

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are the local leaders and aging experts serving older Kansans and caregivers in all 105 counties. AAAs were created by 1973 amendments to the Older Americans Act. For 50 years, AAA programs and services have helped older Kansans and their caregivers by coordinating cost-effective supports and services. Our aim is to provide education to Kansas lawmakers of the unique and specific needs of older adults by advocating for the following priorities:

Senior Care Act (SCA)

Request: Add \$5M to the Senior Care Act base funding.

The Senior Care Act is a smart-dollar, cost-effective program serving eligible Kansans 60 and older to divert them from early enrollment in KanCare or premature nursing home stays. The program addresses social determinants of health by providing assessments/ case management, home care, emergency response systems, home modification, respite and other services to respond to older Kansans' needs.

In SFY24, SCA served 3,694 persons over the course of the year: resulting in a \$11 million cost avoidance to Kansas taxpayers. The Frail Elderly (FE) HCBS waiver services cost substantially more, and, upon entering a nursing facility, individuals' resources must be spent down within two years to access Medicaid. Most older Kansans want to age in place and pass their assets onto their heirs. The SCA program saves taxpayers dollars and allows for older Kansans to remain autonomous and not fear a lack of control over their lives.

Using a sliding scale, SCA customers have a stake in their care and feel better about receiving services by contributing a portion of their income. A clients' fees are based on income and liquid assets. The average SCA client receives services for 30 months at a cost cap of \$1,445 per month. The 48.79% FE Waiver rate increase has resulted in significant disparity when compared to the SCA maximum monthly cost cap for two specific reasons: 1) The SCA pays lower provider rates to remain at or below the cost cap; and 2) SCA Regulations (K.A.R. 26-8-7(a)) have not been amended since 1994 when there was an increase from \$1,324 to \$1,445: thirty years ago! Without the increase, SCA customers face risk since their care needs cannot be met. Your constituents will be forced to make tough decisions to preserve their assets and resources or put their safety at risk.

Nutrition Services for Older Adults

Request: Add \$3 million to nutrition services for older adults base funding

Nutrition is the core of healthy survival. A nutrient-dense diet benefits an older adult's physical and cognitive wellbeing. The Older Americans Act (OAA) provides two types of community-based nutrition services: Congregate (provided in a community setting) and Home-Delivered (often referred to as Meals on Wheels), which target groups of older adults who have the greatest social and/or economic need. The program is effective and impactful. But there's a problem: funding isn't keeping up with growing need. Investing more in nutrition services means more older adults can safely remain at home in better health, there is less burden on caregivers; thus, saving health care costs, and the aging network can address current gaps in services. Additional funding will cover the cost of supplies, meal production expenses, and labor and transportation costs to deliver the service.

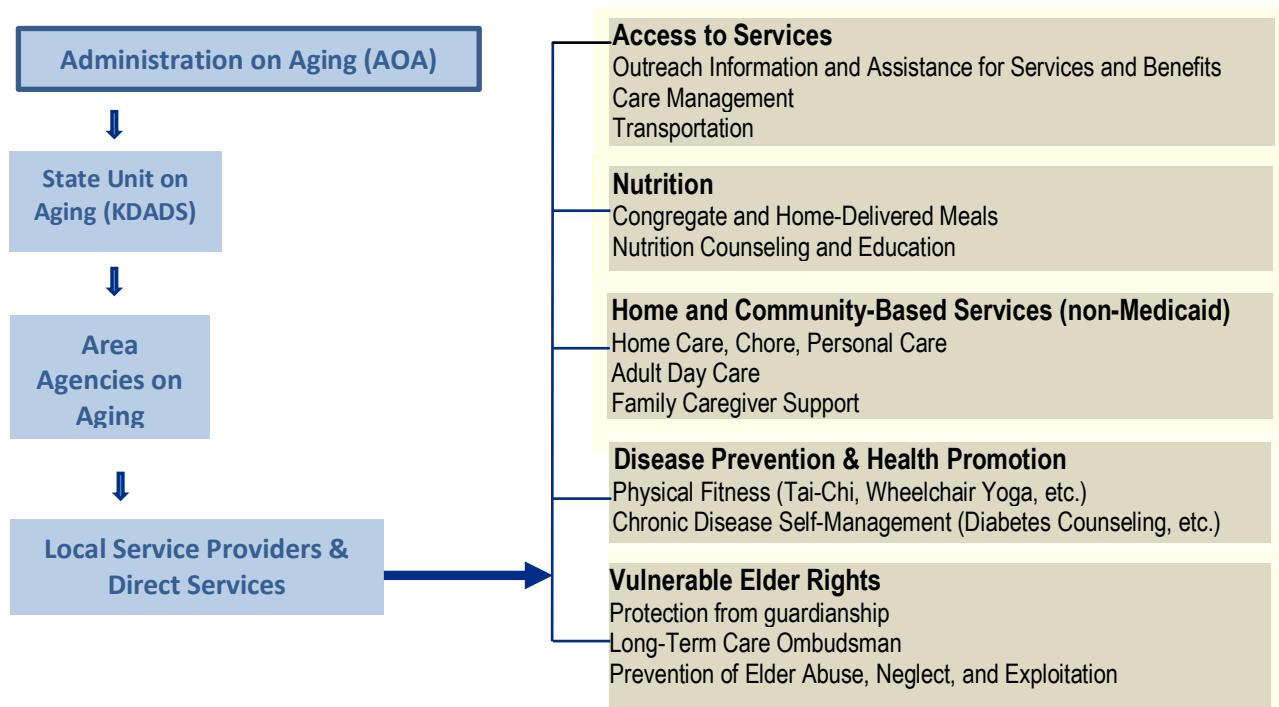
Thank you!

Thank you for appropriating core funding to the Area Agencies on Aging to help cover basic operational costs, implement quality improvement processes, provide flexibility for unexpected expenses, and support innovation and growth. We appreciate the legislature recognizing the Area Agencies on Aging as the single point of entry for older adults and caregivers in Kansas.

Our Comprehensive Approach: When more than 90% of Kansans want to age in place at home, and 27% of older Kansans live alone, comprehensive efforts must be implemented and sustained to make systems work.

Area Agencies on Aging provide “non-Medicaid” services, which address social determinants of health. Trustworthy information, home-delivered meals and personal care services contribute to optimal health and enhance caregivers’ capacity. Area Agencies on Aging have close ties with local communities and their expertise in leveraging resources and ideas make effective use of important, but very limited, resources.

The Area Agencies on Aging in Kansas are part of a national network of 629 AAAs and 246 Title VI organizations, which are the designated leaders on aging issues at the local level to respond to the needs of older adults and caregivers in every local community. The AAAs are locally administered and use federal, state and local funding to provide five broad categories of services aligned with Title III-B (in-home and access services); III-C1 and III-C2 (home delivered and site-based nutrition programs); III-D (disease prevention and health promotion services); and III-E (caregiver services), which are all provided in the homes and communities for older adults in need of services.



Comments? Questions? Please feel free to contact:

Leslea Rockers, k4ad Board President, 785-242-7200; leslear@eckaaa.org
Leslie Anderson, k4ad Executive Director, (785) 267-1336; leslie@k4ad.org