

WHEN INDIANA SHUT DOWN, AAAs STEPPED UP

When COVID-19 began to ravage Indiana, Indiana Area Agencies on Aging immediately galvanized to provide a front line of defense and services so older Hoosiers and persons with disabilities of any age could quarantine safely and comfortably in their homes. Driven by their intense sense of responsibility for vulnerable persons in their communities, they met the pandemic challenge with urgency and creativity, even prior to assurances of additional state and federal supports. They continue to adjust services on a weekly basis as COVID-19 data and local needs change in communities across Indiana.

SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED HOME DELIVERED MEAL SERVICES.



ESTABLISHED ONGOING FRIENDLY-CALLING PROGRAMS.



CHANGED CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICE MODELS TO ACCOMMODATE STAY-AT-HOME AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ORDERS.



ADAPTED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO COMPLY WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING AND HYGIENE REQUIREMENTS.



BEGAN DELIVERING MEDICATIONS, GROCERIES, HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES AND PPE.



OFFERED VIRTUAL WELLNESS, EXERCISE AND OTHER SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS.



CONDUCTED WEEKLY WELLNESS CHECKS FOR HIGH-RISK CLIENTS.



TRANSITIONED TO ALL-TELEPHONIC ASSESSMENTS.



DELIVERED ACTIVITY KITS.



PILOTED TELEHEALTH PLATFORMS FOR VIDEO ASSESSMENTS.



SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED THEIR EMPLOYEES IN WORKING FROM HOME AND CREATED SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS FOR THOSE WORKING IN OFFICE.

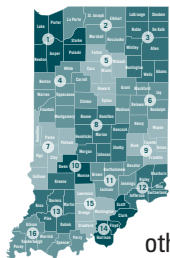


Through the Families First Coronavirus Response and CARES Acts, Indiana AAAs received \$20 million in Older Americans Act funds to support increased demands for services, but they are now depleted. They have ongoing funding needs to address the sustained increased demand in nutrition services, technology and other supports needed to mitigate social isolation. They also are experiencing a shortfall in state CHOICE funding due to an 18% reversion requirement imposed by the state, resulting in increasing waiting lists, particularly for persons under the age of the 60 who do not qualify for Older Americans Act funding.

CALL 800.986.3505 OR VISIT WWW.IAAAA.ORG TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AAA.



INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING 2021 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES



Safe and secure at home. From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to live and age safely and securely in our own homes has proven to be a matter of life and death for older adults, people with disabilities and other at-risk Hoosiers.

Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have been critical to the state's COVID-19 response by expertly managing social determinants of health for Hoosiers requiring assistance to remain at home. We are a significant component of Indiana's long-term services and supports system. Our populations of concern include older adults, persons of any age with disabilities, and vulnerable adults at risk for abuse, neglect and exploitation, and their families and caregivers.

Serving all 92 Indiana counties, we offer an established solution to manage risk, enhance health outcomes and control health care costs. Statewide, our network employs more than 1,850 people, with each AAA averaging 40 years of experience or more in service to their local communities.

AAA core services include information and referral, options counseling, case management and nutrition.

Through a comprehensive, person-centered and needs-based approach, staff work with a diverse group of individuals and their support systems to identify needs for supportive services, develop plans to address those needs, coordinate services and make referrals. The result is long-term solutions that benefit consumers and the state. Depending on the assistance required, in-home services can save more than \$47,000 annually per person over the cost of nursing facility care.

IN 2021, YOU WILL SEE US AT THE INDIANA STATEHOUSE WORKING ON THESE ISSUES:

- CHOICE budget and its use
- Social determinants of health
- Family caregiver supports and concerns
- Dementia-related initiatives
- In-home care workforce
- Elder justice
- Guardianship and less restrictive alternatives
- Affordable housing
- Reliable transportation
- Broadband connectivity

As Indiana's experts, we can answer your questions on these issues and more. Contact your local AAA at 800.986.3505 or visit www.iaaaa.org for more information.



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