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Area Agencies on Aging & Vaccination Efforts

Amy E. Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs, n4a

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Older Americans Act (OAA)

- Summer of 1965, alongside Medicare and Medicaid
- Created the National Aging Network (Area Agencies on Aging designated in 1973)
- Remains the foundational core of the Network's work today
- Most of Act applies to those age 60 and older; also targets services to most frail and vulnerable, as well as special populations: veterans, minority, low-income, limited English proficiency

Funding and Coordination of the Aging Network



All AAAs offer five core services under the OAA:

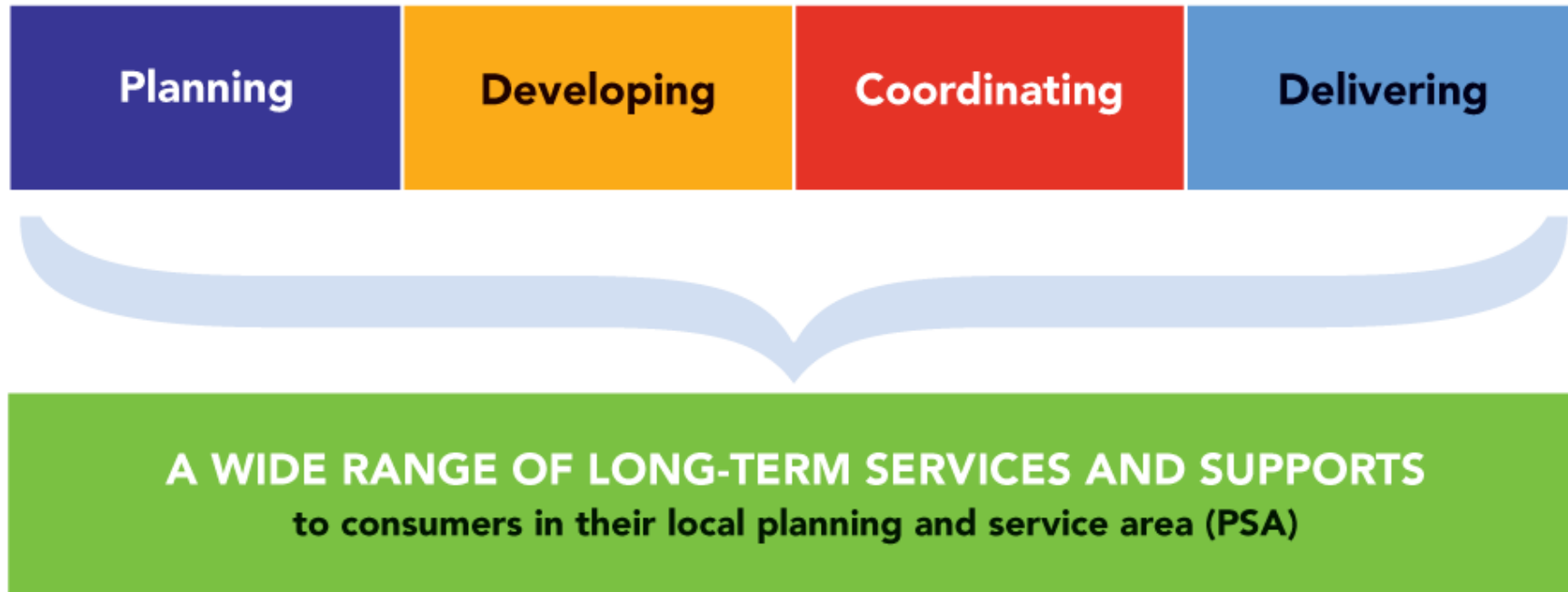


The average AAA offers more than a dozen additional services.

The most common non-core services offered by AAAs are:

- Insurance Counseling (85%)
- Case Management (82%)
- Senior Medicare Patrol (44%)

All AAAs play a key role in:



OAA Title III B: Supportive Services (HCBS)

- In-home help with ADLs
- Chore services
- Home modification
- Transportation (rides to meal sites, doctor's offices, etc.)
- Legal services
- Adult Day Care
- Any other services necessary for the general welfare of older individuals



OAA Title III: Information, Referral & Assistance



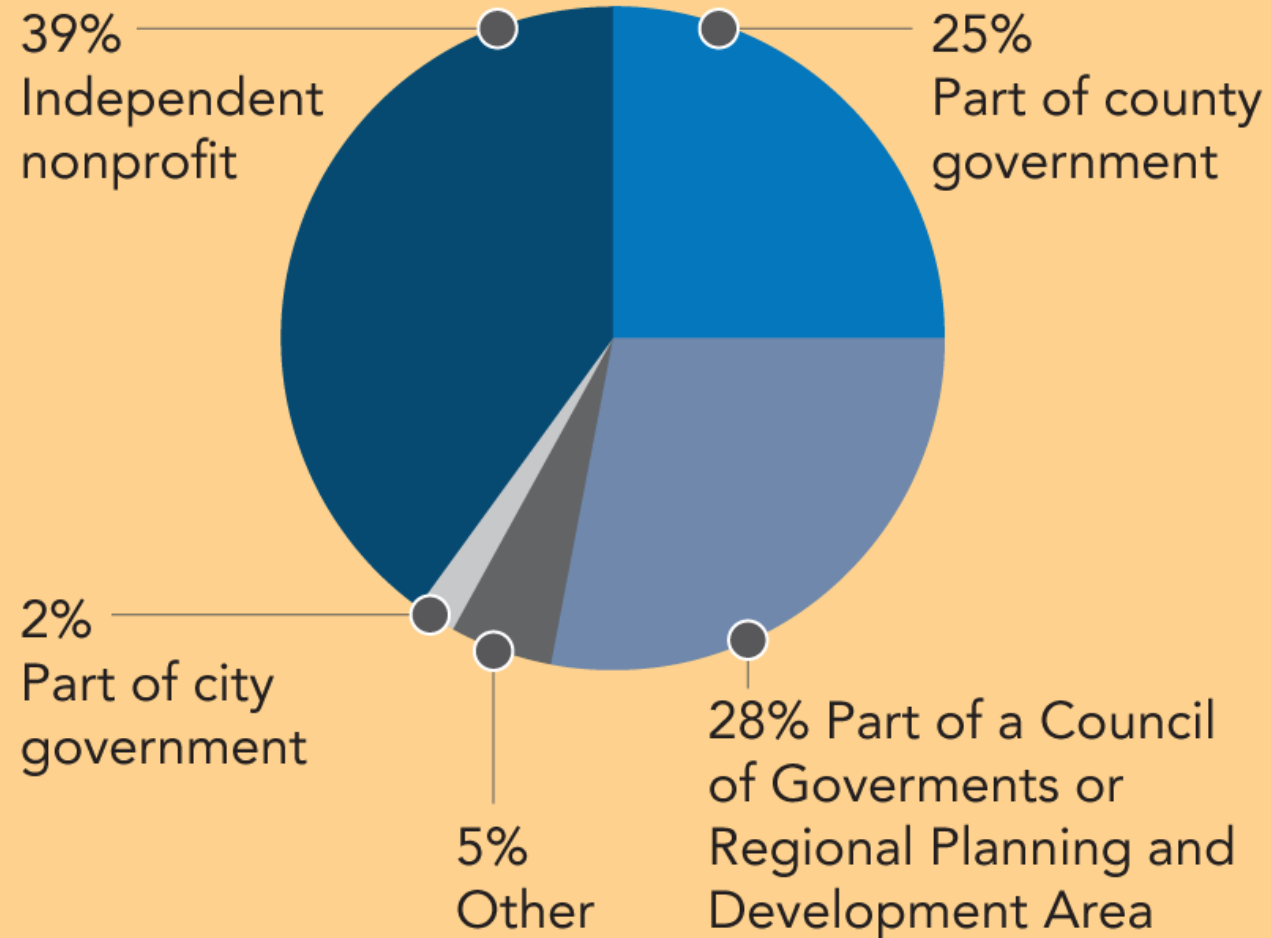
- Local hotlines to connect callers to HCBS and related services.
- Case management for HCBS
- Benefits and eligibility counselors
- Health insurance benefits counselors
- Care Transitions coaches
- Identification and prevention of elder abuse

OAA Title III: Everything Else

- **C: Nutrition Services**
 - Home Delivered
 - Congregate
 - Commodities
- **E: National Family Caregiver Support Program**
 - Respite
 - Support
 - Training
- **D: Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services**
 - Wellness and socialization programming at local senior/community centers
 - Chronic Disease Self-Management classes
 - Falls Prevention programs



AAA Structure



Totals may not equal 100% because of rounding

Vaccination of Older Adults: We Can Help!



Challenges We All Face

- Online systems can be tricky for those not comfortable/skilled at doing things online or without access to technology
- Current vaccines are not easy to distribute to smaller sites, take deeper into communities
- Older adults often need additional assistance, transportation, other supportive services in order to successfully complete vaccination
- Vaccine hesitancy; stronger in some communities
- Aging Network workforce rarely in early categories for vaccine

What AAAs Can Do/Are Doing

- **Education/Outreach:** Information and Referral/Assistance system, outreach and education expertise, outbound calls to clients
- **Assistance Getting an Appointment:** I&R/A, trained staff (case mgmt., State Health Insurance Assistance Programs, etc.)
- **Assistance Keeping an Appointment:** Supportive Services (case mgmt., companion care, coordination), transportation
- **Hosting Age-Friendly Vaccine Clinics/In-Home Vaccinations:** Aging Network's many locations; willing, but not yet always feasible or taken advantage of

Helping Educate and Answer Questions

- Ohio: AAAs have been designated by the state as a key partner to provide information and education around vaccines. They are offering vaccine hotlines and resources online.
 - [Agency on aging provides COVID-19 vaccine hotline \(Marion Star\)](#)
 - [AAA7 Can Help With COVID Questions \(Ironton Tribune\)](#)
 - [Central Ohio agency assisting elderly find vaccine locations \(WSYX ABC6\)](#)

Help Securing Vaccination Appointments

- Many AAAs are already calling all their clients to assist them in pre-registering or securing appointments.
- New York: AAAs are providing direct help to older adults pre-register and secure vaccination appointments.
 - The New York City Department for the Aging has [290 participant organizations making 60,000 calls per week to inform older adults about the vaccine and to help schedule visits \(New York Times\)](#)
 - [Chautauqua County Office for the Aging Director Urges Seniors Seeking COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments to Please be Patient](#)

Help Securing Vaccination Appointments

- Illinois: [AgeOptions](#) is working with Cook County to help family caregivers understand how they can be vaccinated under Phase 1a and assisting those caregivers in obtaining a certification letter to qualify for that designation.
- Texas: Harris County Area Agency on Aging is [scheduling older adults for vaccines](#) and [coordinating assistance such as transportation \(KHOU 11\)](#) when needed.
- Michigan: [Valley AAA is helping older adults pre-register for the vaccine by phone \(MLive Michigan\)](#).

Transportation to Appointments

- Idaho: Area V Agency on Aging's expanded its long-standing partnership with the local transit authority to [provide older adults door-to-door transportation to vaccine appointments \(Idaho Falls Magazine\)](#).
- Michigan: AAAs are providing transportation to vaccine sites:
 - Mid-Michigan District Health Department [is partnering with AAAs on transportation to vaccination appointments \(The Daily News\)](#).
 - Tri-County Office on Aging in Lansing [partnered with the local transit agency and public health department to ensure eligible older adults have transportation to receive the vaccine \(WILX 10\)](#).

Helping On Site at the Vaccine Appmt.

- Massachusetts: Complementing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) federal pharmacy partnership program, AAAs are playing a role in [supporting the vaccination of older adults living in HUD congregate housing sites \(Boston Herald\)](#). MA AAAs have contacted residents and helped them complete vaccination forms, have provided translation services beforehand and at the clinic, and have supported residents during the clinics. For the general population, some MA AAAs are also offering free transportation to COVID vaccine clinics.

Hosting Clinics in Age-Friendly Locations

- Early signs of in-home vaccinations being aided by AAAs, given their role with so many homebound older adults. *AAAs are willing to do more on this!*
- AAAs have access to multiple community spaces and are *willing to do more!*
- A vanguard AAA: Region VII AAA in Michigan has several staff trained in delivering COVID-19 vaccinations and has applied to be a provider of the COVID-19 vaccine in later phases. The AAA administered vaccines to approximately 50 of its staff in partnership with the local public health department but under the AAA's own supervision and delivery (Photo of Bob Brown, Reg. VII AAA's Director)



House Education & Labor Measure

- Passed out of committee 2/10; to House floor next week
- Emergency funding—doesn't affect regular FY 2021 appropriations
- Reflects ALL of n4a's OAA priorities!
 - **\$470 for OAA Title III B** (we asked for \$200 mil to replace CARES + **\$200 mil for vaccine work** + \$80 mil for social isolation)
 - \$750 mil Title III C Nutrition
 - \$145 mil Title III E Caregiver
 - \$44 mil Title III D Health and Wellness
 - \$25 mil for Title VI Native American Aging Programs
 - \$10 mil for Title VII LTCOP



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Amy Gotwals
Chief, Public Policy & External Affairs
agotwals@n4a.org

1100 New Jersey Ave, SE, Suite 350,
Washington, DC 20003
202.872.0888

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