

# **The Older Americans Act & the Aging Network**

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Agencies on Aging (n4a)**

# Outline

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- Context setting
- Older Americans Act Overview
- Aging Services Network
- Aging Services
- The Role of I&R/As

# Aging of the U.S. Population

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- By 2030, 70 million Americans - twice their number in 2000 - will be 65+. At that point, older Americans will comprise 20% of the U.S. population, representing one in every 5 Americans.
- Currently, 16.4% of the older population is composed of minorities. By 2030, the minority populations are projected to represent 25.4% of the total 65+ Population.

# Profile of Older Americans: Health Status

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- Older Americans are living longer and healthier lives.
- Limitations on activities of daily living due to chronic conditions increase with age.
- In 1998, 28.8% of 65-74 year olds reported limitations due to chronic conditions, whereas over half (50.6%) of 75+ year olds reported limitations.

# *Older Americans Act:* Foundation of the Aging Network

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## **Older Americans Act of 1965**

- Congressionally Initiated
- Constituent Based

## **Goal**

- To provide maximum opportunities for older individuals to live independent, meaningful, and productive lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible
- To protect the rights of vulnerable older persons

# *Older Americans Act*

## Key Provisions

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- **Title I — Objectives**
- **Title II — Administration on Aging**
- **Title III — Grants for State & Community Programs**
  - A. Administration
  - B. Supportive Services & Senior Centers
  - C.1. Congregate Nutrition Services
    - 2. Home Delivered Nutrition Services
  - D. Disease Prevention & Health Promotion
  - E. National Family Caregiver Support Program

# *Older Americans Act*

## Key Provisions

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- **Title IV — Training, Research and Discretionary Projects**
- **Title V — Senior Community Service Employment**
- **Title VI — Grants for Native Americans**
- **Title VII — Elder Rights Protection**

# *Older Americans Act*

## OBJECTIVES

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### **Title I**

- An adequate income
- Best possible physical and mental health
- Housing – independently selected, responsive to special needs
- ***Comprehensive long term care services***
- Employment opportunities
- Retirement in health, honor and dignity

# *Older Americans Act*

## OBJECTIVES

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### **Title I**

- ***Civic, cultural, educational and recreational opportunities***
- Efficient & coordinated community services, especially for vulnerable older persons
- Benefits from research
- ***Freedom, independence and the free exercise of individual initiative in planning and managing their own lives.***

# ***OAA: Foundation for the Aging Service System***

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## **Two-Fold Mission**

- **Service System Development**
- **Advocacy**

## **National Infrastructure**

- **Federal**
- **State**
- **Local**

## **Service Targeting**

- **Great Social, Economic Need**
- **Low-Income Minority Populations**
- **Rural Populations**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

**Administration on Aging**

Central Office and Regional Offices

**Tribal Organizations**

(244)

**State Units on Aging (56)**

**Area Agencies on Aging (629)**

*n4a*

**Local Service Provider Organizations (30,000)**

CONSUMERS

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# Administration on Aging (AoA)

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- Lead by the Assistant Secretary on Aging
- Within the Department of Health and Human Services and regionally
- The Federal “focal point” on issues concerning older persons
- Administers grants to states and tribal organizations
- Guides, supports, works with and through the Aging Services Network

# **Aging Services Network – Comprehensive Service Delivery System**

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## **State Units on Aging (56)**

- **Designated at state level**
- **Policy, planning & advocacy roles**

## **Area Agencies on Aging (629)**

- **Designated by the SUA in 42 states**
- **Planning, coordinating & advocacy roles**

# **Aging Services Network – Comprehensive Service Delivery System**

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## **Title VI Native American Aging Programs (244 American Indian & 2 Native Alaskan Programs)**

- **Title VI - created by 1978 OAA amendments**
- **Grants to Federally recognized tribes**
- **Supportive and nutrition services & family caregiver support**

# **Aging Services Network – Comprehensive Service Delivery System**

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## **Local Service Providers**

- Contract with Area Agencies on Aging
- Provide direct services

## **Older individuals**

- Serve on advisory committees
- Participate in planning
- Volunteering

# Characteristics of AAAs

	Average (mean)	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile (median)	Range
<b>Budget (in millions)</b>	\$9.7	\$4.1	<141,000 to >280 million
<b>Proportion of budget from OAA</b>	40.2	35.0	1-100
<b>Proportion of budget from Medicaid*</b>	21.2	12.0	1-95
<b>Clients served</b>	12,605	5,256	45-263,509
<b>Full-time staff</b>	41	22	0-579
<b>Part-time staff</b>	23	6	0-598
<b>Volunteers</b>	187	60	0-3,900
<b>Providers</b>	29	16	0-345



\* These numbers reflect only those agencies which get at least some proportion of their budget from Medicaid

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# Population served by OAA

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- The people served by Older Americans Act services in 2006 were more vulnerable than the general 60+ population.
  - 27% live in poverty, compared to 10% of the overall 60+ population.
  - 35.4% live alone (versus 25.6% of 60+ overall)
  - 33% live in rural areas (versus 22.6% of 60+ overall)

# Aging Information & Referral/Assistance

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- Unique in the field of I&R
- Gateway to complex state and local aging service systems
- Relationships with other aging programs providing information, education, counseling and assistance

# Comprehensive Services System

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Services

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graph TD; Services[Services] --- Access[Access]; Services --- InHome[In-Home Services]; Services --- ElderRights[Elder Rights Services]; Services --- Community[Community Services];
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Access

In-Home Services

Elder Rights Services

Community Services

# ACCESS

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- I&R/A – Assistance and linkage to appropriate and available services and resources in the community
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
  - Build on Information and Assistance programs
  - Focus on access and information on long term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities
  - 45 states, 198 demonstration sites
- Case management
- Transportation

# In-home & community services

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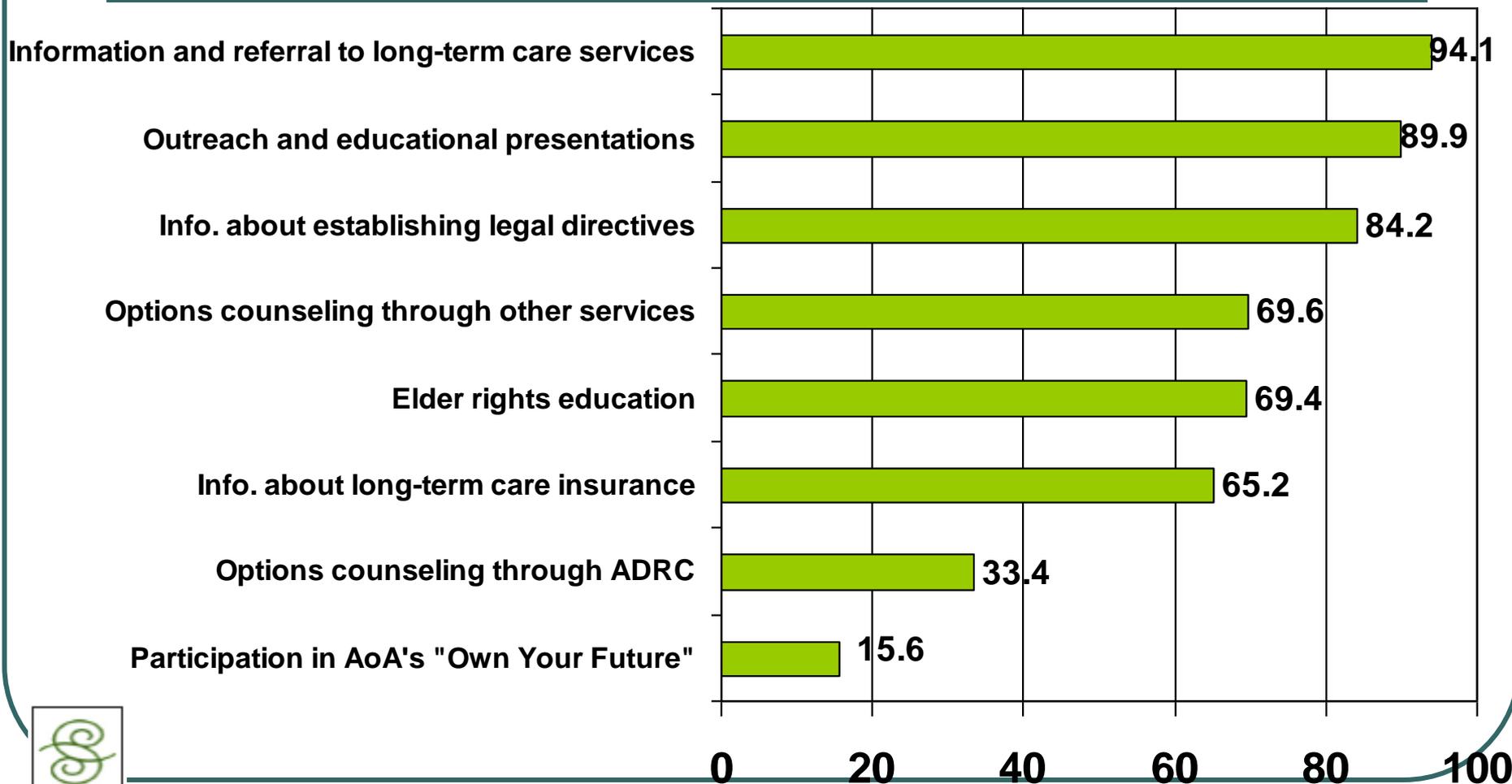
- Homemaker/chore
- Personal care
- Home health
- Home repair
- Adult day services
- Housing assistance
- Caregiver Programs
- Employment (Title V)

# Elder rights

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- Ombudsman Program
- Elder abuse prevention/adult protection
- Legal assistance
- Senior Medicare Patrol
- Pension counseling
- Financial assistance
- State Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Programs (SHIPs)

# AAAs Involved in Long-Term Care Planning



# Lives touched by OAA services

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- About 7 million people received services such as transportation and **information and assistance** on an occasional basis.
- About 3 million people received OAA-funded services such as home delivered meals and home care on a regular basis.
- Support was provided to almost 700,000 family caregivers.
- Nearly 800,00 people at high nutritional risk received nutrition services.

## In closing...

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“An older person deserves a dream,  
not just a memory”.

Dr. Arthur S. Flemming