximately \$1.7 million should be increased. The Commission recommends increasing funding by \$1 million as a reasonable and necessary increase for these programs. The current allotment to the Counties for programs of home repair for senior citizens is not enough to help the numbers of persons needing assistance with home repairs. Many Counties have established programs with the administrative and project operational activities and controls in place. The funds would be used to enable these programs to serve more persons and make it worthwhile for Counties with very small allotments, to establish programs. For example, the practical aspects of organizing a home repair program for 10-20 persons, leaves much to be desired in terms of benefits received for the energies taken to organize and maintain the program. More funding would address this problem and would assist in meeting the demand for a program that has historically had huge waiting lists. This program currently serves seniors only. There are seniors who have difficulty using any kind of transportation and this particular assertive escort service provides the physical means to use transportation.

4.

Through the Division of Aging and Community Services in the Dept. of Health, local programs of **Adult Protective Services** are implemented in each County. These programs fund protective services for the most vulnerable population of aged and disabled clients. These programs are established to address problems of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly and disabled. Statistics from the Division on Aging and Community Services indicate a growing demand for the service. For the past four years, clientele and problems reported to the Protective service programs have significantly increased, with no increase in the funds to support professional staff who are needed to work with the clients, families, court system and law enforcement agencies, in the resolution of the issues surrounding an abused or neglected client. Lack of funding for the local programs will result in understaffed programs that are not equipped to handle properly, the increasing problems reported, as the programs become established within the Counties, and are called upon by more persons who need immediate assistance. More funding from the Casino Revenue Fund would assist in ensuring that Adult Protective Services are responsive and able to address the complex and increasing problems that come to their attention daily. The Commission recommends an increase of \$1 million for the support of Adult Protective Services Programs.

5. **The New Jersey Office of the Ombudsman for Institutionalized Elderly** has been a very successful program for seniors, but is not currently funded by the Casino Revenue Funds. The Office of Ombudsman consists of a staff of 28 dedicated professionals. More than half of the staff consists of Field Investigators, both registered nurses and law enforcement personnel. Complementing the staff is a volunteer team of 450 persons who are essential in assisting the Office in monitoring institutional activities and preventing abusive situations. The system is geared to protect the institutionalized elderly. The Office may not respond to the concerns of the disabled under the age of 60.

Currently there is a great need that this service is extended to the disability community that presently utilizes institutional care.

Additional funding would expand services to seniors and add a new service component for disabled, ensuring younger disabled of a safe and secure environment. There are currently 120,000 persons residing or utilizing 1100 facilities in New Jersey over which the Ombudsman Office has authority to protect the residents. On average, some 4,000 yearly cases are investigated, while the number of staff remains minimal for the vastness of the territory. Further, the advent of Pain Management therapies and considerations in care in nursing facilities further add to the potential protective authority of the Ombudsman representatives. In addition, more facilities are anticipated through the expansion of the Alternate Family Care Program, in the Governor's initiatives on behalf of improving the long term care network. Elderly and disabled in these Alternate family care facilities need the assurance and protection of the Ombudsman Office in their homes, with the understanding that each home placement is unique, differing in the ultimate care and environment provided.

Additional funding would also bolster the volunteer network in the Counties that are overseen by the Ombudsman Office. Sufficient support and recruitment activities, training, and staff are anticipated with additional funding. Volunteers provide the regular and personal contact to institutionalized elderly and disabled that ensures that these patients or clients are not alone and isolated. They have the potential to raise the awareness of institutional staff to the personal needs and concerns of the patients, and to provide a consistent means of communication needed, especially for those with no family or regular visitors.

The Commission therefor recommends the addition of \$1.2 million to the existing budget of \$1.8 million for the support of all activities of the Ombudsman Office. The Commission makes this recommendation with the stipulation that Casino Revenue Funds are to be used for additional resources in the current Ombudsman Office, not as a replacement of existing State revenues that support this program. An expansion and addition to current services including a new initiative for the disabled community is the intention of this recommendation.

6.

Access to home and community services is an essential factor in delaying or reducing the onset of costly institutional care in the quest by elders and disabled to remain independent in their homes or in the community. These services promote health and well being and are at the crux of the objectives of the Offices for the Aging and Offices for Disabled in their advocacy efforts on behalf of home support services for their constituency. One of the programs that has been initiated by New Jersey in the past several years, **the Jersey Assistance Community Caregiving Program (JACC)** is now operational in all 21 Counties providing home and community based options in the area of home care, respite, care management, chore services, adult day care, accessibility adaptations, and other support services in the home. The JACC program currently serves only those in their homes who are age 60 and over.

The JACC program is totally supported by State funds in the amount of \$10 million in service dollars. There is a waiting list of recipients in most counties. The uniqueness of JACC is its ability to serve those persons who do not qualify for the Medicaid program. According to the State Division on Aging, this program received no increase in funds for the past several years (fiscal years 2003, and 2004, and 2005) to meet the increased need and demand for services. The Commission recommends that the Casino Revenue Fund supports the JACC program with \$ 2 million which would provide additional services to the senior population over age 60 and to open up services to the disabled in their homes to have access to this program. Replacing current State funds supporting this program would pose no benefits to the client population. The Commission recommends that such additional funding from the Casino Revenue Fund be used only for additional service dollars for the JACC Program to increase the amount of funds allocated for services in each County, since the networks for the implementation of the program have been established. The addition of those who are disabled and under age 60 would also be a noted improvement anticipated from the infusion of Casino Revenue Fund dollars.

7. Congregate Housing- The Commission recommends an increase to the funds supporting Congregate Housing Programs funded by the Department of Health and Senior Services by an additional \$1 million. Since 1997, the Congregate Housing Program has been funded with level funding of \$1.9 million. According to State Division on Aging staff who administer the program, there is a waiting list of sponsors who wish to participate in the program. The program offers home care and meal assistance to seniors in public housing who need additional support to maintain themselves in their own apartments. The cost saving is evident in the long run, of extending the ability of elderly and disabled to maintain their own households as opposed to being placed in costlier alternatives such as assisted living or nursing home care.

8. The Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP) has just celebrated twenty years of service in New Jersey, providing the severely disabled (ages 18-65) with the services of assistants who can assist them in their goals of independence in their homes and pursuit of maintaining positive activities in the community and furthering their education and employment objectives. The program is unique in recognizing the abilities of the disabled to manage their own affairs, and their own assistants as well, playing an active role in the determination of activities to be implemented on their own behalf. The program has not received funding increases from the Casino Revenues since 1997, almost a decade. The waiting list of persons is one indicator of the demand for services. According to William Ditto, State Director of the Office of Disability Services, the waiting list exceeds 200 persons. The Commission's recommendation to fund the Personal Assistance Program with \$1.5 million in additional funds, would immediately address approximately ½ of the waiting list for this program or could be used to expand the services in all of the Counties in a fair distribution formula based on the demographics and other factors indicating extent of need.

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Department	Programs	Contact	Phone #	2005 Casino Funding	% of Total	Locations	Admin vs. Total Cost	Cost per	Individuals Served
Labor & Workforce Dev.	Sheltered Workshop Transportation	Lee Webster	609]292-5987	\$ 2,440,000		31	1%		2,185
Human Services	Developmental Disabilities	Bill Ditto	609]292-7800						
	Medical Assistance Personal Care	"		60,092,000	25%		D 0%		NA
	Medical Assistance Waiver Initiatives	"		16,502,000	44%		D 0%		NA
	Personal Assistance Services	"		3,734,000	52%		D 15%	\$13,655	505
	Private Institutional Care	Joan Parello	609]987-0812	1,311,000	3%		D 0%	\$64,614	599
	Skill Development Homes	"		1,141,000 or 1,269,000 ?	4.4%		D 0	\$20,020	487seniors 2315 dis
	Group Homes	"		* 26,247,000	6%		D 0	\$79,000	5251Tot
	Family Care	"		128,000					
	Home Assistance	"		1,657,000	4.2%		D 0	\$ 1,704	23,095
	After School & Camp	"		551,000	29.3%		D 0		Note 1
	Purchase Adult Services	"		7,374,000	6.1 %		D 0	\$12,379	8871

* to decrease 23% in 2006

NA= Data not reported

D= Survey/Memo 11-16-05 Data Request

Note 1 -- this program serves 13 to 21 year olds

Department	Programs	Contact	Phone #	2004-5 Casino Funding	% of Total \$	County Programs	Administrative vs. Total Cost	Seniors &/or Disab	Individuals Served
Health & Senior Services	Various H & S S Programs	Fred M. Jacobs, MD, JD Commissioner	609]588-7032						
	Pharmaceutical Assi. To the Aged & Disabled (PAAD)	Wade Epps	"	\$427,613,946	81.64 %		0%	161,455	7.5 million claims
	Lifeline			Funded Elsewhere					
	Hearing Aid Assistance	Wade Epps	609]588-7032						
	Safe Housing and Transportation	Tina Wolvorton	609]943-3422	\$ 1,668,000	80%	21	8%	6,527 S	6,527
	State Weekend Home Delivered Meals	Tina Wolvorton	609]943-3422	\$ 985,000	52% Wend 14% of Total	21	0%	326,794 meals @ \$3	2,252
	Statewide Respite Care Program SRCP	Barbara Fuller	609]943-4060	\$ 5,359,000	100%			2,447 S/D	2,447
	Home Care Expansion	"	"	235,000	100%				9
	Community Care Program	"	"	\$ 28,000,000	50%		??	4,857 S/D	4,857
	Congregate Housing Service Program	"	"	\$ 1,900,000	72%			2,500 S	2,500
	Alzheimer's Day Services for Adults	Barbara Fuller	609]943-4060	\$ 2,600,000	100%	38 provider agencies in 20 counties	15% Maximum	830 S	830
	Adult Protective Services	David Ricci	609]943-3473	\$ 1,780,000	43%	16	0%	S	Note 1
	Statewide Birth Defects Registry - Case Magement	??		\$ 327,410	12%		1%	7,200 + D	60,000 contacts
	" - Child Evaluation Center	??		\$ 200,000	10%		1%	D	32,650

NOTE 1 - In 2004 APS investigated 4,787 cases & 2005 adjusted to 5,050

Department	Programs	Contact & phone	CRFAC County Beta	2005 Casino Funding	SCDRTAP % of Cty. Fund/Cost	SCDRTAP % of Total Rides	Average Cost per Ride in Counties	Seniors &/or Disab	Individuals SCDRTAP Rides
N J Transit	Rail & Bus Transportation	Robert Koska 973-491-7376		\$34,352,000	In 2003				
	County Bus Transportation :								
	Atlantic		1.33	666,017	32	24	\$ 17.176		1.7 million
	Burlington		0.915	1,041,211	65	71	\$13.59		49,000
	Camden		0.89	1,222,495	49	55	14.46		72,000
	Cape May		0.47	436,995	16	34	15.47		79,000
	Cumberland		0.83	436,995	24	29	5.45		80,000
	Gloucester		1.56	579,011	25	16	7.52		58,000
	Salem		0.91	436,995	91	100	32.16		18,000
	Hunterdon		0.73	436,995	19	26	13.63		32,000
	Mercer		0.62	849,070	49	79	9.91		44,000
	Middlesex		0.83	1,783,733	44	53	9.65		88,000
	Monmouth		1.0	1,494,756	30	30	11.21		159,000
	Ocean		1.75	1,933,803	42	24	14.23		105,000
	Somerset		0.875	658,699	14	16	21.01		92,000
	Union		0.74	1,374,569	49	66	12.19		54,000
	Bergen		0.875	1,933,803	55	70	11.26		122,000
	Essex		1.30	1,859,748	82	63	8.83		219,000
	Hudson		0.78	1,371,654	78	100	13.09		142,000
	Morris		1.05	1,099,587	62	59	14.90		92,000
	Passaic		0.51	1,149,173	36	70	12.49		88,000
	Sussex		4.42	436,995	31	7	8.91		129,000
	Warren		1.18	436,995	26	22	50.01		8,738
							13.63		32,000

Casino Revenue Fund 2006 Report to Legislature

Endorsements and Exhibits Listing

Endorsements by:

United Senior Alliance/Elder Rights Coalition
Alliance for Disabled in Action
 (CIL for Middlesex, Union & Somerset Counties)
Alliance for Betterment of Citizens who are Disabled (ABCD)
Citizen Advisory Committee of New Jersey Transit
United Spinal Association
New Jersey Council on Special Transportation (COST)
County Welfare Directors' Association of New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on Aging
New Jersey Association of County Disability Services
New Jersey Association of the Blind

Exhibits Available:

2005 Budget Appendix of Casino Revenue Fund Summary and Projection
State Wide Meals On Wheels Funding and Meals served – 2005
State Wide Meals On Wheels Cost and Meals served – 1991
Programs Survey Results by Departments – 2005
Transportation (NJT) summary of Services
Transportation Distribution of Funds to Counties & Projections
Position Paper on Adult Protective Services – February 2005
Letter of Endorsement and Support of Casino Revenue Fund Advisory
 Commission Annual Report Recommendations – December 2005
 (Submitted by the New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on
 Aging)

**Additional copies of 2006 Annual Report are available, by
sending a written request to**

**New Jersey Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission
c/o Department of Treasury
50 West State Street – 8th Floor – P O Box 211
Trenton, NJ 08625**

Programs funded by Casino Revenue Funds Listing – Available October 2006