Pennsylvania Department of Aging

• Created in 1978 by the state legislature after years of intensive lobbying by individuals and groups representing our rapidly growing elderly population.

• Responsibilities under the Older Americans Act and Pennsylvania General Assembly

• The Department oversees many services and benefits to older Pennsylvanians - most provided through the 52 Area Agencies on Aging - mandated by the Older Americans Act and created under Pennsylvania's Act 70.
Mission

• "Enhancing the quality of life of all older Pennsylvanians by empowering diverse communities, the family and the individual."

• Our foundation:
  • Prevention from instability in health and well-being that may result in institutional care and dependence on government aid.
  • Protection from abuse, neglect, abandonment and exploitation.
“The Older Americans Act clearly affirms our Nation’s sense of responsibility toward the well-being of all of our older citizens. But even more, the results of this act will help us to expand our opportunities for enriching the lives of all of our citizens in this country, now and in the years to come.”

~ President Lyndon B. Johnson

As the state unit on aging, the Department is responsible to serve as an effective and visible advocate for older Pennsylvanians and to coordinate all state activities related to the purposes of the Older Americans Act.
Pennsylvania Landscape

- Commonwealth population: 12.7 million
- Pennsylvania hosts the nation’s 5th largest city – Philadelphia
- 2.9 million individuals age 60 and over call Pennsylvania “home
- Pennsylvania has the 4th highest percentage of residents age 60+
- Pennsylvania is among the states with a large percentage of population age 85+
- By 2020, 1 in 4 Pennsylvanians will be age 60 and older
Pennsylvania Landscape

- Pennsylvania has the 16th largest population of non-institutionalized people with disabilities living in the country.

- 1.7 million Pennsylvanians living with physical disabilities in their communities who need assistance with self-care, mobility, and independent living.

- Research shows that nearly 70% of individuals reaching age 60 are expected to need long-term care services at some point during their lifetime.

- The LTSS continuum ranges from periodic in-home services and supports to round-the-clock care provided by nurses and trained staff in 800 licensed nursing facilities.

- Most LTSS are uncompensated, provided by caregivers to their family members and loved ones.
Pennsylvania Landscape

- Demographic features underscore the reality that there will be an increase in the need and demand for fiscal, health, and social supports to ensure a sound quality of life for older Pennsylvanians.

- Also highlights the reality that our aging population will challenge the social safety net that is anchored by
  - Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Social Security

- The demand for home and community based services will also continue to increase
Partnership with the Aging Network

**Area Agencies on Aging**

- Local leaders in aging
- Operate a complex delivery system
- Provide access to community-based and in-home services via cooperative grant agreements with the state
- Provide access to elder rights services, including elder abuse prevention and long-term care ombudsman (resident rights) programs
Funding:

- Pennsylvania Department of Aging
- 78% of our budget is from the Lottery Fund

Since its inception $24.7 billion dollars has been contributed to services and programs that benefit older Pennsylvanians

- **Property Tax Rent Rebate Program** - PA Department of Revenue
- **Free and reduced-fare transit program** - Department of Transportation …
- **Long-term living services program** - Department of Human Services
- **PACE/PACENET** pharmaceutical assistance program and the programs and services provided through the network of 52 local area agencies on aging which cover our Commonwealth’s 67 counties - Department of Aging
Where does the money go?

63 CENTS
WINNER PRIZES

28 CENTS
BENEFIT PROGRAMS

7 CENTS
RETAILER & VENDOR COMMISSIONS

2 CENTS
OPERATING EXPENSES

*Profits based on sales and interest income.
National and State Initiatives:

- Aging in Place

- Access to Elder Justice

- Alzheimer’s Disease and other related disorders
  - Alzheimer’s Association
  - National Institute on Aging – Alzheimer’s Disease Centers
    - University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia County)
    - University of Pittsburgh (Allegheny County)

- Equality and LGBT Seniors

- Senior Hunger