



Area Agencies on Aging

Assistance, Advocacy, Answers on Aging

In 1965, the Older Americans Act became the framework for a national network dedicated to serve the nation's elderly. Amendments added in 1973 resulted in the establishment of Area Agencies on Aging.

There are over 670 Area Agencies on Aging nationwide. Area Agencies on Aging:

1. Advocate on behalf of older Americans to maintain independence and dignity;
2. Develop comprehensive and coordinated systems of service within their designated planning and service areas;
3. Administer Older Americans Act programs and other services; and
4. Generate resources for services to older persons and caregivers.



The Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging, SE4A was formed in 1973 as a regional advocacy association. Member states include: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. SE4A was the first regional area agency on aging association in the country and served as the model for organizing the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

The Association:

1. maintains a website for sharing and disseminating information;
2. conducts an annual training conference to address national, regional, and local issues regarding the needs of older adults;
3. promotes and provides a mechanism for legislative advocacy for older adults;
4. supports and coordinates disaster relief funds and services; and
5. recognizes individuals and organizations who have provided outstanding contributions to older persons in the Southeast region.

The Eldercare Locator assists individuals in locating Area Agencies on Aging nationwide. 1.800.677.1116 www.eldercare.gov



Membership

ALABAMA

Alabama, with a 60+ population of 600,000, has thirteen AAAs, nine of which are in Councils of Government, and four are free-standing. Alabama's aging network not only administers Older Americans Act Programs, but also a home and community based waiver program, senior employment programs, and the state long term care ombudsman program. All of these foster the independence of older Alabamians as a common goal.

FLORIDA

Florida, the most populated state in the region, supports a network of eleven AAAs. In addition to the Older Americans Act Programs, the State of Florida administers the Community Care for the Elderly Program, the NSIP Program, the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (respite, adult day care, and memory disorder clinics), Home and Community Based Waiver Program, Home Care for the Elderly and the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program.

GEORGIA

Georgia, with a 60+ population of 1,071,800, has twelve AAAs. Two AAAs are freestanding private, nonprofit agencies and ten are in Regional Development Centers. One special initiative is the AAA "Gateway" system, with all AAAs providing information and assistance as well as telephone screening for the Community Care Services Program (Medicaid Waiver) and other home and community based services for seniors across the state. The "Gateway" system is fully computerized with shared databases developed by the AAAs. Aging advocates under the leadership of Georgia Council on Aging and the AAAs have formed an advocacy group called COAGE to work together to promote prioritized legislative issues.

KENTUCKY

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has continued its goal toward the enhancement of the quality of life for its 697,888 older Kentuckians through the improvement of health and social status, with a special emphasis on community based programs, based on the belief that in-home services, where appropriate, better benefit the client and the caregiver. Kentucky's fifteen AAAs operate within the Kentucky Area Development Districts and work in partnership with the Kentucky Division for Aging Services to centralize and coordinate the many independent service systems throughout the State, bringing them together as one network, servicing all older Kentuckians.



Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging

www.se4a.org

MISSISSIPPI

The State of Mississippi has ten AAAs, all of which are in Planning and Development Districts. The State has a 60+ population of 427,000, and has as its priority the continued enhancement and development of community based long-term care systems including case management, Medicaid waiver, and in-home services. Major initiatives include developing a statewide volunteer corps, coalition building involving public/private partnerships, and intergenerational activities.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina's 1,300,000 older adults are served by seventeen AAAs located within Regional Council of Governments. Initiatives include: facilitation of county planning committees and community advisory committees to develop local leadership and advisory for seniors, implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program, working in partnership with NC Division of Aging and Adult Services to improve the state-wide access to information and assistance for seniors, grassroots involvement in developing a State system of long-term care, and support on regional levels to North Carolina's Senior Tar Heel Legislature, a senior bi-partisan organization advocating in the General Assembly for "quality of life" issues and concerns of older adults.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina, with a 60+ population of 630,212 has ten AAAs. Seven are housed in Councils of Governments, two are freestanding, and one is part of a Community Health Services Organization. Major initiatives include: Senior Access - single point of entry, Senior Center PIP- new construction and/or renovation of senior centers, Alzheimer's Resource Coordination Centers, public/private partnerships to expand Medicaid waiver programs and community based services, working in partnerships with the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging, local aging service providers and the SC Silver Haired Legislature to provide local leadership and advocacy to enhance the lives of all older South Carolinians.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee has a network of nine AAAs which work with the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability in advocating for the state's 942,045 older (60+) residents and a number of other adults with disabilities. Tennessee's Aging and Disability network is committed to promoting programs that support independence. The development of a single point of entry system is a priority in addressing the needs of frail, vulnerable individuals. The system involves the state unit, AAAs, service providers, public and private organizations, and community leaders. These partners strive to foster advocacy, coordination, and legislative interaction on behalf of individuals at risk of losing their independence.