

# Key Resources for Area Agencies on Aging



## Senior Citizens Services Act - 1977

Intended to help older adults remain as independent as possible in their own homes, the SCSA serves over 400,000 seniors annually preventing expensive institutional placement. Funding provides Information & Assistance (through Community Living Connections), Transportation, Caregiver Support, Congregate and Home Delivered Meals, Adult Day Services, Legal Assistance, Disease Prevention and Health Education, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and other services.



## Older Americans Act – 1965

The OAA is the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to seniors and their caregivers. Federal funding is overseen by the Administration for Community Living (HHS) and delivered through the State Unit on Aging (DSHS). Local services and funding distribution are overseen by local Area Agencies on Aging.



## Medicaid - 1965

Medicaid is a joint federal/state program that pays for medical and long term care services for low-income people with disabilities, people 65 years and older, children and their caregivers, and pregnant women who meet the program's requirements. The program provides reimbursement for and assures the availability of appropriate care for persons who meet the criteria. A Medicaid waiver program provides flexibility in providing services in home and community based settings to meet local area needs.



## Social Security – 1935

The Social Security Act was designed to combat unemployment and poverty and to provide benefits for surviving family members. Benefits help lessen the burden on workers without pensions and retirement packages. Social Security has also been instrumental in providing financial help to workers with disabilities as well as surviving family members.



## Medicare – 1965

Medicare provides health insurance for Americans aged 65 and older as well as younger people with disabilities, end stage renal disease and ALS. Medicare covers about half of the health care charges for beneficiaries. Enrollees cover the remaining approved charges with supplemental insurance or with another form of out-of-pocket coverage.



## Americans with Disabilities Act – 1990

The ADA prohibits discrimination based on a physical or mental disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal. The ADA requires reasonable accommodations for employees with disabilities, and imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations.