

North Carolina

Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Area Agency on Aging

Established by the

Older Americans Act

July 14, 1965

Area Agency on Aging Functions

- Develop an area plan for a comprehensive and coordinated system of home and community care
- Establish and fund networks of local service providers
- Serve as an advocate and focal point for older adults within the region
- House the long-term care ombudsman program
- House the Family Caregiver Support Program

Area Plan

- 4 year plans
- Provides a “clear and firm direction” for the agency and local service networks
 - **Agency organization** -- structure, operating practices
 - **Program plan** -- policies, priorities, goals, objectives, amount of services needed
 - **Advocacy plan** -- anticipated strategies and monitoring activities, advisory council
 - **Financial plan** -- how funds will be used and who will use them, monitoring

Establish Networks

- 16 Area Agencies on Aging throughout our great State. All AAA's are housed in Council's of Governments
- Must coordinate a “continuum of care” and develop any needed services
- Establish and coordinate strong community advocacy networks: Regional Aging Advisory Committees, Senior Tar Heel Legislature, Community Advisory Committees, etc.
- Service eligibility:
 - 60+, no other requirements – for OAA funding
 - 18+ all other services
- ALWAYS RELY ON COMMUNITY INPUT AND PARTICIPATION!

Services Funded by OAA Through the Home & Community Care Block Grant

- **Access**
 - Information and assistance
 - Transportation
 - Outreach
- **In-Home Services**
 - In-home aide and homemaker
 - Meals
 - Respite care
- **Community-based Services**
 - Adult day care
 - Adult day health
 - Congregate meals
 - Senior centers
 - Legal assistance
 - Home repair
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Health promotion & disease prevention

Community Input

- Regional Aging Advisory Committee (RAAC)
 - serves as an advocate and liaison for older adults
 - advises AAA on all matters related to operations and service development
- Local County Planning Committees
 - same functions as Regional Advisory, but at the county level
 - very important method of disseminating information to local residents
 - staffed by AAA

Serve as an Advocate and Focal Point for Older Adults

- Advocate -- Represent views, concerns, and interests of older adults at all levels of government
 - Sit on committees, Boards, and study groups to represent older adults views
 - Conduct advocacy campaigns
 - Contact legislators on behalf of older adults
 - Testify at state and local levels
 - Provide information to anyone about older adult issues (media especially)
- Focal Point for Older Adults

LTC Ombudsman Program

- Ombudsman = Swedish word for people's advocate
- Advocate for residents' rights in nursing homes and adult care homes
- Investigates complaints
- Work with residents, family, facilities, administrators, CNAs, nurses, etc.
- Mediates disputes
- Provides training and education to facility staff and general public

Family Caregiver Support Program

- Provide caregivers with accurate and timely information on services needed.
- Partner with other organizations to offer training for informal caregivers.
- Assist counties where requested in setting support groups.
- Provide respite opportunities to informal caregivers.
- Educate community on caregiver issues.

What Else does the AAA Do?

- Help older adults and their families with anything they need
- Help providers with anything they need
- Generate public and private resources, including grants and donations
- Provide technical assistance to Senior Tar Heel Legislature
- Promote professional development for service providers
- Senior Employment-Subsidized employment for adults 55 and older

How are Services Funded?

Home and Community Care Block Grant
(HCCBG) – Older Americans Act

- federal and state, local 10% match required
- County funding based on funding formula
- County planning committees determine which services/providers get money

AAA's receive funding from other funding sources as well

After Funding...

- Cost Sharing
- Services are monitored by AAA and Planning Committees for quality and fiscal responsibility
 - Yearly monitoring visit by AAA
 - financial records
 - quality as determined by **NC Standards**
 - Monthly monitoring of units served and money spent