


1  **An Overview of the Older**

Americans Act and Older Adult Services in PA

2  **History of the Older Americans Act:**

Critical Dates and Events

"No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years. No longer will young families see their own incomes, and their own hopes, eaten away simply because they are carrying out their deep moral obligations to their parents, and to their uncles, and to their aunts. And no longer will this nation refuse the hand of justice to those who have given a lifetime of service and wisdom and labor to the progress of this progressive country."

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• *President Lyndon Johnson, at the signing of the Older Americans Act, July 1965*

3  **1965**

- July 14th - The Older Americans Act signed into law as part of the "Great Society" legislation. Established the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and called for the creation of State Units on Aging. This act was considered one of the most important contributions of aging legislation enacted by Congress.
- Medicare, Title XVIII, a health insurance program for the elderly, and Medicaid, Title XIX, a medical assistance program for the low-income, are also established.

4  **Key Components of the OAA**


- Congress passed the OAA in 1965 in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons.
- The original legislation established authority for grants to States to do planning, social services, research and development projects, and training in the field of aging.

5  **Key Components of the OAA (2)**


- Later, the OAA became a major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to older adults and their caregivers.
- The OAA now authorizes service programs in a network of 56 State agencies on aging, 629 area agencies on aging, about 20,000 service providers, and 244 Tribal organizations.
- Also includes community service employment for low-income; training, research, and demonstration activities in aging; and elder rights protections.

6  **Key Components of the OAA (3)**

- Services delivered at the local level
- Programs administered by Area Agencies on
- Aging (AAA's) and State Units on Aging
- Emphasis on planning and advocacy
- Also provides supportive services to help people remain in their homes

7  **Key Components of the OAA (4)**

- Re-authorization: The Older Americans Act was designed to be reauthorized every 5 years. Reauthorization is the process by which Congress prescribes changes, additions, and deletions to the program. Through this process, legislation is developed that adjusts the current programs to meet changing needs. This is the time to amend the Older Americans Act. The most recent reauthorization was October 17, 2006. The 2010 reauthorization process is currently in process.
- Appropriations: Appropriations are the Congressional steps taken to fund programs.

8  **Funding Streams and Services through the Older Americans Act (OAA)**

- Title III-B: Support Services designed to help people remain in their own home. Allowable services include:
 1. Federal Priority Services:

- Access Services: transportation, including assisted transportation (a.k.a. Escort); outreach; information and assistance; and case management;
- In-home Services: home care; personal care; friendly visiting; telephone reassurance; chore; coordination of in-home volunteers (a.k.a. ElderHelp); and in-home support services (such as, respite); and
- Legal Services

9  **OLDER AMERICANS ACT**
Funding Streams (2)

2. Other allowable services under Title IIIB: Virtually all supportive services, other than meals, are allowable under OAA Title III-B. In addition to the federal priority services listed above, III-B funds are spent on: AAA Administration and support to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program.

○ Title III-C-1: Senior Nutrition Program: Congregate Dining

○ Title III-C-2: Senior Nutrition Program: Home-Delivered Meals (a.k.a. Meals on Wheels)

○ Title III-D: Health promotion, disease prevention and prescription medication services.

Federal law requires that a minimum of 23.6% of OAA III-D funds be spent on medication services. Funds are currently for information, referral and counseling related to Medicare Part D.

○ Title III-E: Family Caregiver Support Services. Use of III-E funds calls for the provision of the following services to eligible individuals and families: information, assistance, caregiver training, counseling, support groups, respite, and supplemental services.

○ Title VII: Elder abuse prevention services. Cannot be used for direct client care.

10  **1973**

- The OAA Comprehensive Services Amendments establish Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and authorize grants to community agencies for multi-purpose senior centers.
- The amendments also establish the Community Service Employment program for low-income persons age 55 and above, and the congregatemeals program.

11  **Responsibilities of the Area Agencies on Aging under the OAA**

- Establish an Advisory Council. Majority of members should be older individuals, but may also include their representatives, service providers and the general public to advise the Area Agency on Aging on matters pertaining to the administration and operation of the Area Plan.
- Facilitate the area-wide development and implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated Area Plan every four years, with annual updates.
- Serve as the advocate and focal point for older individuals by monitoring, evaluating, and commenting on policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions that affect older individuals.
- Establish effective and efficient procedures for coordination and delivery of services under the Older Americans Act and other Federal and/or State programs.

12  **1987**

- OAA re-authorized – adds distinct appropriations for in-home services for frail elderly, long-term care ombudsman, assistance for special needs, health education and promotion, prevention of elder abuse, and outreach for SSI, Medicaid and Food Stamps.
- Emphasis was given to serving those in greatest economic and social need.

13  **2000**

- OAA reauthorized - establishing the National Family Caregiver Support Program and requirements that AAA's provide medication management information and services to older adults.

14  **2006**

- OAA reauthorized for 5 years, with emphasis on consumer information for long-term care planning and evidence-based prevention programs. Also added emergency preparedness

planning for vulnerable populations.

- Authority provided for states to develop Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs).