



**AREA AGENCY ON AGING
FOR LUZERNE/WYOMING
COUNTIES**

MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ To enhance the quality of life for all mature adults by encouraging independence, promoting healthy lifestyle and ensuring safety and protection throughout their life journey.

The Area Agency on Aging was established in 1973 by the Older American's Act.

Funding is provided by State, Federal, local, and other program income sources.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

- **Employees:**
124
- Full time 89**
- Part -time 19**
- Alternates 16**

ACTIVE ADULT CENTERS

GOAL is to help older adults remain healthy, active, independent and contributing members of the community as long as possible.

- We have 17 Active Adult Centers throughout Luzerne and Wyoming Counties.

5 Multi Service Centers 12 Satellite Centers

A hot meal is provided daily, education programs, socialization.

We have many Highest Tier Evidence Based Exercise and Wellness Programs.

Foster Grandparent Program

Provides opportunities for Low income individuals age 55 and older to extend supportive services in Health Education and Welfare settings to children who have special or exceptional needs.

- 20 hours per week
- Stipend

MATURE WORKER PROGRAM/SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

SCSEP offers on the job training, referrals for additional classroom training (if appropriate) and referrals to employers in the community who are seeking the skills you have or will acquire in the program. Assigned to train at a government or nonprofit agency.

Requirements:

- 55 years or older
- A resident of Luzerne/Wyoming Counties
- Meet federal low income guidelines
- 15-20 hours per week
- Minimum wage

INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT

Intake and Assessment is the point of access for all consumers, families, and the general public seeking information, advocacy and assessment for In Home Community Services or Long Term Care Services/Supports.

Referrals are accepted via telephone, mail, fax, email, or walk ins. Each referral is evaluated by a specialized Information and Referral Care manager to be assigned for further assessment.

Community Service Assessment-Completed in an older adults home in order to determine the need for in home community based services

Level of Care Assessment-Assessments conducted in long term care facilities, assisted living facilities or in a home setting to determine the older adults level of care for access to Medicaid funded services.

We also assist with completing LiHeap applications, rent rebates, and Medical Assistance Applications.

ASSESSMENT

An assessment is completed to determine the level of care needed.

There are 2 tracks:

- NFI - Nursing Facility Clinically Ineligible
- NFCE - Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible

Options Services

- In-Home Meals
- Personal Care
- Adult Day Care
- Care Management
- Medical Supplies

IN-HOME MEALS

In-Home Meal Service provides for those older adults who are nutritionally at risk or have special needs regarding nutrition.

Every two weeks 12 frozen meals and basic supplemental grocery items are delivered to the older adults home.

Meals are provided to those who are unable to prepare a full meal, have a medical or health issue, have special dietary needs and have no one available to help.

Meal delivery days are assigned and the older adult must be home to accept delivery.

Voluntary contributions are accepted and directly support the in-home meal program.

PERSONAL CARE

Personal Care is a community based service which addresses older adults personal care needs so they are able to remain in their own homes.

Personal care provides qualified aides to those individuals age 60 and over to assist with personal care tasks.

Tasks include: bathing, dressing, grooming, shaving, hair care, nail care, skin care. Aides may also complete small housekeeping tasks such as laundry if time allows.

Assessment is completed by a Care Manager. Financial information is also collected. There is a cost sharing requirement based on a sliding fee scale.

Adult Day Care

Adult Day Care Services provides a safe and stimulating environment for those older adults that need to be cared for throughout the day away from their home.

Who can benefit:

- Older Adults that have cognitive or medical issues and cannot be left alone for long periods of time.
- Older Adults that need additional social contacts and stimulation.
- Caregivers who are employed and need a safe place for their loved ones to be cared for and supervised during the day.
- Caregivers who are retired and need respite/free time to attend to their own daily activities or errands/chores.

Care Management

Care Managers are responsible for initial care planning and ongoing monitoring of those older adults receiving in-home community services.

The Care Manager:

- Assists the older adult remain in the community setting.
- Monitors the care plan for appropriateness and ensures that service delivery is consistent.
- Reassesses the consumer's needs on an annual basis or more often if needed.
- Provides advocacy and support to the most vulnerable consumers.

Medical Supplies

Medical supplies are provided to those older adults who have been identified through the assessment and care planning process for medically necessary supplies.

The supplies must be authorized by a physician and the cost of the supplies cannot be covered by medical insurance or third party payers.

Examples of medical supplies: nutritional supplements, personal cleansing wipes, adult undergarments and incontinence supplies.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Guidelines:

- The caregiver shall be an informal provider of in home and community care to the older individual.
- The caregiver shall cooperate with the Area Agency on Aging in the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the caregiver, care receiver and the caregiving environment.
- The care receiver must be a functionally dependent older adult age 60 or older who has at least one deficit in bathing, dressing, grooming, transfers, or toileting, who meet criteria eligibility.
- A caregiver may be reimbursed generally, \$600 per month for services and supplies. There is also a lifetime reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for assistive devices and home modifications.
- Income is based on Annual Federal Fiscal Guidelines for the household of the care receiver.

Grandparents and other Older Relatives Raising Children

Eligibility:

- Caregiver must be 55 year of age or older.
- Child must be 18 years of age or younger.
- Caregiver and child must be related.
- Caregiver and child must reside in the same household.
- Caregiver must be the primary caregiver of the child.
- Eligibility is based on assessed needs, and total household income.

This is a reimbursement program. The caregiver may be eligible for reimbursement of respite care, such as in-home child care or day care. They may also be reimbursed for services, supplies or assistive devices required to care for the child.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE:

- Financial Exploitation
- Caregiver Neglect/Self Neglect
- Abandonment
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

Our specially trained Protective staff completes full confidential investigations for this vulnerable population.

Home and Community Based Services-Community Health Choices

There are four steps in the process:

1. An assessor visits you in your home and completes a level of care determination.
2. Your personal physician completes a physician certification form.
3. The Independent Enrollment Broker meets with you and family members if you wish them to be present, in your home to complete a needs assessment and assist with the financial application.
4. The County Assistance Office completes the financial eligibility determination. Income guidelines and Estate recovery applies.

PA MEDI- PA Medicare Education and Decision Insight (previously APPRISE)

- Counselors are available all year to assist with any insurance issues, not just during open enrollment period.
- Counselors can help you understand your Medicare benefits and help you make informed decisions about Medicare coverage options.
- Explain financial assistance programs that may be available.
- Explain and understand the Medicare appeals process and assist with paperwork.
- Explain the Medicare prescription drug benefit.