DARS | Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES

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FACT SHEET 2026

OVERVIEW: The Division for Aging Services is housed at the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). Aging Services' focus is to improve the lives of older Virginians so they can live independently longer and participate fully in their communities.

Approximately 2 million Virginians are aged 60 years or older. Projections indicate that 2.2 million Virginians will reach age 60 by 2030. The Division for Aging Services oversees Virginia's 25 **Area Agencies on Aging**, which provide a wide variety of services and programs at the local level primarily to adults ages 60 or older and their families or caregivers.

With approximately $43 million in federal funding and $23 million in state funding for aging services, DARS has diligently used this money to improve core aging services.

SUCCESSES: The following successes supported Older Virginians in remaining in their communities and avoiding institutionalization:

Services Provided in SFY 2025 (7/1/24-6/30/25):

Area Agencies on Aging	76,246 older adults served
Congregate Meals	579,525 meals served
Home Delivered Meals for homebound individuals	2.2 million meals provided
Homemaker Services	600 ppl received 72,405 service hours
Personal Care	534 ppl received 108,632 hours of care
Farm Market Fresh for Seniors	17,897 ppl served
WIC Farm Market Fresh Nutrition Program	3,317 ppl served
Lifespan Respite Grant	424 caregivers reimbursed
Virginia Insurance Counseling & Assistance Program	32,661 ppl served
Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act	16,451 ppl served
Dementia Care Management	268 ppl received 3,952 service hours

Grants Received by the Division for Aging Services:

HUD Older Adult Home Modification Grant Program (7/23 – 6/26)	$1,175,656
Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (4/25 – 3/26)	$1,161,296
Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (9/24 – 8/25)	$986,745
Virginia GrandDriver (10/24 – 9/25)	$745,228
Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (10/24 – 9/25)	$403,739
WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (10/24-9/25)	$70,016
Lifespan Respite Care Program (7/21-6/26)	$1,711,480
WIC FM Nutrition Program e-Solution (3/24 – 9/26)	$349,995
Senior Cool Care (Yearly)	$85,000
SNAP Outreach (10/24 – 9/25)	$59,145

ADVISORY BOARDS WITHIN THE DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES:

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Commission (ADRDC)

- Held half-day *Dementia Summit* with over 75 attendees including legislators, providers, caregivers and other advocates to discuss solutions for gaps in dementia services.
- Developed brain health social media toolkit for Area Agencies on Aging to help connect their existing programs to brain health and dementia risk reduction.
- Significantly expanded Dementia Capable Virginia website (due to launch early 2026) to include new resources and expanded information and links to support people living with dementia and their caregivers, providers and researchers.
- Developed five policy recommendations for the incoming administration and the 2026 General Assembly.
- Delivered the required Annual Report covering Commission activities and policy recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly and DARS by October 1 (https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2025/RD508/PDF).

Commonwealth Council on Aging (CCOA)

- Hosted a Legislative Partners Meeting in April 2025. Partners in aging-related advocacy shared their progress from 2025 and priorities for 2026.
- Welcomed two new members: Vickie Runk and Donna Smith.
- 2025 Best Practices Awards were selected: Fellowship Fresh (First Place), The Beat Goes On: A Community Choir Project (Second Place), and Virginia HEAR-Helping Elders Access Resources (Third Place). Winners were honored at a reception at the Virginia Governor's Conference on Aging in Williamsburg, VA.
- CCOA underwent a branding update and which is showcased in the 2025 CCOA Annual Report (https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2025/RD504/PDF).

DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES INITIATIVES:

Virginia Lifespan Respite Program (VLRVP)

Achievements/Progress: The Virginia Lifespan Respite Program was expanded to include kinship caregivers – grandparents raising their grandchildren or other relatives. Overall, the Lifespan respite program saw 424 caregivers (of which 18 were kinship caregivers) reimbursed a total of $260,819 to ensure care for their loved ones during a brief respite period. Three AAAs have been provided funding to support up to 40 hours per month in respite care to caregivers of older adults living with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

The Virginia Caregiver Coalition continues to foster collaboration and learning. General membership meets every other month via Zoom for networking, training, education, project brainstorming, and resource sharing. Members include family caregivers, aging and disability agency staff, state employees, and researchers. Meetings are recorded, making participation flexible and convenient.

Virginia GrandDriver

Achievements/Progress: Virginia GrandDriver is a public awareness campaign designed to help seniors stay safe on the road. The www.granddriver.net website provides safety information as a mature driver, caregiver, or professional. Through a grant from NHTSA and DMV, DARS manages the Virginia GrandDriver website with safety resources for drivers, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Virginia GrandDriver has two big campaign seasons, May and November.
This past year's impact:

• Television ads	12,594,689 impressions
• Radio PSAs	4,468,398 impressions
• Digital online ads	6,074,873 impressions
• Transit Ads	1,668,576 impressions
• 59 in person outreach events	11,550 attendees
• 12 presentations	559 attendees
• 16 CarFit events	160 attendees

243 seniors received comprehensive driving assessments last year because of grant funding to Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists provided by the GrandDriver program.

Senior Farm Market Fresh Nutrition Program (SFMFNP)

Achievements/Progress: In 2025, 17,897 older adults and 3,317 WIC clients redeemed $552,324 in Farm Market Fresh benefits for fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. 274 authorized farmers sold their produce to eligible participants at 235 participating farmers' markets across the Commonwealth. To aid in the success of this program, 26 local senior agencies (AAAs and community partners), the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), and Virginia Farmers Market Association (VAFMA) all supported this effort.

Additionally, this season, Virginia launched a new electronic benefit delivery system, called Healthy Together, transitioning from paper-based vouchers to a digital platform using Quick Response (QR) codes.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Older Adult Home Modification Grant Program

Achievements/Progress: Three subrecipients: Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (AASC), Bay Aging (BA), and Southern Area Agency on Aging (SAAA), continue to participate in the HUD Older Adults Home Modification Program (OAHMP) grant, working to provide low-cost, high-impact home modifications that improve safety and independence for older adults.

AASC has completed seven home modification projects to date, with seven additional projects awaiting necessary documentation to begin recommended safety enhancements. BA has completed one project, with two more fully assessed and ready for implementation, and one home pending assessment. SAAA recently onboarded a qualified Occupational Therapy practitioner after extensive recruitment efforts; home evaluations will begin soon. Currently, two clients are in various intake stages.

Virginia Insurance Counseling & Assistance Program (VICAP)

Achievements/Progress: (VICAP) strengthened its role as a trusted resource for Medicare information by expanding outreach and volunteer diversity. Through a comprehensive media strategy, including TV, radio, digital, and social media campaigns, the program reached nearly 15 million people over five years. In SFY25 VICAP provided counseling to 32,661 beneficiaries and made 19,915 outreach contacts, while continuing to distribute updated materials and run commercials across multiple platforms.

Supported by MIPPA funding, VICAP focused on connecting Medicare beneficiaries with the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and Medicare Savings Program (MSP), while promoting preventive services and wellness benefits. Outreach expanded through community events, partnerships, and statewide media campaigns, including Spanish-language commercials and updated educational materials. During SFY25, VICAP recorded 16,451 MIPPA contacts, submitted 1,492 applications, and reached 15,723 people through events. Notable gains during the grant period included a 15.4% increase in rural beneficiaries, an 86% increase in Native American contacts, and steady engagement with under-65 and limited-English-speaking populations. Media efforts generated over 746,000 impressions, underscoring MIPPA's critical role in improving access to benefits and strengthening outreach to hard-to-reach communities.

Senior Cool Care

Achievements/Progress: Dominion Energy provided an $85,000 grant to purchase air conditioners and fans for older adults. The AAAs distributed 417 window A/C units, 36 large, portable A/C units and 432 fans to qualifying low-income older adults throughout the Commonwealth in need of cooling devices from May to October. The AAAs contributed $8,600 in supplementary funds for additional air conditioners and fans due to high levels of need in our state.

Dementia Services

Achievements/Progress: The Dementia Services Director delivered 28 presentations across the Commonwealth, reaching nearly 1,000 attendees with vital information on brain health and dementia. This included two trainings at the Virginia State Police Academy, and four events held with the Department for Deaf and Hard of Hearing around the state. The Commonwealth funded additional Dementia Care Management services delivered in the Williamsburg area by the Riverside Martha W. Goodson Center in partnership with Peninsula Agency on Aging. The $200,000 to support this program added to the annual $262,500 in funding for services provided by the University of Virginia's Memory and Aging Care Clinic in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association since 2021. Dementia Services also partnered with The Span Center and the Alzheimer's Association to deliver two programs on Dementia and Living Well at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center in Richmond to honor Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month in June 2025.

Contact: Kiersten Ware - Deputy Commissioner, Aging Services
Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Kiersten.Ware@dars.virginia.gov