Services for Seniors

In 1970, only 3.0 percent, or 13,764, Fairfax County residents were age 65 or older. By 2003, the size of this demographic group had grown to 8.4 percent of the County's population, or nearly 83,000 individuals. The number of County residents age 65 or older is projected to nearly double in the next 20 years, and grow to almost 13 percent of the total population. Given this aging of the population, the County has begun highlighting the services currently provided to seniors. It should be noted that the figures in the following table do not reflect the cost of all services provided to seniors, as only those services specifically designed for seniors, or those where participation by this population has been tracked or can be reasonably estimated, have been included. There are many general County services that are used extensively by the senior population, such as Emergency Medical Services and cultural tours, but limited data on actual utilization rates makes it difficult to isolate and quantify those costs.

The table below and on the following page details the cost of services provided specifically to seniors included in the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan. Following the table is a description of the program, as well as utilization data by age if available. In FY 2008, services to seniors totals $66.6 million or 2.0 percent of General Fund Disbursements of $3.3 billion. Excluding the General Fund Transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools and School Debt Service of $1.7 billion, spending on services for seniors is approximately 4.2 percent of the remaining General Fund Disbursements.

County Funded Programs for Seniors[1]

	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan
Facilities Management Department			
Lease for the Lorton Senior Center at Gunston Plaza (Operated by the Department of Community and Recreation Services)	$90,845	$92,753	$95,536
Department of Transportation			
Seniors On the Go Taxi Cab Voucher Program	$325,290	$523,609	$504,386
Department of Community and Recreation Services			
Senior Center and Senior Plus Program	$1,626,685	$2,444,453	$3,543,810
Fairfax County Public Library			
Programs Primarily Used by Older Adults	$251,358	$263,887	$272,104
Department of Tax Administration			
Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled	$21,649,275	$25,881,200	$27,587,054
Department of Family Services			
Adult Protective Services	$1,114,118	$1,236,156	$1,256,629
Long-Term Care Services	4,208,499	8,660,073	6,849,191
Adult Services	2,157,006	2,284,331	2,356,312
Transportation Services	2,271,824	2,987,507	3,054,158
Subtotal Department of Family Services	$9,751,447	$15,168,068	$13,516,290
Health Department			
Adult Day Health Care Program	$2,153,814	$2,977,197	$3,019,619
Alzheimer's Family Day Care	82,600	300,000	300,000
Respite Program	27,880	327,319	314,697
Subtotal Health Department	$2,264,294	$3,604,516	$3,634,316
Fire and Rescue Department			
Senior Safety Programs	$39,175	$41,246	$41,388
Subtotal - General Fund	**$35,998,369**	**$48,019,732**	**$49,194,884**

Services for Seniors

County Funded Programs for Seniors[1]

Name and Description of Service	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan
Fund 103, Area Agency on Aging			
Community-Based Social Services	$745,266	$1,455,696	$1,215,782
Ombudsman	369,302	553,484	464,161
Fee for Service	199,029	411,627	270,190
Congregate Meals	1,788,808	3,005,018	2,373,941
Home-Delivered Meals	1,295,539	1,700,637	1,464,780
Care-Coordination	595,124	962,917	755,929
Caregiver Support	201,032	441,873	369,297
Subtotal Fund 103	$5,194,100	$8,531,252	$6,914,080
Fund 106, Community Services Board			
Countywide Older Adults and Families Program	$1,118,736	$1,152,298	$1,186,867
Fund 119, Contributory Fund			
Northern Virginia Healthcare Center/Birmingham Green Adult Care Residence	$1,062,628	$1,076,083	$1,396,691
Fund 141, Elderly Housing Programs			
Lewinsville Senior Residence, Little River Glen, and Lincolnia Center	$3,630,635	$3,589,502	$3,541,400
Fund 309, Metro Operations and Construction			
MetroAccess	$3,796,332	$3,772,015	$4,036,056
Fund 505, Technology Infrastructure Services			
Computer Labs	$282,144	$287,787	$293,542
Subtotal - General Fund Supported	**$15,084,575**	**$18,408,937**	**$17,368,636**
TOTAL SPENDING ON SENIOR PROGRAMS	**$51,082,944**	**$66,428,669**	**$66,563,520**

[1] This analysis reflects only those services included in General Fund and General Fund Supported agencies, and does not include services supported by non-General Fund or non-appropriated funds, such as rent relief provided through Fund 941, Fairfax County Rental Program, or recreational activities provided by Fund 111, Reston Community Center. Likewise, this analysis does not include capital projects funded in prior years, such as senior centers or adult day health care facilities. Capital expenses vary significantly from year to year and one year's data cannot serve as a proxy for "average" capital expenditures in a particular service area.

Services for Seniors

The following provides a brief description of the programs, as well as utilization data if available, included in the Services for Seniors table above. For additional information please refer to the specific agency narrative in Volume 1 and Volume 2.

Department of Transportation

Seniors on the Go Taxi Cab Voucher Program

The Seniors on the Go Taxi Cab Voucher Program allows seniors to purchase vouchers that partially subsidize the cost of taxi rides. Vouchers can be used by married couples over 65 with less than $50,000 in combined income and by single persons over 65 with less than $40,000 in income. The number of seniors served since program inception (through FY 2006) is 3,509; it is anticipated that an additional 984 will be served in FY 2006 and FY 2007.

Department of Community and Recreation Services

Senior Center and Senior Plus Program

The Department of Community and Recreation Services offers services to individuals aged 55 years and older. Services are primarily offered through the 13 senior centers located throughout the County. The Senior Plus Program (expanding to a total of seven senior centers in FY 2008) provides services for senior adults who require a higher level of assistance to participate in senior activities. There are 10,621 seniors currently registered for services either at a senior center or in the Senior Plus Program.

Fairfax County Public Library

Programs Primarily Used by Older Adults

The Fairfax County Public Library offers several programs which, although not limited to the senior population, are heavily used by older adults (those 62 and older). Examples of programs include talking books; home delivery program; book collections maintained at senior residences, nursing homes, and adult day care centers; large print books; and Dimview, a self-help group for adults who are coping with loss of vision.

Department of Tax Administration

Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled

Tax relief is provided to adults 65 and older and disabled persons on a graduated scale depending upon the level of income and net assets, which must not exceed $72,000 and $340,000, respectively. In FY 2006, over 6,900 people participated in the program.

Department of Family Services

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services provides mandated investigation of abuse, neglect or exploitation of senior adults and adults with disabilities as well as case management services to provide protection for at-risk adults in the community and in public and private facilities. Persons over 60 and persons 18 and older with an incapacitating condition for whom there is a reason to suspect abuse, neglect, or exploitation are eligible for services. In FY 2006, 761 clients were served.

Long-Term Care Services

Long-term care services provides case management and home-based care to adults 18 and older who have disabilities and persons over age 60 with the goal of maximizing independence and enabling persons served to remain in the community rather than moving to a more restrictive level of care. In FY 2006 2,187 clients were served.

Adult Services

Adult services provides case management, including needs assessment, care plans, coordination/authorization of services, and follow-up for senior adults 60 and older and adults over age 18 with disabilities. Some services also have functional and financial eligibility requirements.

Transportation Services
FASTRAN provides transportation between seniors' residence and their local senior center and adult day health care facility as well as trips in support of basic living. A fee of $0.50 is charged for each one-way trip. Seniors 60 and older who are attendees of a senior center or residents of senior housing are eligible for services. In FY 2006, 132,856 one-way trips were provided to 1,008 clients. In addition, there were 1,677 group trips provided in FY 2006.

Health Department

Adult Day Health Care Program
The Adult Day Health Care program provides therapeutic recreational activities, supervision and health care to meet the needs of adults, 18 years and older who have physical and/or cognitive disabilities. Services are provided on a sliding fee scale. The goal is to provide services to approximately 400 seniors, and that 90 percent of their family care givers will state that their loved one's participation in the program enables them to continue to live at home in the community.

Respite Program
The Respite Program provides center-based temporary relief on Saturdays to caregivers and families of adults who require full-time supervision due to confusion, memory loss, and/or physical disabilities. Eligible clients are individuals 18 and older who also meet income, residency and functional requirements. The program currently provides services to 50 individuals.

Alzheimer Family Day Center
The Alzheimer Family Day Center provides specialized day care services for people with Alzheimer's type illnesses as well as respite, support and education for their care giving families. In FY 2008, approximately 11 caregivers of Fairfax County clients will be able to continue to work and remain self-sufficient in the community. Additionally, in FY 2008, approximately 200 Fairfax family caregivers shall be reached through community outreach, education, support and training.

Fire and Rescue Department

Senior Safety Programs
The Fire and Rescue Department offers various senior safety programs for individuals 55 and older, including Senior Basic Fire Safety, Emergency Preparedness for the Older Adult, Life Safety Education Seniors Program, Caregiver and Staff Training for those who care for older adults, "Battery for Life" which provides free smoke alarm batteries, and the "File of Life" Program which is an educational program that stresses the importance of maintaining current medication dosages and current physician information. The department plans to reach 14,000 seniors in FY 2008.

Fund 103, Area Agency on Aging

Community-Based Services
Community-Based Services provides services to older adults age 60 and older to enable them to live as independently as possible in the community. This includes assisted transportation, information and referral, telephone reassurance, volunteer home services, insurance counseling, and other related services. In FY 2006, 7,712 seniors were served.

Ombudsman
The Ombudsman Program, serving the City of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, provides information about long-term care providers and educates the community about long-term care issues. The program resolves complaints against nursing and assisted living facilities as well as home care agencies through counseling, mediation and investigation.

Fee for Service
Fee for Service provides home-based care to income seniors 60 and older needing assistance with activities of daily living to enable them to remain in their homes rather than in more restrictive settings. Services are primarily targeted toward those seniors who are frail, isolated, of a minority group, or in economic need. In FY 2006, 113 people were served with 8,826 hours of services.

Home-Delivered Meals
Home-Delivered Meals provides meals to frail, homebound, low-income residents 60 and older who cannot prepare their own meals. The program utilizes a large number of volunteers who deliver a hot lunch and bagged dinner. In FY 2006, 289,045 meals were provided to 1,177 residents.

Care-Coordination
Provides case management/consultation services for elderly persons 60 and older with deficiencies in two or more activities of daily living (ADLs) and have a need for coordination of services.

Caregiver Support
Caregiver Support provides education and support services to caregivers of persons 60 and older, or seniors caring for grandchildren. Services include scholarships for respite care, gap-filling respite and bathing services, assisted transportation, assistance paying for supplies and services, and other activities that contribute to the well-being of senior adults and help to relieve caregiver stress. In FY 2006, 53 clients received services through the Adult Day Health care respite scholarship, 20 through the bathing and respite program, 53 through the Discretionary Fund, and 46 clients received assisted transportation services, taking 1,062 trips. A Kinship Care resource guide was produced, over two dozen seminars specifically for caregivers were offered, community presentations reached 1,000 caregivers, and an e-newsletter reached over 900 people per month.

Fund 106, Community Services Board
Countywide Older Adults and Families Program
CSB Mental Health Services provides mental health treatment services to adults over age 60 with mental illness. The program served 310 clients for a total of 2,524 service hours in FY 2006. This excludes some services with Senior Plus, Lincolnia, Rapid Response, and psychoeducation for which cases were not opened.

Fund 119, Contributory Fund,
Northern Virginia Healthcare Center/Birmingham Green Adult Care Residence
This facility is owned by the counties of Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William, and the City of Alexandria as tenants in common. During FY 2006, 113 Fairfax County citizens over the age of 55 were served in the facility (89 in the nursing facility and 24 in assisted living). For the nursing facility, an individual may have no more than $2,000 in resources and may have a gross monthly income of no more than $5,556 to be eligible for Medicaid on admission to this facility. For the assisted living facility, an individual may have no more than $2,000 in resources and a gross monthly income of no more than $1,300 (effective January 1, 2007).

Fund 141, Elderly Housing Programs
Lewinsville Senior Residence, Little River Glen, and Lincolnia Center
The Department of Housing and Community Development provides services related to the County's support of the operation of three locally-funded elderly housing developments, Lewinsville Senior Residence, Little River Glen, and Lincolnia Center, which are owned or leased by the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA). The programs' 220 available beds in the three facilities support clients who are 62 and older and also meet income requirements.

Fund 309, Metro Operations and Construction
MetroAccess
MetroAccess is a curb-to-curb public transit service provided to County residents who are ADA eligible and who are not able to use regular public transportation. An estimated 65 percent of ADA riders are over age 55. MetroAccess provided 170,700 trips for Fairfax County residents in FY 2006.

Fund 505, Technology Infrastructure Services
Computer Labs
The Department of Information Technology supports computer labs at libraries and recreation/senior centers that are used by citizens, many of whom are seniors.