

# Advisory Committee on Aging

**Managing Director's Report** 

December 1, 2021

#### Atlanta Regional Commission

## Aging & Independence Services

<u>2021 Annual Report</u>, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021





empowerline.org (404) 463-3333

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

In 2019, around 822,300 people age 60 or older lived in the 10-county region—that's 1 in 7 of us.

By 2050, our 60+ population is expected to grow to 1.8 million, or more than 1 in 4 of the residents of the 10-county region.

Since participating in the program,
I am very active —
I walk two miles every day. I also started eating more vegetables and cook them with no salt. I have found other seasonings to use to make them taste better.

- Client of the diabetes coaching program

# Providing a range of services to maximize health & independence

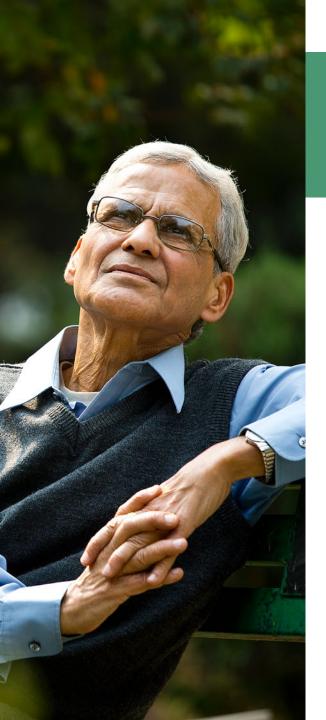








7,660
LEGAL ASSISTANCE HOURS
522 People Served



### New services for older adults

- One2One Telephone Reassurance
- Home Modifications
- CARES Flex
- Empowerline Self Service



# Working to close the longevity gap across the region

#### **Live Beyond Expectations Regional Strategic Plan**

- Place: Focus on locations, within each county, where residents experience the most inequity
- Policy: Work with governmental, philanthropic, educational, nonprofit, business, and resident leaders to improve or amend policies that create inequities and advance policies that promote equity
- Practice: Provide services and programs that address unmet needs



They hear my voice and are so excited. You can tell that this is truly helping them feel less isolated.

> - Shirley Yearwood One2One volunteer

### Staying engaged through volunteering











people received counseling from certified professionals



replies to requests for assistance



17,090

people received home and community-based services such as meals, personal care, and homemaking



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

\*Missing data for December 4, 2020-January 4, 2021.

As someone whose family has benefited directly from our county's senior services program, I just wanted to say thank you to ARC for supporting it.

- Metro Atlanta resident

#### We funded 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 DOUGLAS Rockdale County Senior Services Atlanta Legal Aid Society Center for Pan-Asian Community Services Center for the Visually Impaired Habitat for Humanity House Proud Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability Jewish Family and Career Services Latin American Association

Meals on Wheels Atlanta



CHEROKEE

**GWINNETT** 

ROCKDALE

DEKALB

CLAYTON

FAYETTE

COBB

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# Managing Additional Federal COVID Funds to Meet Community Needs

Federal Legislation	CAA*	VAC5	American Rescue Plan
Amount to ARC	\$1.3 million	\$403,307	\$13 million
Supportive Services			x
Nutrition Services	X		x
Caregiver Services			X
Wellness programs			X
Vaccine access		X	X
Contract received by ARC	July 2021	November 2021	Not yet received; depends on state match (likely spring 2022)

<sup>\*</sup>Consolidated Appropriations Act, also called HDC-5

## Federal Legislative Activity - Part 1

- ➤ House "Build Back Better" Reconciliation package
  - \$1.2 Billion in Older Americans Act (OAA) increases (similar to CARES Act amounts)
  - Eliminates non-federal match in ARPA for OAA
  - Medicaid HCBS Waivers \$150 billion over 10 years
  - Elder justice infrastructure
  - Social isolation grants
  - Medicare hearing benefit

Next step: Senate consideration

## Federal Legislative Activity - Part 2

- Federal FY 22 (began October 1, 2021)
  - Continuing Resolution expires on December 3
  - President's budget and House versions of FY 22 appropriations have significant OAA increases

### Federal Legislative Activity - Part 3

- ➤ US Senate Special Committee on Aging
  - Study on Financial Literacy (and intersection with health literacy)
  - Opportunity to submit comments
  - Nov 22 interview by Committee staff:
    - ARC staff (Becky Kurtz, Patti Szarowicz) and ACA member Brandi Hackett
    - Focus on ways ARC supports individuals with:
      - Information and referral
      - Community education
      - Policy advocacy

## **ARC Office Reintegration**

- > Staff beginning to return to office in mid-December
- More fully return in January
  - More flexible telework policy likely
- Expect future ACA meetings to be held in person
  - Hybrid option available but votes must be in person