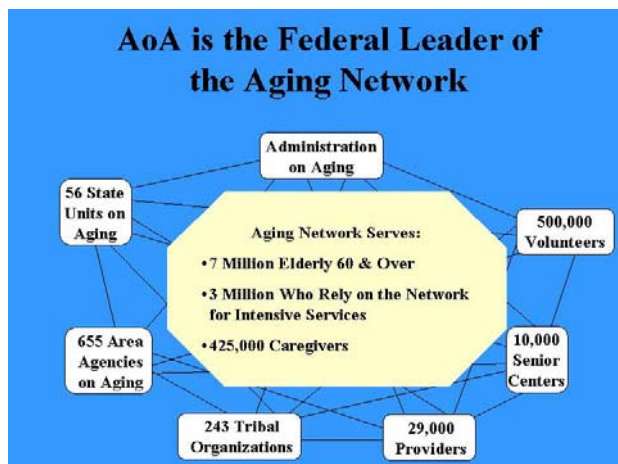


# Administration on Aging

## What is the Administration on Aging?

The Administration on Aging was created in 1965 with the passage of the Older Americans Act and is part of a federal, state, tribal and local partnership called the National Aging Network. The Network consists 56 State Units on Aging (SUA); 655 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA); 243 Tribal and Native organizations; 29,000 service providers; and thousands of volunteers.

## Snapshot of the National Aging Network



## What is the Mission of the Administration on Aging?

The mission of The Administration on Aging is to ensure that older Americans have the opportunity to age with dignity, have choices in managing their own lives, and remain active and independent within their communities. To accomplish this mission, the Administration on Aging leads one of the nation's largest national network of providers of home and community-based care for older persons and their caregivers.

## Who is Eligible to Receive Services?

All older Americans are eligible to receive services, however, the Older Americans Act targets those individuals who are in greatest economic and social need.

## What is the Goal of the Older Americans Act?

The Older Americans Act authorizes grants to states for community planning and services programs, as well as for research, demonstration, and training projects in the field of aging. Additionally, the Older Americans Act authorized grants to AAAs for local needs identification, planning, and funding of services. The Older Americans Act was reauthorized in 2000 and contained an important new program, the National Family Caregiver Support Program, which helps family members who are struggling to care for their older loved ones who are ill or who have disabilities, grandparents who are caregivers of grandchildren, and other older individuals who are relative caregivers of children who are eighteen and under.

## What Services are Available under the Older Americans Act?

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

**Supportive Services** enable communities to provide rides for older persons to medical appointments, and grocery shopping, senior centers and other locations to assist that individual in maintaining their independence in the community. Additionally, supportive services include housekeeping and personal care in the home as well as extend to

community services such as adult day care and information and assistance.

Through *Nutrition Services*, older Americans can receive Home Delivered Meals, commonly referred to as “meals on wheels” and congregate meals that are served in settings such as senior centers, adult day care centers and churches.

The goal of *Preventive Health Services* is to educate and provide services to older persons in the community to increase healthy lifestyles through physical activity, appropriate diet and nutrition and regular health screenings.

*The National Family Caregiver Support Program* was created to help the millions of people who provide the primary care for spouses, parents, older relatives and friends through services including:

- Assistance to caregivers in gaining access to the services;
- Individual counseling, organization of support groups, and caregiver training to caregivers to assist the caregivers in making decisions and solving problems relating to their caregiving roles;
- Respite care to enable caregivers to be temporarily relieved from their caregiving responsibilities; and
- Supplemental services, on a limited basis, to complement the care provided by caregivers

The program also recognizes the needs of grandparents caring for grandchildren and for caregivers of those 19 and under with mental

retardation or developmental difficulties.

*Services that protect the rights of vulnerable older persons* to detect and prevent elder abuse in the community as well as long-term care facilities and work to combat consumer fraud as well has to enhance the physical, mental emotional and financial well-being of older Americans. These programs focus on elder rights with services such as pension counseling, elder abuse investigations, long-term care ombudsman programs that serve to investigate and resolve complaints made by or for residents of nursing, board and care, and similar adult homes, and legal assistance.

*Services to Native Americans* include nutrition and supportive services designed to meet the unique cultural and social traditions of tribal and native organizations and organizations serving Native Hawaiians.

## **How do I Find Help in my Community?**

To find resources and support services through the National Aging Network, contact your local Area Agency on Aging. In a few states, the State Unit or Office on Aging serves as the AAA. You can locate the appropriate AAA or local service provider through the Administration on Aging-supported, nationwide, toll-free information and assistance directory called the Eldercare Locator. Call the Eldercare Locator 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 [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: US Dept of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, Washington, DC, 20201; phone: (202) 619-0724; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: [aoainfo@aoa.gov](mailto:aoainfo@aoa.gov); or contact our website at: [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)