



# Advisory Committee on Aging

## Managing Director's Report

December 1, 2021

Atlanta Regional Commission

# Aging & Independence Services

2021 Annual Report, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021



empowerline

[empowerline.org](https://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



**39,880**

MANAGING CARE HOURS  
4,992 People Served

**148,210**

SUPPORTING CARE PARTNERS HOURS  
1,075 People Served



**1,099,324**

HOME-DELIVERED MEALS  
9,100 People Served

**\$330,780**

FINANCIAL HELP  
2,025 People Served



**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

# Staying engaged through volunteering



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

- Shirley Yearwood  
One2One volunteer



66

VOLUNTEERS



572

VOLUNTEER HOURS



1,170

One2One CALLS MADE



**37,261** people were served  
through our interactive **Empowerline**  
programs and services



**18,893**

people received counseling  
from certified professionals



**56,270**

replies to requests for  
assistance



**17,090**

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



**60,597\***

visits to [empowerline.org](https://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  
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



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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)

\*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