

Services for Older Adults

Overview

Fairfax County projects a significant increase in the older adult population. Between 2010 and 2030, the County expects the 50 and over age group to increase by 19 percent, the 65 and over age group by 51 percent, and the 70 and over age group by 55 percent. This dramatic increase in the older population led to Board of Supervisors to adopt The Fairfax County 50+ Community Action Plan in September 2014. The Action Plan includes 31 initiatives regarding housing, transportation, community engagement, services, safety and health and long-range planning. Given this aging of the population, the County highlights services currently provided to older adults. It should be noted that the figures in the following table do not reflect the cost of all services provided to older adults, as only those services specifically designed for older adults, 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 older adult population, such as Emergency Medical Services and cultural tours, but limited data on actual utilization rates makes it difficult to quantify those costs.

Given the rapid growth in the older adult population in the County, the increasing trend of older adults aging in place and the commensurate increase in demand for services, a large number of service delivery models have been undertaken in various County agencies in recent years. Following the adoption of the FY 2010 budget and at the direction of the Board of Supervisors, staff from agencies providing services to older adults, including the Department of Family Services, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Health Department and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services have evaluated the continuum of older adult services including but not limited to Senior Centers and Adult Day Health Care Centers to ensure coordination of programs and opportunities for provision of more cost-efficient service delivery with the ultimate goal to promote long-term sustainability.

The table on the following pages details the cost of services provided specifically to older adults included in the FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan. Following the table is a description of the programs, as well as utilization data by age if available. In FY 2022, services to older adults total \$92.5 million or 2.1 percent of General Fund Disbursements of \$4.5 billion. Excluding the General Fund Transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools for School Operating, School Construction, and School Debt Service of \$2.4 billion, spending on services for older adults is approximately 4.4 percent of the remaining General Fund Disbursements.

Services for Older Adults

County Funded Programs for Older Adults¹

Name and Description of Service	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan
Facilities Management Department			
Lease for the Lorton Senior Center at Gunston Plaza (Operated by the Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services)	\$132,891	\$145,704	\$149,346
Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)			
Senior Centers for Active Adults and Support Services for Older Adults	\$4,559,211	\$4,932,566	\$4,801,045
Seniors-On-the-Go! Taxi Cab Voucher Program ²	16,997	166,369	NA
Subtotal Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services	\$4,576,208	\$5,098,935	\$4,801,045
Fairfax County Public Library			
Programs Primarily Used by Older Adults	\$683,109	\$545,026	\$683,109
Department of Tax Administration			
Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled	\$28,725,621	\$29,635,500	\$30,780,000
Department of Family Services			
Adult Protective Services	\$1,965,539	\$2,304,735	\$2,306,419
Adult and Aging Services	12,787,588	14,078,222	13,867,522
Subtotal Department of Family Services	\$14,753,127	\$16,382,957	\$16,173,941
Health Department			
Long-Term Care Developmental Services	\$3,150,504	\$3,484,087	\$3,445,345
Fire and Rescue Department			
Senior Safety Programs	\$69,083	\$78,543	\$78,543
Subtotal - General Fund	\$52,090,543	\$55,370,752	\$56,111,329

County Funded Programs for Older Adults¹

Name and Description of Service	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan	FY 2022 Advertised Budget Plan
Fund 50000, Federal-State Grant Fund³			
Community-Based Social Services ⁴	\$1,452,848	\$1,097,347	\$1,350,175
Ombudsman	412,661	51,429	344,743
Homemaker/Fee for Service	266,834	54,110	292,136
Congregate Meals ⁴	1,516,869	1,885,472	1,653,315
Home-Delivered Meals ⁴	1,465,387	1,205,090	1,616,626
Care-Coordination	547,697	177,430	470,717
Family Caregiver ⁴	511,516	352,845	419,368
Respite Care	27,518	28,478	54,550
Subtotal Fund 50000	\$6,201,330	\$4,852,201	\$6,201,630
Fund 40040, Community Services Board			
Countywide Older Adults and Families Program	\$1,566,554	\$1,559,148	\$1,559,148
Fund 10030, Contributory Fund			
Northern Virginia Healthcare Center/Birmingham Green Adult Care Residence	\$2,808,377	\$2,867,393	\$2,849,012
Fund 40330, Elderly Housing Programs			
Little River Glen and Lincolnia Center	\$3,517,389	\$3,292,378	\$2,433,259
Fund 30000, Metro Operations and Construction			
MetroAccess	\$20,803,032	\$20,157,343	\$23,010,000
Fund 60030, Technology Infrastructure Services			
Computer Labs	\$340,873	\$350,963	\$354,508
Subtotal - General Fund Supported	\$35,237,555	\$33,079,426	\$36,407,557
TOTAL SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS	\$87,328,098	\$88,450,178	\$92,518,886

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 81100, Fairfax County Rental Program, or recreational activities provided by Fund 40050, 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.

² Beginning in FY 2021 the Seniors-On-the-Go, Taxi Cab Voucher Program began to transition to become part of the Transportation Options, Programs, and Services (TOPS) program, which will consolidate several subsidized transportation programs administered by the NCS into a single program. TOPS is a transportation fare subsidy program for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents of Fairfax County. Utilization data and corresponding expenditures will not be available until the program is fully operational, currently expected in the third quarter of FY 2021.

³ The FY 2020 funding level represents anticipated funding, actual funding received may be different.

⁴ Includes one-time funding received to help address the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

Senior Centers for Active Adults and Support Services for Older Adults

Senior Centers for Active Adults offer opportunities to make friends, stay on the move, and learn new things. Fairfax County residents age 50 and over may join any of the 14 senior centers sponsored by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Additionally, each center provides a level of inclusive support services assisting older adults with minor cognitive and physical disabilities to actively participate in the day-to-day activities at Senior Centers. These support services provide case management for participants and their families when a member can no longer successfully participate at the centers with reasonable accommodations and requires transition to a higher level of services along the continuum of care.

Seniors on the Go! Taxi Cab Voucher Program

The Seniors on the Go! Taxi Cab Voucher Program allows older adults to purchase vouchers that partially subsidize the cost of taxi rides. Vouchers can be used by married couples age 65 and older with less than \$50,000 in combined annual income and by single persons age 65 and older with less than \$40,000 in annual income. In FY 2020, 54 older adults were newly enrolled in the program.

Beginning in FY 2021 the Taxi Cab Voucher Program will transition to become part of the Transportation Options, Programs, and Services (TOPS) program, which will consolidate several subsidized transportation programs administered by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services into a single program. TOPS is a transportation fare subsidy program for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents of Fairfax County utilizing debit card technology. Eligible participants will have expanded options available to them to travel affordably, safely, and independently using a travel method of their choice. These methods include fixed-route buses, Metrorail, Transportation Navigation Companies such as Uber and Lyft as well as taxis. It is anticipated that the TOPS program will be fully implemented within the third quarter of FY 2021.

Fairfax County Public Library

Programs Primarily Used by Older Adults

The Fairfax County Public Library offers several programs and services which, although not limited to the older adult population, are primarily used by older adults. These include the Talking Books Program; Home Delivery Service; book collections maintained at older adult residences, nursing homes, and adult day care center; large print books; outreach and trainings; book clubs; assistive technologies; BiFolkal multi-media memory activity kits; Aging, Disability and Accessibility focused reference collection; Braille Awareness kits; and self- help groups for adults who are coping with vision loss.

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 2020, 6,912 people participated in the program.

Department of Family Services

Adult Protective Services

Adult Protective Services provides mandated investigations of situations of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation involving older adults age 60+ and incapacitated adults age 18+ as well as case management services to provide protection for at-risk adults in the community and in public and private facilities. In FY 2020, 1,346 investigations were conducted.

Adult Services and Aging Services

Adult Services and Aging Services provides case management, including needs assessment, care plans, coordination/authorization of services, and follow-up for adults age 60 and older and adults age 18 and older with disabilities. The principal program which positively impacts clients' ability to age in place is the Home-Based Care program. This program provides for contracted in-home bathing, laundry, and light housekeeping services. Some services may have functional and financial eligibility requirements. In FY 2020, a total of 2,785 clients were served across all programs.

Health Department

Long-Term Care Services

Long-Term Care Developmental Services includes both the Adult Day Health Care program and the Insight Memory Care Center. 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 321 older adults in FY 2021 with 97 percent of participants meeting the criteria for institutional level of care, but their participation in the program enables them to continue to live at home in the community. The ADHC Centers closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, 2020 and have yet to re-open. This will impact the number of participants served in FY 2021. The Insight Memory Care Center (IMCC) provides specialized day care services for people with Alzheimer's type illnesses as well as respite, support and education for their care giving families.

Fire and Rescue Department

Senior Safety Programs

The Fire and Rescue Department offers various older adult safety programs for individuals 55 and older, including 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, "Smoke Alarm Program" 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 10,000 older adults in FY 2022.

Fund 50000, Federal-State Grant Fund

Community-Based Services

Community-Based Services provides services to 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 2020, 17,906 callers or persons making email inquiries to the Adult and Aging Division within the Department of Family Services received information and referral services and/or access to the services.

Ombudsman

The Ombudsman Program, serving the City of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun, improves quality of life for the more than 11,394 residents in 127 nursing and assisted living facilities by educating residents and care providers about patient rights and by resolving complaints against nursing and assisted living facilities, as well as home care agencies, through counseling, negotiation and investigation. More than 30 trained volunteers are part of this program. The program also provides information about long-term care providers and educates the community about long-term care issues. Please note Prince William County is no longer part of this partnership.

Homemaker

Homemaker provides services to adults age 60 and older to enable them to remain in their homes rather than in more restrictive settings. Services are primarily targeted towards those older adults who are frail, isolated, or in economic need. Programs include money management for 57 clients in FY 2020.

Congregate Meals

Congregate Meals are provided in 27 congregate meal sites around the County including the County's senior and adult day health care centers, several private senior centers and other sites serving older adults. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic all senior and adult day health care centers have been closed and the program has shifted to a home delivery model. In FY 2020, Congregate meals served 2,232 participants 242,475 meals.

Home-Delivered Meals

Home-Delivered Meals provides meals to frail, homebound, low-income residents age 60 and older who cannot prepare their own meals. In FY 2020, 297,301 meals were provided to 1,099 older adults and younger adults with disabilities. Meals are delivered through partnerships, volunteers and special vendor delivery.

Caregiver Support

Caregiver Support provides education and support services to caregivers of persons 60 and older, or older adults caring for grandchildren. Services include scholarships for respite care, gap-filling respite and bathing services, assisted transportation (which is also reflected in Community-Based Services), assistance paying for supplies and services, and other activities that contribute to the well-being of older adults and help to relieve caregiver stress. In FY 2019, 17 clients received services through the Adult Day Health Care respite scholarship, 58 caregivers received 8,566 hours of respite care, 28 clients through a combined bathing and respite services for a total of 3,125 hours, 16 clients supported through the Discretionary Fund to purchase equipment such as grab bars, and 20 clients received assisted transportation services, taking 467 one-way trips. The Golden Gazette, an aging newsletter, has over 6,000 monthly email subscribers and prints 26,000 copies for mailing.

Fund 40040, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

Countywide Older Adults and Families Program

The Older Adults and Families Program of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) provides strengths-based, person-centered, and solution-focused mental health outpatient treatment and case management services for older adults. Services support recovery and independence appropriate to the individual's physical and cognitive abilities and are provided in either an office or community-based setting, as appropriate. To address the unique needs of older adults, services include psychiatric evaluation, medication management, case management and supportive counseling, with linkage to and coordination of services with other community agencies, health care providers and family caregivers. In FY 2020, the program served 700 older adults age 60 and over for a total of 12,993 service hours.

Fund 10030, 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 2020, 149 Fairfax County residents were served in the facility (96 in the nursing facility and 53 in assisted living). To be eligible for admission to the nursing and assisted living facilities, older adults and adults with disabilities must meet income, resource, and functional requirements. The Department of Family Services' Self Sufficiency Division accepts and processes applications for Medicaid and auxiliary grants, and the Department of Family Services' Adult and Aging Division assesses for functional eligibility.

Fund 40330, Elderly Housing Programs

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 two locally-funded elderly housing developments, Little River Glen and Lincolnia Center Residences, which are owned or leased by the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA). The programs 198 available units/beds in the two facilities support clients who are 62 and older and also meet income requirements.

Fund 30000, Metro Operations and Construction

MetroAccess

MetroAccess is a door-to-door paratransit service for people with disabilities who are not able to use fixed-route forms (bus and rail) of public transportation due to functional limitations that relate to their disability. MetroAccess provided approximately 213,440 completed stops for Fairfax County residents in FY 2020. An estimated 59 percent of MetroAccess customers residing in Fairfax County are over age 55.

Fund 60030, 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 older adults.