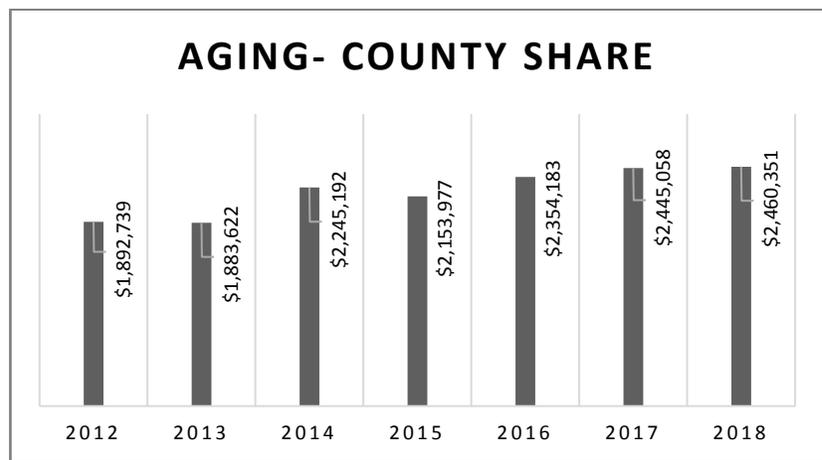


AGING 6772 & 6778



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Albany County Department for Aging (DFA) is to provide the highest quality of supportive services to senior citizens and their families. Our goal is to enable seniors to remain safely and comfortably in their homes and to thrive in their communities for as long as desired.

WHO WE SERVE

Seniors and caregivers to seniors and the disabled in Albany County. In 2010 Albany County was home to 60,195 residents over the age of 60. These residents represented 19% of our county's population of almost 304,032 people. The oldest population groups continue to increase. Albany County residents over the age of 75 comprise 7.2% of the population and are most likely to have multiple and chronic health conditions that require a variety of services to remain at home. The Albany County Department for aging annually serves nearly 11,000 persons age 60 and over; along with family caregivers. Our agency makes it possible for individuals to live with independence and dignity in their homes and communities for as long as possible, delaying or avoiding higher cost levels of care. It is estimated that there are now over 70,000 seniors residing in our county now with those aging 75 years and above comprising a larger share than ever before

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

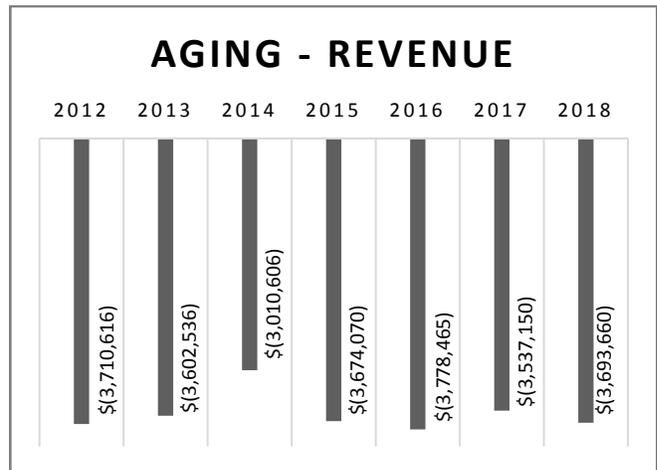
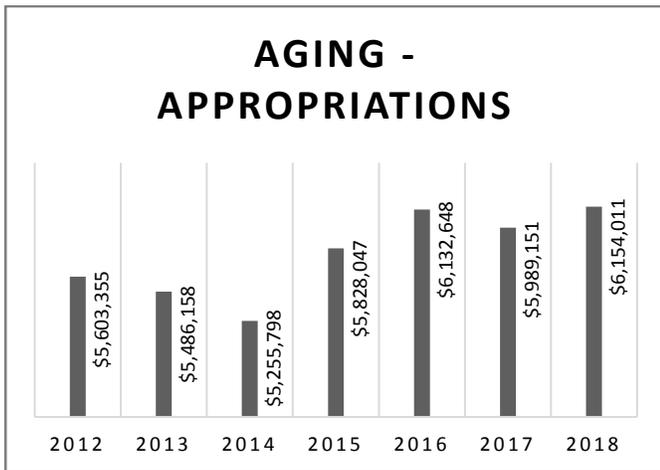
While the Aging network is undergoing many changes, the Department continues to embark on a path to progressively reshape its long term care system and continues to play an increasingly critical role to insure that quality services are available to meet our senior's needs as they occur in the community. We continue to fill a critical role in the long term care system by ensuring that essential home and community based services are available to meet the needs of the county's most vulnerable older citizens. We accomplish this goal by offering an array of quality programs and services, and at the same time exploring new initiatives. Many seniors receiving 3 or more community based services from our department meet the requirements for admission to an adult home, assisted living residence or a nursing home. The result is that the services we provide for these seniors often minimize, delay and avoid much more intensive facility based care. The Albany County senior population continues to increase as does the demand for our programs and services. Supporting our elderly and/or disabled individuals and their caregivers will help them remain in the least restrictive levels of care and avoid more intensive more costly care. *[We are also looking at ways to redirect existing funds from programs where we feel there is a dip in the need for the service for various reasons. We are looking into programs that can assist a senior in other areas and functions away from the normal programs we currently provide.]*

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Albany County Department for Aging and NY Connects continues to provide excellent information and assistance to individuals in need of long term care options. The overall goal is that all of our callers can access the services they may require.
- The Department for Aging has received additional funding from the State Office for the Aging to enhance our existing NY Connects program and expand our capabilities of a new "No Wrong Door" information system. The No Wrong Door (NWD) initiative will enable staff to create a seamless one-stop-shop information system to grant callers access to any and all services, regardless of the provider.
- The Data collection System which was maintained at the County Level is now a statewide controlled system.

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- Our efforts to reach our targeted demographic population which includes those whose first language is not English as well as individuals who have disabilities have increased. We have contracted with Language Line and Multicultural Association of Medical/Legal Interpreters (MAMI). These are translation service companies that insure those who are less fluent in English can adequately and effectively be connected to our services or be referred to other agencies through NY Connects. The efforts of our New York Connects “No Wrong Door,” has helped this effort immensely.
- Albany County Department for Aging through partnership with the New York State Office for Community Renewal and the Albany County Rural Housing Alliance has completed a \$750,000 Senior Housing Rehabilitation Program for eligible seniors in Albany County. This program, was designed to provide funding to qualified senior home owners for critical rehabilitation projects (roofing, heating, windows ,etc.), but it also provided for the installation of certain specialized features such as roll in showers, widening doorways and in- stalling grab bars and other amenities to “seniorize their homes”. We are happy to say that this program which was targeted to help twenty five seniors did exceed its goal and thirty seniors were able to receive assistance and are now are able to comfortably “age in place.”
- The Department for Aging was happy to work with our Albany County Health Department and the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) Sodium Reduction in Communities Project (SRCP) a collaborative grant with both agencies that has been completed this year. The ACDFA will continue the progress from the project and initiate additional successful strategies for the NYS OFA mandates that specific meal component requirements based on the RDI’s and RDA’s, including the daily intake of sodium. The ACDFA’s six providers have committed to following sodium reduction with food purchasing and meal preparation. The ACDFA Registered Dietitian presented to all providers and directors along with food production staff the strategies for the development of uniform standardized recipes. The recipes would be modified to increase and/or add more sodium free cooking techniques for flavor enhancement. In addition, these recipes would be the standards for all ACDFA senior meal providers.



2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Increase access to information, assistance and referrals for Albany seniors, caregivers and their families regarding their options.

- The Department of Aging and its contractor the Albany County Department of Social Services will continue to facilitate the enhanced NY Connects No Wrong Door program to help seniors gain immediate access and information about programs and services.
- To increase awareness of the programs and services the Department will work with its providers and other advocates in the community to distribute information through outreach events, presentations, distribution of brochures and handouts and the website. We will further seek senior organizations to increase our exposure to explore any needs or additional services we could provide to those in our network.

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- The Department will continue to strategize ways to serve targeted seniors through outreach to low income, rural, minority seniors and those with disabilities through ongoing contact with other agencies who work with seniors such as advocacy agencies, hospital discharge planners, police, and local town staff.

To help seniors maintain their health in the community, increase outreach and access to Albany County Department for Aging's Health and Nutrition programs and services.

- Increase information and access to nutrition by providing appetizing and healthy meals throughout the county through the Department's Home Delivered Meals and Congregate programs.
- Increase seniors' ability to make healthy food choices through up-to-date information about ways to manage and/or prevent serious health conditions such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension and heart disease. Continue to promote health through evidenced based programs including Tai Chi.
- Provide seniors with opportunities to make social connections through the congregate programs.
- Provide opportunities for seniors to remain active through volunteer positions in the Department's programs and services (HDM delivery, friendly home visitor, HIICAP counselor, etc.)
- Increase information and access about the Health, Insurance, Information and Assistance Program for Medicare and Medicare/Medicaid eligible seniors and disabled to help them make informed choices.
- Through our RFP process, promote the network to provide services for preventive help programs throughout the County.

To help seniors maintain their independence in the community, increase information, outreach and access to Albany County Department for Aging's community support programs and services.

- Due to the great success of the just completed and very successful Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Department anticipates applying for a new grant this year.
- Increase available information and access to senior transportation and information about the potential of additional transportation options and resources in the community.
- Provide older adults with information about the senior legal services or other legal programs.
- Continue to increase seniors' independence in the community by increasing awareness and access to community supports such as aid services, adult day programs, shopping assistance, friendly home visitor and the nutrition programs.
- Increase information about the Caregiver Supportive services in the community.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

- Albany County with the State of New York's institution of "No Wong Door" and enhancements to the New York Connects System on a Statewide basis, It has become necessary to seek some additional positions in the Department to facilitate the additional reporting requirements needed for information to be reported to NYSOFA and Federal Agencies. We are a contracting agency, so it is imperative our providers are providing the proper data to support our program resources. We are asking that a position be created to facilitate data information between the Department and our providers. This would be a full time position but necessary as the responsibilities of the new State system has added more needed oversight and maintain compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Our existing staff will not be able to take on the responsibilities need to perform this task properly. We are also asking to reinstate the position of Deputy Commissioner to assist the Commissioner in the day to day operation of the Department.
- There are also increases asked for in the Home Delivered Meal Program, and the Congregate Meal program as new RFP's which are going out this summer are expected to generate a more realistic cost of either meals by all of our providers.
- As our outreach efforts increase we anticipate additional costs in printing and advertising as we will be attending more affairs and giving more presentation therefore using more promotional materials and print media, of which some may have to produce in languages other than English.