

Rhode Island  
Division of Elderly Affairs  
Louis Pasteur Building, #57  
25 Howard Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

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Main Telephone Line.....(401) 462-3000  
Hearing Impaired (TTY).....(401) 462-0740  
The POINT/ADRC.....(401) 462-4444  
Protective Services.....(401) 462-0555  
Home & Community Care Intake..(401) 462-0570  
SHIP Toll-Free Line.....(888) 884-8721  
Senior Medicare Patrol.....(401) 462-0931  
Senior Companion.....(401) 462-0569  
Senior Nutrition.....(401) 462-0931  
Volunteer Guardianship.....(401) 462-3292  
Long Term Care Ombudsman.....(401) 785-3340  
Fax.....(401) 462-0503



Empowering Seniors  
Preserving Independence  
Enriching Lives

## Programs and Services

Louis Pasteur Building, #57  
25 Howard Avenue, Second Floor  
Cranston, RI 02920  
(401) 462-3000  
[www.dea.ri.gov](http://www.dea.ri.gov)



## Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs

Our mission is simple:

***To preserve the independence, dignity, and capacity for choice for seniors, adults with disabilities, families and caregivers.***

Daily, DEA's staff focuses our efforts on programs and services that will help aging adults to live independently in the community with a high quality of life for as long as possible

The 2016 American Community Survey reported that 166,517 RI residents were age 65 or older; that number will skyrocket to almost 250,000 in 2030. By 2025, Rhode Island will be considered a "Super Aging" state, where more than twenty percent of our population will be over age 65; Little Compton, New Shoreham, North Providence and Tiverton are already super aging.

By helping older Rhode Islanders to stay healthy and independent, we not only will fulfill our mission and improve the quality of life for our seniors, we also preserve taxpayer dollars by preventing or delaying Medicaid eligibility.

This brochure provides an overview of the programs and services funded by and offered through the Division of Elderly Affairs, *most of which are available to all older adult residents, regardless of income.* Please review the information contained herein, and contact our staff for additional information.

## *Protecting Older Adults*

**Adult Protective Services (APS)** is responsible for investigating complaints of abuse of Rhode Islanders 60 and older by a family member, caregiver, or person with duty of care. Self-neglect occurs when a person is no longer able to care for himself/herself. Reports of self-neglect are also made to the DEA APS Unit. The senior's needs are assessed and necessary services can be provided.

State law requires any person who has reasonable cause to believe that a senior has been abused, or is neglecting his or her basic needs, to report it to DEA. Failure to report abuse of a person 60 or older can result in a fine of up to \$1,000.

Abuse and self-neglect reports can be filed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and on nights, weekends, and holidays, by calling 462-0555. Reports can be filed anonymously.

The **Volunteer Guardianship Program** trains volunteers to serve as health care guardians for eligible frail elders with a dementia diagnosis. Call 462-3293 for additional details.

The **Long Term Care Ombudsman** advocates, mediates, and helps to solve problems for residents of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and those receiving home care or hospice services. The Rhode Island State Long Term Care Ombudsman is also responsible for investigating complaints of inadequate care and abuse suffered by elders and adults with disabilities who are using long-term care services. All reports of abuse and neglect are kept confidential. Call 785-3340 to make a report or to gain additional information.



## *Keeping Seniors in the Community*

### **Home & Community Care (HCC) Programs**

The **HCC Co-Pay Program** provides home- and community-based services at a reduced rate to eligible individuals. Co-payment amounts are determined by the client's income level. Income guidelines are updated annually and do not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit. DEA works with a network of regional case management agencies to develop care plans to help seniors remain in the least restrictive & safest environment.

To be eligible for the **HCC Co-Pay Program**, a person must be a Rhode Island resident age 65 or older, be ineligible for Medicaid, unable to leave home without considerable assistance, and need help with the tasks of daily living. Call 462-0570.

The **HCC Respite Program** consists of planned or emergency care that provides temporary relief to family caregivers of all ages. The **CareBreaks Program** assists caregivers taking care of family members age 60 and older. If needed, CareBreaks may also help to pay part of the cost for respite provided by approved agencies. Contact 462-4444 for additional information.

The **HCC Senior Companion Program** trains volunteers to serve isolated older adults in their own homes, adult day centers, and other community sites. Volunteers must be 55 or older and must meet specified income limits. Senior Companions visit with almost 500 elders weekly. For additional information, call 462-0569.

## *Delivering Valuable Information*

The **POINT** is Rhode Island's **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**. Regional ADRCs are focal points for information and referral services about community-based long-term care programs and long-term care options counseling.

Rhode Island provides integration of ADRC and Information and Referral Services, ensuring that seniors, adults with disabilities, families, and caregivers receive essential and timely information that is consistent, culturally appropriate, and in their own communities.

The POINT's statewide call center is housed at United Way of Rhode Island and can be reached 24 hours per day, 365 days a year, at 462-4444.

To find your regional POINT, call your local senior center or the statewide call center at 462-4444.

The **Rhode Island Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)** is part of a national partnership to help consumers make informed health care choices. Certified SHIP counselors and volunteers provide one-to-one, unbiased Medicare counseling to seniors, adults with disabilities, families, and caregivers. The program is designed to help seniors and adults with disabilities understand health care cost and coverage relating to Medicare, Medicare Part D, supplemental insurance, Medicare Advantage plans, and other health insurance options. Call 1-888-884-8721 to connect with a counselor.

The **Rhode Island Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** program helps beneficiaries recognize and report Medicare and Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse. To volunteer and/or report fraud, waste, and abuse call 462-0931.

## *Funding Supportive Services*

**Senior Centers** offer volunteer opportunities, recreation, group activities, counseling, information and referral, continuing education, and other support services for seniors. Most provide hot lunches, outreach, transportation, and health services. DEA funds senior centers through state and federal grants, as well as provides administrative consultation. For information on your local senior center, call The POINT at 462-4444.

**Senior Nutrition Programs** are known as the **Cafés**. The **Cafés** welcome all diners 60 and over. There is a suggested donation of \$3 per meal. No one is turned away if they cannot make a donation. To find a **Café** location near you, call 462-4444.

**Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island** provides home delivered meals to frail, homebound seniors and qualified disabled persons, five days per week. To qualify, seniors must be 60 years or older, live alone, have no one to help them, and be unable to shop, cook, or drive. Donations are accepted, but are not mandatory. Call 351-6700 for additional details.

The **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** provides monthly food assistance specifically targeted at low income seniors. The CSFP is designated to meet the unique nutritional needs of seniors by supplementing diets with a monthly package of healthy, nutritious food. Call 462-0931 for additional information.

