

Summary
Baltimore City CARE Services
Area Plan Update
October 1, 2010- September 30, 2011
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What is an Area Plan?

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) divides the state into Planning and Service Areas (PSAs) and designates an organization to plan and administer a coordinated and comprehensive system of services for older adults in that PSA. The agency the State designates is an Area Agency on Aging.

Every four years in Maryland, an Area Agency on Aging is required to submit a comprehensive Area Plan to MDoA, describing how it will carry out the requirements of State and federal law. In the intervening years the Area Agency provides an annual update to the Department. For the coming fiscal year, the each Area Agency is required to submit a Plan update. The next comprehensive Plan will be due for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011 (FY 2012).

Baltimore City is holding a public hearing to solicit comment on its Area Plan update for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010 (FY 2011).

Organizational Change

Effective July 1, 2010, the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) assumed responsibility for the Area Agency on Aging function for Baltimore City. Consistent with the Older Americans Act, the Area Agency for Aging (AAA) for Baltimore City is an organizational unit named CARE Services in the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) directed by the Assistant Commissioner for School Health and Older Adult Programs. This individual currently serves as the Interim Director of the AAA.

CARE Services will manage all programs, service contracts and subgrants previously administered by the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education. CARE Services will subgrant information and assistance, client advocacy and case management programs to Baltimore HealthCare Access (BHCA), due to BCHA's experience with care coordination, outreach, and providing access to services.

The Area Agency on Aging transition will involve changes in organization.. BCHD does not anticipate, however, any significant change in the nature or the design of services for which the Area Agency on Aging is responsible in Fiscal Year 2011. Assuming no major changes in the AAA's State and federal funding allocations between FY 2010 and FY 2011, the senior citizens of Baltimore can expect the same level of service and programs that they have experienced previously, including senior centers, meals programs, caregiver support, information and assistance and advocacy.

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The Commission on Aging and Retirement Education, appointed by the Mayor of Baltimore City, will continue to serve as the advisory council for the Area Agency on Aging, in accordance with the Older Americans Act.

Update on Services and Programs

Senior Centers

CARE Services will continue to support fifteen senior centers in Baltimore City in FY 2011. CARE Services staff will manage six of these centers in facilities owned or leased by Baltimore City, and will provide grants to the remaining nine, operated by private nonprofits. Following is a list of the centers:

Managed by CARE Services

- Waxter Center, 1000 Cathedral Street, 21201
- Sandtown/Winchester, 1601 N. Baker Street, 21217
- Oliver Senior Center, 1700 N. Gay Street, 21213
- Hatton Senior Center, 2825 Fait Street, 21224
- John Booth Senior Center, 229 S. ½ Eaton Street, 21224
- Zeta Senior Center, 4501 Reisterstown Road, 21215

Managed by private nonprofits with support from CARE Services

- Action in Maturity, 3900 Roland Road, 21211
- Allen Center, 1404 S. Charles Street, 21230
- Cherry Hill Senior Life Center, 606 Cherry Hill Road, Suite 201, 21225
- Forest Park Senior Center, 4801 Liberty Heights Ave, 21215
- Greenmount Senior Center, 425 E. Federal Street, 21202
- Harford Senior Center, 4920 Harford Road, 21214
- Myerberg Senior Center, 3101 Fallstaff Road, 21209
- Senior Network of North Baltimore, 5828 York Road, 21212
- Southwest Senior Center, 1200 W. Baltimore Street, 21223

Baltimore City Senior Centers provide socialization and life enriching activities for persons 60 and over including health, fitness and educational opportunities, recreation programs, and intergenerational programs. Each center also hosts an Eating Together congregate meal site, and serves as a point of access to the service system. In addition, the six publicly managed centers serve as cooling sites during Code Red hot weather emergencies in Baltimore City.

Nutrition Programs

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CARE Services will continue to provide the congregate meal program, Eating Together in Baltimore at over 50 sites throughout the City, including congregate housing facilities. CARE Services will continue to provide the home delivered meals program through a contract with a qualified service provider. No significant changes in these programs are anticipated in the coming fiscal year. CARE Services will continue to distribute Farmers' Market Coupons to eligible seniors, contingent upon the availability of funding for this program.

Adult Day Care

In the coming fiscal year CARE Services will continue to operate the Eleanor Hooper Adult Day Care Center, which provides specialized services for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The AAA will also continue to provide supplemental assistance for participants at four other non-profit adult day care programs in the City.

Transportation

In FY 2011, CARE Services will continue to provide the Taxi Card program. This service, managed by MJ Management, provides subsidized taxi rides via a debit card system in which the user also contributes money to the card to increase the value of the ride. CARE Services will also continue to provide contracted transportation service for the Oliver and Sandtown senior centers and for the adult day care program.

Senior Information and Assistance/Maryland Access Point

CARE Services, through Baltimore HealthCare Access will continue to provide a centralized point of entry into Baltimore City's system of services for the City's older population and their family caregivers. Senior Information and Assistance will provide answers to questions about services and benefits by telephone and in person and will provide hands-on assistance to seniors having difficulty applying for programs and benefits or navigating the system.

Maryland Access Point (MAP) is a federally funded project recently begun in Baltimore City. In FY 2011 MAP will continue to provide comprehensive guidance for older adults and younger persons with disabilities who need help maintaining their independence in the community.

Senior Health Insurance Program

CARE Services will continue to provide the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) through Baltimore HealthCare Access. The SHIP program deploys paid staff and volunteers to provide Baltimore City seniors with guidance on health insurance including Medicare, Medicare supplemental policies and Medicaid. A companion program, Senior Medicare Patrol assists Medicare beneficiaries in identifying potential insurance fraud and abuse.

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Long Term Care Ombudsman

CARE Services will continue to provide the Long Term Care Ombudsman advocacy program through Baltimore HealthCare Access. Paid staff and volunteers protect the rights of residents of Baltimore City's 32 nursing homes and 311 assisted living facilities by responding to and investigating complaints made by or on behalf of residents.

Public Guardianship

In accordance with State law, the Director of Baltimore City's AAA will continue to serve as guardian of the person for persons 65 and over who are legally incompetent. Case management services for guardianship clients will be provided through a subgrant to Baltimore HealthCare Access.

Community-Based Long Term Care

CARE Services will continue to operate several community-based long term care services for older residents of Baltimore who are at risk of institutionalization. These programs will be administered by Baltimore HealthCare Access and will include:

- The Older Adult Medicaid Waiver providing case management and a wide range of in-home services for persons 50 and over who qualify for a Medicaid nursing home level of care and who meet financial eligibility requirements.
- The Senior Care Program providing case management and community support services for persons 65 and over who are at risk of nursing home placement.
- The Senior Assisted Living Subsidy Program providing financial support for older residents of licensed assisted living facilities with four to sixteen beds.

In addition, the AAA will continue to implement the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Initiative, which provides support for Medicaid eligible persons who want to transition from institutional settings to the community.

Family Caregiver Program

The AAA will continue to manage The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). NFCSP provides information, assistance, outreach, education and training, respite care and support services for caregivers for persons 60 and over **and for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders**. The program also supports grandparents 55 and over caring for a grandchild under the age of 18, or a grandchild with disabilities 18 and over, residing in the grandparent's home.