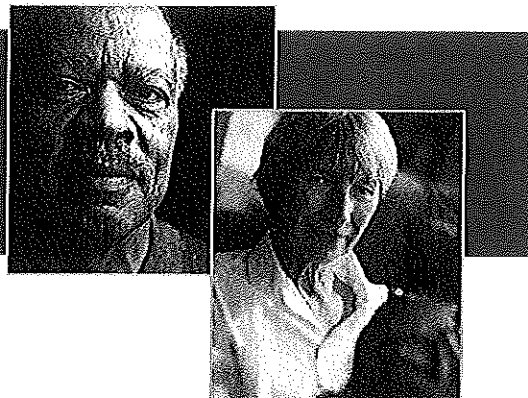


MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS

Promoting Your Independence



Councils on Aging

What We Do

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides funding and other assistance to the Commonwealth's 349 municipal Councils on Aging (COAs). These agencies serve as focal points for a broad range of community-based social services, information and other support. Some 535,000 elders, families, caregivers and others directly benefit annually from COA programs, services and/or activities.

Elder Affairs offers Formula (per capita) and Service Incentive (competitive) grants as well as technical assistance, training and referrals to help improve the quality and continuity of an array of services determined by each COA. Grants provide for volunteer and program management, site operations, equipment, utilities, mileage, in-service training and numerous related purposes.

Our Services

COAs offer/provide outreach, social and health services, advocacy, and information and referral for elders and their families and caregivers. Some 31,200 volunteers statewide provide essential support totaling nearly 49,500 hours per week in areas such as transportation, congregate and home delivered meals, fitness and recreation, health insurance benefits counseling, health screening, education, supportive day care and many others.

Benefits of the Program

Most importantly, COAs offer a variety of opportunities for information, education and social support for seniors, their families and caregivers—and, increasingly, non-seniors. For many participants, the senior center is a "home away from home" providing for companionship, peer support, a variety of activities and a "place to give back."

Goals

As the only public social service agency in most cities and towns in Massachusetts, COAs seek to link elder needs with local and other resources to further growth, independence and opportunities for participation in community life.



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