

The Agency

Department of Elderly Affairs

Agency Operations

Elderly Affairs is the designated state agency on aging for Rhode Island. As such, it is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, coordinated system of community-based care for citizens 60 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 OAA; advocating for the rights of older individuals; operating services designed to assist seniors to remain independent in the community; and funding an array of community-based services for the elderly. Elderly Affairs has statutory responsibility to license the State's 19 day care centers. The primary focus of the Elderly Affairs' Programs is to preserve the independence, dignity and capacity for choice to seniors.

Programs such as Pharmaceutical Assistance, Heating Assistance, Health Insurance Counseling, Home and Community Care, Assistance with Care Management, Respite, and the Customer Information Center are designed to help seniors and their families choose those options which ensure a senior's health and well-being. Each year, these programs provide counseling and assistance to over 50,000 older Rhode Islanders. The Nutrition Program serves over 1.1 million meals to approximately 13,000 persons yearly through the Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Program. The Transportation Program provides paratransit services to over 13,000 elderly and handicapped riders. This network of services includes a strong and vital community-based system of senior centers, adult day centers, and senior meal sites. Rhode Island offers a full range of housing options in addition to home ownership and rental. Subsidized housing, assisted living and residential care centers, and retirement communities offer a wide spectrum of choices to fit the needs of seniors. The Housing Program administers the Elderly Housing Security Program, and provides housing planning and advocacy. Persons 55 years of age and older are assisted with job training and placement services as well as volunteer program opportunities. The Grants Management Program coordinates the efforts and activities of the State Aging Network through the allocation and monitoring of federal and state funds.

Agency Objectives

To continue to develop and implement a comprehensive coordinated system while expanding the options for community-based care for older Rhode Islanders. To strengthen programs and services that enable older Rhode Islanders to remain independent and healthy. To develop and implement the State Plan on Aging under the Older Americans Act (OAA). To develop a One-Stop Aging and Disability Resource Center which will provide comprehensive information and benefits counseling to elders, 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.

The Budget

Department of Elderly Affairs

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Administrative Services	1,845,444	1,726,810	1,774,543	1,909,682
Program Services	27,427,219	29,525,218	32,416,563	32,050,809
RIPAE	13,342,139	14,530,339	11,791,458	12,356,668
Total Expenditures	\$42,614,802	\$45,782,367	\$45,982,564	\$46,317,159
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	4,308,551	4,393,963	5,508,103	5,141,504
Other State Operations	569,245	453,250	493,776	534,331
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	37,737,006	40,935,154	39,980,685	40,641,324
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$42,614,802	\$45,782,367	\$45,982,564	\$46,317,159
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$42,614,802	\$45,782,367	\$45,982,564	\$46,317,159
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	27,333,971	29,278,870	27,917,924	28,671,126
Federal Funds	10,325,114	11,776,517	13,284,640	12,846,033
Other Funds	4,955,717	4,726,980	4,780,000	4,800,000
Total Expenditures	\$42,614,802	\$45,782,367	\$45,982,564	46,317,159
FTE Authorization	52.6	52.6	52.0	52.0
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.0%	11.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	84.9%	84.9%	80.0%	80.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	15.0%	15.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Program Measures				
Percentage of Elderly Abuse Involving the Same Victim	45.0%	42.0%	37.0%	34.0%
Self-Neglect Percentage of Reports Involving the Same Victim	37.0%	33.0%	33.0%	27.0%