

The Agency

Department of Elderly Affairs

Agency Operations

The Department of Elderly Affairs is the designated state agency on aging for Rhode Island, responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based care for persons sixty years of age and older. The department is headed by a director who is appointed by the Governor. Departmental responsibilities include developing and implementing a State Plan on Aging under the Federal Older Americans Act (OAA); serving as the State's Single Planning and Service Agency on Aging under the Older Americans Act; preserving the independence, dignity and capacity for choice of seniors, their families and caregivers; and, administering and funding a wide range of community programs, activities and services. Some services are provided directly by department staff, others are provided through a coordinated community-based network of senior centers, adult day centers (which the department has statutory responsibility to license), nutrition programs, paratransit program, center on diversity, senior housing and assisted care facilities, home care, advocacy groups and others. The department's grant management and program staffs coordinate the efforts and activities of the State Aging Network through the allocation and monitoring of federal and state funds.

Programs for older Rhode Islanders, their families and caregivers include: customer information referral and assistance services designed to empower the best choices to ensure a senior's health and well-being; a Community Information Specialist network, pharmaceutical assistance, health promotion/disease prevention, health insurance counseling, protective services for community elders, ombudsman program for elders living in nursing homes or assisted living facilities, a volunteer guardianship program, legal counseling, heating assistance, housing planning, advocacy and security assistance, home based care, Senior Companion Program, case management services, respite care, as well as a National Family Caregiver Support Program and Alzheimer support programs.

Agency Objectives

As outlined in the State Plan on Aging under the Older Americans Act, (OAA) and in the relevant laws and policies of the State of Rhode Island, the department's role is to provide leadership and advocacy in emerging elder issues. The department provides services that are consumer focused, high quality and easily accessible, and implements a comprehensive coordinated system that expands the options for community based care for Rhode Islanders, their families and caregivers.

Statutory History

The Department of Elderly Affairs was created in 1977. R.I.G.L. 42-66 established and provides for the organization and functions of the department. Federal authority rests under the Older Americans Act of 1965 as amended.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs

| | FY 2004 Actual | FY 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Revised | FY 2007 Recommended |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Expenditures by Subprogram | | | | |
| Administrative Services | 1,727,154 | 1,492,565 | 1,479,984 | 1,996,639 |
| Program Services | 29,525,219 | 30,109,264 | 37,627,832 | 32,418,861 |
| RIPAE | 14,530,339 | 10,743,854 | 6,351,000 | 3,382,000 |
| Total Expenditures | \$45,782,712 | \$42,345,683 | \$45,458,816 | \$37,797,500 |
| Expenditures By Object | | | | |
| Personnel | 4,393,966 | 4,432,875 | 7,223,866 | 4,764,354 |
| Other State Operations | 453,592 | 526,040 | 630,335 | 542,237 |
| Aid To Local Units Of Government | - | - | - | - |
| Assistance, Grants and Benefits | 40,935,154 | 37,386,768 | 37,604,615 | 32,490,909 |
| Subtotal: Operating Expenditures | \$45,782,712 | \$42,345,683 | \$45,458,816 | \$37,797,500 |
| Capital Improvements | - | - | - | - |
| Capital Debt Service | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditures | \$45,782,712 | \$42,345,683 | \$45,458,816 | \$37,797,500 |
| Expenditures By Funds | | | | |
| General Revenue | 29,279,214 | 25,660,265 | 22,208,708 | 19,230,920 |
| Federal Funds | 11,776,519 | 11,769,152 | 16,140,108 | 12,556,580 |
| Restricted Receipts | - | - | 2,350,000 | 1,250,000 |
| Other Funds | 4,726,979 | 4,916,266 | 4,760,000 | 4,760,000 |
| Total Expenditures | \$45,782,712 | \$42,345,683 | \$45,458,816 | \$37,797,500 |
| FTE Authorization | 52.6 | 52.0 | 52.0 | 50.5 |
| Agency Measures | | | | |
| Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce | 8.0% | 8.3% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| Females as a Percentage of the Workforce | 80.0% | 83.3% | 83.3% | 83.3% |
| Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce | 20.0% | 10.0% | 20.0% | 20.0% |
| Program Measures | | | | |
| Percentage of Elderly Abuse Involving the Same Victim | 42.0% | 40.0% | 37.0% | 35.0% |
| Self-Neglect Percentage of Reports Involving the Same Victim | 33.0% | 35.0% | 33.0% | 31.0% |