

# AGING WITH HIV/AIDS TOOLKIT



## Aging Services

There are a wide number of services outside of the HIV/AIDS service delivery system for people with HIV – especially those who are aging. This toolkit focuses on some mainstream resources for the aging and underserved population as well as opportunities to advocate for people aging with HIV and their overall needs.

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# WHAT TO KNOW

**as a person living with HIV and  
as a person serving those with HIV**

## Legal Rights

If you have HIV or AIDS, you are protected against discrimination based on your HIV status under **Section 504** of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (**ADA**), and **Section 1557** of the Affordable Care Act.

The following are examples of legal rights under Section 504, the ADA, and Section 1557:

- Prohibits discrimination by employers, places of public accommodation, and state and local government entities.
- Prohibits health and human service providers or organizations that get federal funds or assistance from discriminating against you because you have HIV or AIDS.
- Prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), or disability (including HIV or AIDS) in certain health programs or activities.
- Protects your family and friends from discrimination because of your HIV status, based on their association with you.

→ **Advocate!** To file a Civil Rights complaint, use the [OCR Complaint Portal](#).

## Area Offices on Aging – The Aging Network

The Older Americans Act of 1965 laid foundation for the development of services that make it easier for older persons to live independently in their own homes and communities. The Act established a national aging network designed to respond to the needs of older adults. This network includes the US Administration on Aging, State Units on Aging, and more than 650 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the United States. [The list is here.](#)

AAAs coordinate and offer services that help older adults remain in their homes based on self-directed plans. Examples of programs include Meals-on-Wheels, homemaker assistance, and a range of other wrap around services based on local service availability.

- Most services are assessment for long-term care, information and referral assistance, fiscal intermediary for self-directed services, options counseling, and care transition services.

→ **Advocate!** Advocate with the local AAA to secure service for those you serve! Eligibility may include having a chronic illness (like HIV), being over 60, living in a nursing home, or being a veteran at any age. Work with your local AAA to find the services currently available and help to develop new ones based on documented needs of the HIV aging population.

## Where do the funds come from?

The Administration on Aging allocates federal funds authorized under the Older Americans Act through formulas to the State Unit on Aging and tribal organizations. The States, in turn, award these funds to the AAAs based on an intrastate funding formula developed in accordance with federal guidelines. [The State Units are listed here.](#)

→ **Advocate!** Communicate with the State Unit and insure they are aware of the aging HIV population in your community – using data to inform them of the need to focus some of the services toward the HIV-infected population as a part of prevention and securing the needs of people with a chronic illness.

## CORE SERVICES under the Older Americans Act



Includes abuse prevention and long-term care ombudsman programs.

- Information and Referral In-home services
- Homemaker & chore services
- Transportation
- Case management
- Home modification
- Legal services

→ **Advocate!** Convene meetings between service providers and the AAAs if needed services are not currently available. Unique services for a person to remain in their homes can be put together through partnership with the AAAs and local providers. See the list below of partnerships and consider advocating with these entities and the AAA to meet the needs of the aging HIV population.

## Examples of AAA Partnerships:

- Adult Protective Services
- Disability service organizations
- Transportation agencies
- Public Housing Authority
- Medicaid agencies
- Faith-based organizations
- Advocacy organizations
- Community health care providers
- Emergency preparedness agencies
- Managed Care/HMO networks
- Mental health organizations



# ADVOCACY

## Why do we need to Advocate for the Aging?

Nonprofit advocacy is any set of actions or activities that raise awareness, draw public support/attention, or get people involved in a cause or policy with the intention of making a difference.

### Why should social workers advocate?

- It is our ethical responsibility to promote systems change.
- Lend your voice to the underserved and help to ensure that marginalized communities are not forgotten.
- People in need often cannot advocate for themselves.
- Demonstrate to decision makers the best practices for those we serve.
- Offer independent support to those who feel they are not being heard and/or taken seriously to ensure their rights are respected and addressed.

### Utilize Public Comment Periods. Your Voice Matters

→ **Advocate!** Attend regional town hall sessions hosted by the [Division of HIV Prevention \(DHP\)](#)  
Become a Volunteer Education Ambassador: [LGBTAggingCenter.org - Volunteer Education Ambassadors](#)  
Use educational resources on the National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging:  
[LGBTAggingCenter.org - Education](#)

### Faith-Based Opportunities

Faith-based programs for the elderly are often connected through the Area Office on Aging but local efforts are sometimes not included in the network. It is important to utilize the faith-based program offerings that support people through the aging process. Many faith-based programs provide the spiritual and social support so often needed by aging people, especially those with a chronic illness.

→ **Advocate!** Find and/or ask for local faith-based efforts focusing on those aging who are living with HIV. The opportunities to coordinate good-will and faith efforts with the mainstream community often need a professional social worker to make those connections happen. As you seek solutions to client needs, consider outreach to the faith-based communities as an alternative – aging is often one of the top priorities. Isolation as a major issue can often be solved by linking with faith-based volunteers and programs.

# How to connect with your local Area Agency on Aging

All AAAs have local hotlines or websites to provide consumers with information and assistance, so if you know the name of your local AAA, start there. Alternatively, you can find an AAA by zip code via the Eldercare Locator Website – [www.eldercare.gov](http://www.eldercare.gov). Or call 1-800-677-1116.

## Helpful Acronyms

<b>AAA</b>	Area Agency on Aging	<b>HCBS</b>	Home and Community Based Services
<b>ACL</b>	Administration for Community Living	<b>LSP</b>	Local Service Provider
<b>AOA</b>	Administration on Aging	<b>N4A</b>	National Association of AAAs
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization	<b>OAA</b>	Older Americans Act
<b>CMS</b>	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	<b>SHIPs</b>	State Health Insurance Programs
<b>HRSA</b>	Health Resources & Services Administration	<b>SUA</b>	State Unit on Aging
<b>LTSS</b>	Long-term Services & Supports	<b>HHS</b>	US Dept of Health & Human Services

## Aging With HIV/AIDS Toolkit

Overall, the aging population needs advocacy. As social workers who see the full person-in-environment, we are uniquely situated to help find solutions and advocate. There are more resources for those aging with HIV than may have previously been known.

**About PASWHA:** PASWHA is the leading organization that supports the professional growth and development of HIV social workers and allied professionals, promotes evidence-informed practice, and advances equitable and just policies to end the HIV & AIDS epidemic. We use research, policy, and advocacy to advance the field and educate the field on issues plaguing the HIV/AIDS community.



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