



Administration for Community Living

“We are building an agency that incorporates disability culture and aging culture and makes room for both.” – Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator of the Administration for Community Living

All Americans -- including people with disabilities and older adults -- should be able to live at home with the supports they need, participating in communities that value their contributions. To help meet these goals, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2012.

ACL serves as a single agency charged to work with states, localities, tribal organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and families to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults and those with disabilities regardless of age; and their families and caregivers. ACL’s administrator reports directly to the HHS secretary, and also serves as the Assistant Secretary for Aging. The principal deputy administrator of ACL also serves as senior advisor to the HHS secretary for disability policy.

The structure of ACL provides policy and program support for cross-cutting initiatives and efforts focused on the unique needs of older adults, and individuals of all ages with developmental and physical disabilities. ACL integrates the achievements and expertise of the following program divisions:

- **Administration on Aging (AoA)** advances the concerns and interests of older Americans. AoA works closely with ACL regional offices, state and area agencies on aging, tribal grantees and community service providers to promote the development of comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective systems of home and community-based care for older adults and their caregivers. AoA also directs grant programs that plan, coordinate, and deliver services to older Americans as authorized under the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Public Health Service Act (PHSA), and other legislation.
- **Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD)** advises the HHS secretary on matters relating to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and serves as the HHS focal point to support and encourage the provision of quality services to individuals with disabilities and their families. AIDD supports states and communities in increasing the independence, productivity, and community integration of individuals with disabilities and ensuring their rights are protected. AIDD implements a range of grant programs authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Help America Vote Act, and other legislation, and also manages federal support to the Paralysis Resource Center.

- **Center for Consumer Access and Self-Determination** bridges the aging and disability centers and handles the programs that address both portfolios. It leads ACL's administration of consumer access and protection programs, as well as programs and initiatives that promote the use of self-directed and person-centered service models, for both older adults and people with disabilities, as well as caregivers and families of both. The center carries out programs authorized under OAA, PHS, and the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act*. The Center also administers the section of the *Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990* that focuses on helping states make their health care and long-term service and support systems more person-centered and consistent with the values of self-determination, full participation in community, integration and independence.
- **Center for Policy and Evaluation** advises and supports the agency in developing effective federal policies to address the needs of older individuals and individuals with disabilities. The center collects and analyzes data on populations and services, develops strategic goals and objectives, evaluates the effectiveness of programs, and plans and coordinates the development of policies designed to overcome barriers that prevent older Americans and persons with disabilities from fully participating and contributing in an inclusive community life.

As federal efforts to reduce fragmentation in programs addressing community living evolve, ACL will continue to expand its capacity to serve older adults and people with disabilities. The agency is currently working on implementation of the 2014 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which transferred the Assistive Technology Act programs and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research from the Department of Education to ACL. Together, all of ACL's programs work collaboratively to enhance access to health care and long-term services and supports for all individuals while also promoting inclusive community living policies and initiatives nationwide.

For additional information about ACL:

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