

North Carolina

COUNTY DATA PACKAGE

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NORTH CAROLINA
Division of Aging
and Adult Services

SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) produced the first County Data Package in February 1992, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143B-181.1A. While we have made some minor changes in the presentation of the data since then, the intent and basic format of the County Data Package have remained essentially constant. Our primary goal is still to provide basic demographic and service utilization data for use by County Planning Committees, especially in their development of a plan for use of Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) funds.

Each county in North Carolina has discretion in how HCCBG funds are used—which services are to be funded, in what amounts, and which agencies should be the providers of service. The opportunity of counties to influence the availability of services grew during the 1990's largely because of increases in State funding for home and community-based services for non-Medicaid eligible seniors. These funds, coupled with the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to 100 percent of the federal poverty level, enabled more meaningful local planning. As public funding has stayed constant or even diminished at times, the decisions on how best to use the HCCBG funds have become more challenging and important. Never has this been more true than the current situation facing the state and counties.

The information in this package should be used with other information to make key decisions in funding aging services. Other relevant information might include: client “waiting list” data, local indicators of service needs, current budget utilization by funding sources, costs of service, demographic profiles of clients, success in consumer contributions, client satisfaction with services, and evaluations of the current set of providers delivering services. Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) can help County Planning Committees gather the kinds of information needed to make sound decisions.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services is also conducting in early February 2009, a survey of all current HCCBG providers. The survey is assessing the level of need for the various HCCBG services and asking providers about how they are being affected and are responding during this difficult economic time. The Division hopes to be able to share the findings of this survey with AAAs in time to further assist counties in their plans for funding HCCBG services. Questions about the descriptions of services, targeting of services, participation rates, or clarifications needed about the information included in this package should be directed to the regional AAA or to the Division's Planning, Budget & Systems Support Section (919-733-8400).

SECTION II

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

This section identifies some of the sources of key demographic data on North Carolina's older adults. While this information does not reflect all available Census data on older adults, it does indicate some of the most requested demographic data.

The "Intrastate Funding Formula Factors" Table is the basis for the Division's funding formula. The Table contains an age column (60+, 65+, etc.) that estimates the number of individuals in that age group. This table is available on the Division's web page (www.ncdhhs.gov/aging). The "60+ Poor" column estimates the number individuals living at or below the federally defined poverty level. The recently released 2009 poverty guidelines of the US Department of Health and Human Services are \$10,830 for an individual and \$14,570 for a couple. The column entitled "60+ Minority" estimates the number of those individuals age 60 and older who belong to a racial minority group. Hispanic older adults are not included as a group in the minority estimate because they represent an ethnic group. The "60+ Rural" column is based on county-specific data on rural residence (for all ages) from the US Census Bureau and data for the population age 60+ from the State Data Center.

Assistance in collecting and interpreting additional information can be provided by the regional AAA or the Planning, Budget & Systems Support Section of DAAS (919-733-8400).

The web sites, listed below, provide key demographic data on North Carolina's older adults.

1. The NC Office of State Planning's Data Center maintains considerable demographic, economic, and other data on NC counties. www.demog.state.nc.us/ and <http://linc.state.nc.us/>
2. The US Census Bureau also maintains useful data on population and housing and has useful links to other sources. Many 2000 annual Census reports are available. www.census.gov/
3. The US Administration of Aging maintains data on the characteristics of older Americans including marital status, living arrangements, racial/ethnic composition, geographical distribution and income. <http://www.aoa.gov/prof/Statistics/statistics.aspx>
4. The Demographic and Planning page of DAAS' website includes both state and county statistics profiles. www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/demo.htm

SECTION III

STATE SERVICE UTILIZATION DATA

The primary purpose of this section is to illustrate the statewide service utilization levels by North Carolina's older adults. For SFY 2007-08, seven different state funding sources provided service data on persons age 60 and older.

To assist with the county's human service planning for aging, the various services available from these state funding sources have been assigned to a major service category. These categories are defined as follows:

Code Description of Categories

- 1 Adult Care Homes - Includes: Special Assistance payments for residents of adult care homes; Medicaid expenditures for: personal care services (PCS-basic and enhanced), care management and screening, and transportation associated with adult care homes.
- 2 Economic Support - Programs and services that provide an indirect financial support, without which a cash outlay by the recipient would be required.
- 3 Hospitals, Physicians, and Other Health Care - Services that provide a variety of health care to recipients outside their home.
- 4 Home Health and In-Home Care – Services that provide health and related care to recipients in their home.
- 5 Institutional Care - Services provided to residents of nursing homes, mental health facilities, and hospitals.
- 6 Social Support - Services that provide social and/or other support to recipients inside or outside their home.

The **Schedule of Expenditures by Funding Source and Service** (Table III-A) provides a summary of service and expenditure data for the seven different state funding sources. The specific services that comprise the major service categories (above) are cross-referenced by code number. Reported expenditures generally represent the federal, state, and minimum local share for services provided to individuals age 60 and older by the contributing state funding sources. Total expenditures for DAAS include consumer contribution revenues reported as well as US Department of Agriculture (USDA) reimbursement for meals provided through HCCBG. Total consumer contribution revenues reported to DAAS for SFY 2007-08 was \$2,243,894. Total USDA reimbursement for meals provided through HCCBG for SFY 2007-08 was \$3,061,543.

The Schedule of Reported Expenditures by Funding Source and Major Service Category (Table III-B) summarizes the expenditures by the contributing funding sources based on the six service categories. These expenditures represent the federal, state and minimum local share for services provided to individuals age 60 and older.

Note: Consistent with Table III-A, here again, total expenditures for DAAS include client consumer contribution revenues reported as well as USDA reimbursement for meals provided through HCCBG. These additional revenues from USDA are not included in the county expenditure data reported in Section IV.

Each contributing state program shares the common goal of providing services to North Carolina's older adults. However, the only common data element that is reported from these funding sources is expenditures. While expenditure data have been collected in this manner since SFY 1991-92, there are typically several changes each year. Below are reminders and noted changes:

1. State/County client information is not available for every service with expenditure, in which case the client total is left blank. In situations where the number of clients served is 3 or less, the county totals are left blank in order to maintain client confidentiality.
2. Again, DAAS reported on the "Consumer Directed Care" pilot, which is a demonstration project under the HCCBG in Cabarrus County. This year, because of new data reporting systems, the client number and expenditures of the service options of the program were reported on, instead of the grand total for the program, as in previous years.
3. This year, DAAS transitioned to a new data reporting system that, among other things, includes integrating FCSP services within our overall Aging Resources Management System. As with all transitions, there are unresolved issues. As we are still in the process of fine-tuning these data reporting methods, there are noticeable changes or omissions in the DAAS data this year. These are:
 - Client numbers are not reported for the Family Caregiver Support Program;
 - In-Home Aide Services were split into further components; and
 - Client numbers are underreported for Congregate Nutrition and Home Delivered Meals.
4. The sum of the county unduplicated counts may or may not equal the statewide-unduplicated counts for DAAS. This is because the state data reports on unduplicated client counts for the state while the county data reports on unduplicated client counts for the county. A person receiving the same service in two different counties will be counted once for the state report but will be reported as a unique count in each of the counties s/he received services.
5. Again, the Division of Services for the Blind reported county totals for its Special Assistance for the Blind service but did not provide data on the services that are delivered directly by its staff (health support and individual and family adjustment). Only statewide expenditures have been reported for the other services.

6. The Division of Social Services' unduplicated counts of recipients (for each service/service category) for the entire State Fiscal Year (SFY) were obtained using the SIS system and day sheets. The sum of the county unduplicated counts may or may not equal the statewide-unduplicated counts. Expenditure data are estimates based on reported expenditures (in the SIS/Co Admin Interface) for the SFY. The percent of 60+ to all recipients was applied to the total reported costs to obtain an estimate of the expenditures. This method applies to all services, even those where some of the fund sources are ">60" and "<60", for consistency and other reasons. The Special Assistance counts are unduplicated for the year, rather than average monthly counts.
7. Again this year, the Special Assistance Service was broken down into two categories.
 - Special Assistance Adult Care Home: This service pays the room and board for eligible residents of adult care homes.
 - Special Assistance In-Home Program: Although the data included in this report reflects only the 60+ population, this service provides an option for in-home care for eligible older persons and adults with disabilities who are at risk of placement in an adult care home but who desire to live in a private living arrangement and can be maintained safely in that setting.
8. Again, data for the Department of Transportation's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) covers both older adults and clients with disabilities. For SFY 2007-08, a supplemental distribution of EDTAP funds is also reported. This supplemental distribution was made available through a provision in the FY08 state appropriations budget bill that allowed the DOT Public Transportation Division to consolidate rural funding programs for vehicles, technology, and facilities into one large capital program and also gave DOT the flexibility to transfer funding from the consolidated program to operating programs if it would enable the state to leverage additional federal funds to meet rural capital needs.
9. The Division of Social Services' Food Stamp program was renamed Food and Nutrition Services.
10. The CAP/AIDS program is no longer provided by the Division of Medical Assistance.

Other funding sources in state government provide services that benefit older adults. However, their data collection and reporting systems are not designed to provide age-specific information. The contributing state funding sources shown in this package reflect the programs administered by the State of North Carolina that have a large and direct effect on older adults. Because the state and local governmental units have some control and influence with the administration of these services, it is important to focus on these services when addressing the local needs of older adults.

The direct payment of Social Security benefits to older adults clearly represents the largest expenditure of public funds for the elderly. Expenditures for Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans and other federal benefits would overshadow the programs administered

by the state. Although not reflected in this package, the availability of these federally administered programs should be considered when addressing the needs of older adults. The data tables also do not take into consideration special grant-funded projects that are either time-limited and/or geographically limited (for example, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program, Project C.A.R.E., Chronic Disease Self-Management Program).

SECTION IV

COUNTY SERVICE UTILIZATION DATA

Expenditures associated with HCCBG do not include significant local expenditures reported over and above the minimal local match requirements. County expenditures for DAAS do include consumer contribution revenues reported but not USDA reimbursement for meals provided. County client and expenditure information are not available for most of the services offered by the Division of Services for the Blind.

Although funding through DAAS for home and community services has generally remained static, there is some value for local decision-makers in comparing this year's County Data Package with information from previous years (www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/expenddata.htm). Comparing the growth (or decline) in a county's general older population, older minorities, etc., can help identify the relative size and scope of services needed. Some comparison of per capita expenditures (divide expenditures by total population group or actual persons served) may help illustrate the county's response to identified service needs. If per capita expenditures (by total population) are falling, this could indicate that the county is having difficulty keeping pace with population growth and/or inflation. Per capita changes (by persons served) could suggest changes in how the services are delivered (for example, who gets served and/or program efficiencies.)

County planning committees are encouraged to have frank and open discussions about these data and how best to meet the needs of seniors. The Division especially wishes to emphasize the importance of citizen and consumer input within the HCCBG funding plan for consideration by the county commissioners. Counties should conduct this work in a manner that avoids any appearance of conflict of interest with respect to service providers.