

Administration on Aging

Advancing the independence and well-being of older Americans

www.acl.gov

As a unit of the Administration for Community Living, AoA provides expertise on program development, advocacy, and initiatives for older Americans and their caregivers and families. Working with regional offices, local agencies, grantees, and community providers, AoA directs programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) and other legislation that supports older adults. AoA is led by the Assistant Secretary for Aging and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging.

National Aging Services Network

The OAA established a national network of federal, state, and local agencies to provide services that maximize the independence and well-being of older adults in their homes and communities. Known as the Aging Services Network, this group supports individuals age 60 and older across the U.S. Network agencies focus on older adults in greatest need of supports, including people with low incomes, those in rural areas, and members of minority groups. Headed by AoA, the Network includes State Units on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, and Tribal organizations supported by tens of thousands of community service providers and volunteers.

State Units on Aging (SUAs)

SUAs are responsible for developing and administering multi-year state plans that advocate for and aid older residents, their families, and, in many

states, adults with physical disabilities. The 56 SUAs are in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)

AAAs are public and private nonprofit agencies that address the needs of older adults at the regional and local levels. AAAs coordinate and offer services that help older adults to choose services and living arrangements that suit their unique needs and preferences. There are currently more than 600 AAAs.

Tribal Organizations

Organizations of federally recognized Tribes focus on planning and delivering supportive services, caregiver support services, and nutrition services to American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian elders.

ABOUT THE OAA

In 1965, Congress passed the OAA in response to a lack of community social services for older citizens. It established state grants for community planning and social services, research and development, and personnel training in the field of aging. The law also established AoA as the federal hub for matters concerning older adults.

Today, the OAA is a vehicle for the organization and delivery of a wide range of supportive services to older adults as well as their families and caregivers. Reauthorized in 2016, the OAA funds:

- *Social, nutrition, health promotion, and disease prevention programs;*
- *Community service employment;*
- *Caregiver support programs;*
- *Training, research, and demonstration activities; and*
- *Activities that advance rights of vulnerable older adults.*

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING (AoA)

AoA Offices



Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services: Works with the Aging Services Network to implement and enhance programs of home and community-based services, information and assistance, senior centers and caregiver support services at the state and community levels. This includes providing technical assistance to the

Network on the implementation of formula and discretionary grant programs, transportation and housing programs, and guiding the agency in dementia-specific programs and policy development.



Office of Nutrition and Health Promotion Programs: Manages programs that prevent or delay the onset of disease and promote improved health outcomes for older adults, including evidence-based chronic disease self-management education and falls prevention interventions, congregate and home delivered meals, oral health, and

behavioral health. This work is accomplished by administering discretionary and formula grants, and through the provision of technical assistance to Aging Network partners on program implementation and sustainability via business acumen concepts and practices.



Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs: Manages the implementation of states' OAA-funded Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, which serve as advocates for residents in long-term care facilities. Advocates for federal policies that protect and benefit the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents in

long-term care facilities.



Office of Elder Justice and Adult Protective Services: Directs the operation and assessment of OAA and Elder Justice Act programs on elder abuse prevention and intervention, including adult protective services; legal assistance services; economic security for older adults. Administers the implementation of comprehensive Adult

Protective Services systems to provide coordinated responses to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities.



Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs: Federally recognized tribes focus on planning and delivering supportive services, caregiver support services, and nutrition services to American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian elders.



The Eldercare Locator is AoA's free public service that connects older adults, families, and caregivers with aging information and local resources. The website offers fact sheets and outreach materials as well as a database of community resources that can be searched by topic or location. Information specialists are available by phone, online chat, and email. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

www.eldercare.gov
800-677-1116 (toll-free)



Each May, AoA leads our nation's celebration of Older Americans Month. Proclaimed by every President since John F. Kennedy, the observance is a time to recognize the contributions of older Americans and an opportunity to highlight important aging issues and trends. AoA maintains the Older Americans Month website and creates all materials found at oam.acl.gov.