



Atlanta Regional Commission

# Aging & Independence Services

2020 Annual Report, July 1-June 30



empowerline

# **We are living longer lives... ...and the aging population is growing.**

**In 2019**, 566,000 people age 65 or older lived in the 10-county region—  
**that's 1 in 8 of us.**

**By 2030**, our 65+ population is expected to grow to 975,000, **or almost  
1 in 5 of the residents of the 10-county region.**



**61,056**

people were served through  
our interactive **Empowerline** programs  
and services



**20,847**

people received counseling  
from certified professionals



**51,722**

replies to requests for  
assistance



**22,580**

people received home and  
community-based services  
such as meals, personal care,  
homemaking, transportation,  
and activities in senior centers



**55,939**

visits to **empowerline.org** for  
information and referrals



# We fund services provided by:

- Cherokee County Senior Services
- Clayton County Senior Services
- Cobb County Senior Services
- DeKalb County Office of Aging
- Douglas County Senior Services
- Fayette Senior Services
- Fulton County Department of Senior Services
- Gwinnett County Senior Services
- Henry County Senior Services
- Rockdale County Senior Services
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society
- Center for Pan-Asian Community Services
- Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability
- Visiting Nurse Health System

empowerline

**empowerline.org**

**(404) 463-3333**

# Maximizing Health & Independence







**41,826**

HOURS

5,046 People Served

### Managing Care

ARC helps people navigate the complexity of their health and daily living needs through collaborative programs that help coordinate care.

### Getting Around

We all need reliable transportation in order to maintain a high quality of life. Programs that get older people to where they need to go help them to live independently.

**181,512**

TRIPS

14,861 People Served



**751,667**

MEALS

6,588 People Served

### Delivering Meals

For people who cannot leave their homes, food and companionship delivered at no cost is invaluable.

### Wellness Programs

From managing chronic conditions to preventing a dangerous fall, these programs help older adults and people caring for them.

**331**

PEOPLE SERVED

5 Different Classes



**8,732**

HOURS

492 People Served

### Legal Assistance

Older adults are at particular risk of financial exploitation and scams. Legal assistance helps to protect their independence and security.

# Spotlight on Serving Older Adults During Covid-19

## Funds spent April-November 2020

- ARC helped partner organizations adapt their funding to respond to older adults' critical needs.
- \$5.4 million regionwide allocated from federal Families First and CARES Act dollars, as well as philanthropic funding
- 117,954 emergency home-delivered meals to 2,637 individuals
- \$54,376 in material aid: assistive equipment such as easy-to-use can openers, as well as short-term help with bills and groceries to help people live more independent lives in their own homes





# Giving Back

*“I volunteer because it is a pleasure to help those in need.”*

- Wayne Stokes,  
AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer



# Giving Back



**102**  
VOLUNTEERS



**3,129**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS



**11,352**  
PEOPLE REACHED

# Behavioral Health Coaching

*“The pandemic made areas where some residents were having some difficulty even harder to cope with. With the help of ARC behavioral health coaches, we are better equipped to recognize and meet those needs where and when they arise.”*

- Resident services coordinator at one affordable housing site





# Behavioral Health Coaching



**99%**

MAINTAINED  
their housing

**\$1,000 - \$4,900**



SAVED BY HOUSING PROVIDER  
PER HOUSEHOLD  
by avoiding eviction



**50%**

INCREASE IN CAPACITY  
from new funding

# What's Next?

- \$8.3 million in federal funds granted to metro Atlanta for direct COVID-related services for older residents
- But the pandemic also laid bare critical systemic health and social disparities.

**[atlantaregional.org/aging](https://atlantaregional.org/aging)**

# What's Next?

## A:R: POLICY BRIEFING

AUGUST 2019

### Lifelong Communities That Work for Every Age and Ability

## THE CHALLENGE

Most  
metro  
trans  
acces  
regar

## A:R: CLOSER TO HOME: CLAYTON COUNTY

August 2019

### Senior Homeownership Challenges

More than one in four (28%) Clayton County homeowners age 65+ pay more than 30% of their household income on housing. Housing is considered affordable if a person pays no more than 30% of their income on housing costs.

Existing homeowners may need assistance to remain in place. Increasing the supply of housing options could help homeowners who wish to downsize.

## BACKGROUND

The population of older adults in metro Atlanta is **sizable and rising fast**. 9% of Clayton County residents are age 65 or older, a figure that is forecast to reach 17% by 2040.

**55,597**

The 65+ population in Clayton County is forecast to reach 55,597 by 2040.

The vast majority of older adults in metro Atlanta **own their own home**. In fact, older persons in metro Atlanta are more likely to own their own home compared to people under

**79%**

In Clayton County, 79% of house-

- Lifelong Communities
- Caregiving
- Housing
- Transportation

[atlantaregional.org/aging](http://atlantaregional.org/aging)



**Any Questions?**

**Becky Kurtz**

**[bkurtz@atlantaregional.org](mailto:bkurtz@atlantaregional.org)**