

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

AOA

The Administration on Aging (AOA) is the principal agency designated to carry out the provisions of the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.). As the lead agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), on issues concerning aging, AOA:

- Advises the Secretary, Department components, and other Federal departments and agencies on the characteristics, circumstance, and needs of older people.
- Develops policies, plans, and programs designed to promote their welfare and advocates for their needs in HHS program planning and policy development.
- Administers a program of formula grants to States to establish State and community programs for older persons under Title III of the act (45 CFR 1321).
- Administers a program of grants to American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians to establish programs for older Native Americans under Title VI of the act (54 CFR 1328).
- Provides, policy, procedural direction, and technical assistance to States and Native American grantees to promote the development of community-based systems of comprehensive social, nutrition, and support services for older persons.
- Administers programs of training, research, and demonstration under Title IV of the act.
- Administers ombudsman and legal services oversight and protective services for older persons under Title VII of the act.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, 5TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MA 02108

In April 1971, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs became the nation's first cabinet-level agency responsible for addressing the problems and needs of senior citizens.

Originally a small advocacy agency, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs assumed its mandate to fund services in 1973 with the passage of the legislation creating the Office. Elder Affairs absorbed the activities and responsibilities formerly carried out by both the Governor's Commission on Aging and the Aging Bureau within the Department of Community Affairs. These responsibilities included the provision of services to enable frail individuals to live safely at home.

Today, Elder Affairs is a department under the umbrella of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and maintains a Secretariat level position as its head. It directs services to approximately 41,000 elders through the state funded Home Care Program, administers Title III social and nutrition services under the Older Americans Act, and fulfills advocacy, planning, and policy functions on behalf of the 1.1. million elders of the Commonwealth.

COUNCILS ON AGING (COA's) – MASSACHUSETTS

Through state legislation enacted in 1956, COA's are municipally appointed agencies in the Commonwealth whose mission is to link elder needs and resources by developing and/or coordinating services, community education and advocacy. While each COA is unique to its community, most offer information and referral, transportation, outreach, meals, health screening, and fitness and education programs.

Today there are 348 Councils on Aging in Massachusetts that provide more than 440,000 elders and their families and caregivers with direct services annually.