



## Administration on Aging

### WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING?

The Administration on Aging (AoA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is one of the Nation's largest providers of home- and community-based care for older persons and their caregivers. AoA was created in 1965 with the passage of the Older Americans Act, and is a lead partner of the National Aging Network (the Network), which consists of 56 State Units on Aging, 629 Area Agencies on Aging, 256 Tribal and Native organizations, 20,000 service providers, and thousands of volunteers. In 2012, AoA became part of HHS's new Administration for Community Living (ACL).

### WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING?

The mission of AoA is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of home and community-based services that helps elderly individuals maintain their health and independence in their homes and communities.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES?

All older Americans and their family caregivers are eligible to receive services. AoA gives specific attention to those individuals who are in the greatest economic and social need as determined by the Older Americans Act and its supplemental reauthorizations.

### WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT?

The Older Americans Act authorizes grants to States for community planning programs, as well

as for research, demonstration, and training projects in the field of aging. The Older Americans Act also authorizes grants to Area Agencies on Aging for local needs identification.

The 2006 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act included a forward-looking strategy that gives people greater choice, control, and independence as they grow older as well as options to enhance our ability to modernize our country's system of long-term care. This strategy builds on and integrates the best practices of other HHS initiatives including the Aging and Disability Resource Center initiative, Community Living Program, Own Your Future Long-Term Care Awareness Campaign, Cash & Counseling Demonstration Program, and Evidence-Based Disease Prevention for the Elderly Program.

### WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT?

There are six core services funded by the Older Americans Act:

**Support Services** activities target both the home and the community. The intent is to assist aging individuals in maintaining their independence in the community for as long as effectively possible. Services include assistance with transportation, in-home care, community-based services such as adult day care, and information and referral assistance.

**Nutrition Services** gives older Americans the option of receiving balanced and nutritious meals at home or at a congregate setting such as a senior or adult day care center, church, or another community facility. Home-delivered meals, commonly referred to as "Meals on Wheels," are often pre-packaged and ready to eat. Meals for



seniors who gather at communal sites are typically prepared on site.

**Preventive Health Services** programs promote healthy lifestyles through physical activity, appropriate diet and nutrition, and regular health screening, and educate older persons of the benefits of including these activities in their daily routine.

**National Family Caregiver Support Program** recognizes the extensive demands placed on family members and friends who provide primary care for spouses, parents, older relatives, and friends. Its goal is to help ensure caregivers have the assistance and support to fulfill their obligations as best as possible with the least amount of adversity. The program offers individual and group counseling, and training for caregivers and respite care. This program also provides support to the growing number of grandparents caring for grandchildren as well as caregivers of persons 18 and under with mental retardation or developmental difficulties.

**Elder Rights Services** include detection and preventive strategies to safeguard older persons who are often vulnerable to abuse in both the community and long-term care facilities, and can be innocent prey of consumer fraud. These programs focus on the physical, mental, emotional, and financial well-being of older Americans. Services address such issues as pensions counseling, legal assistance, and elder abuse investigations. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is a core activity. Its purpose is to investigate and resolve abuse and neglect complaints and their violations made by or for residents of nursing, board and care, and similar adult care facilities.

**Service to Native Alaskans, Native Hawaiians, and Native Americans** acknowledges the unique cultural and social traditions of Native and Tribal communities. The outreach and support services offered give consideration to the high prevalence of chronic diseases, the challenges of accessing

care and support to persons living in rural settings, and the environmental impact on health.

## WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

AoA administers the Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grants to States Program, which encourages States to develop models of assistance for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia and to closely coordinate and incorporate those models into the broader home- and community-based care system.

## HOW DO I FIND HELP IN MY COMMUNITY?

Your local Area Agency on Aging is the primary resource for information. In a few States, the State Unit or Office on Aging serves as the Area Agency on Aging. You can locate the appropriate Area Agency on Aging or local service provider through Eldercare Locator, the AoA-supported nationwide, toll-free information and assistance directory.

The Eldercare Locator is reachable at 1-800-677-1116, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time. For 24-hour access to the Locator, visit: <http://www.eldercare.gov>.

## For more information about ACL

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,  
Administration for Community Living,  
Washington DC 20201  
Phone: (202) 619 – 0724  
Fax: (202) 357 – 3555  
Email: [ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:ACLinfo@acl.hhs.gov)  
Web: <http://www.aoa.gov>

