



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)?**

OSA is Michigan's designated state unit on aging, formed under the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. It operates under the authority of the Older Americans Act, which was signed into law in 1965 to meet the diverse needs of the growing numbers of older adults in the United States.

### **How was OSA established?**

Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in response to concerns about a lack of community and social services for older adults in the United States.

The OAA then established a national network of state and local agencies, known as the national aging network, which is headed by the U.S. Administration on Aging. This national network includes 56 state units on aging. OSA is the designated state unit on aging serving Michigan's older adults.

### **How does OSA help older adults?**

As Michigan's leader on aging issues for more than 40 years, OSA provides leadership, resources and support for older adults throughout the state.

OSA oversees Michigan's aging network – a partnership of the state of Michigan, 16 regional area agencies on aging, and more than 1,300 local community-based agencies offering older adult and family caregiver services.

OSA promotes independence and enhances the dignity of Michigan's older adults and their families. Michigan has 1.9 million older adults, of which nearly one-half million are served by statewide programs funded by OSA.

## **What is the aging network?**

Every aging network shares a common agenda of providing the opportunities and support for older adults to live independent, productive, dignified lives and maintain close family and community ties.

The national aging network plans and provides services that enable older adults to live independently in their homes and community across the United States.

The national aging network is headed by the U.S. Administration on Aging and includes 56 state agencies on aging, 629 Area Agencies on Aging, 246 Native American aging programs, more than 29,000 service providers, and thousands of volunteers.

Michigan's aging network is headed by OSA and includes 16 regional area agencies on aging and more than 1,300 local community-based agencies offering older adult and family caregiver services.

## **What is an area agency on aging?**

An area agency on aging (AAA), often called a "Triple-A," is a public or private non-profit agency, designated by the state to address the needs and concerns of older adults at the local level. AAAs were established by federal law in 1974. There are 16 AAAs in Michigan and 629 in the United States.

AAAs play a key role in planning and creating new programs, providing access to services, advocating for older adults, and helping to implement community and social services at the local level. AAAs do not provide services directly, but work closely with a network of more than 1,300 service providers in the state to serve older adults in their service area.

## **Who can get help from a AAA?**

Most individuals age 60 years and older are eligible for services, although priority is given to those who are in greatest need. Programs and services are tailored for older adults and their families, but in many areas there are programs and services for adults with physical disabilities as well. Contact your local AAA for more information about what is available in your area.

**Do AAA services cost anything?**

Most services are provided at no or low-cost. Some do have fees, but are typically based on a scale to ensure they are affordable. Contact your local AAA for more information about what is available in your area.

**How do I contact my local AAA?**

To contact your local AAA, you can visit [www.michigan.gov/osa](http://www.michigan.gov/osa) or call 517-373-8230 and we will connect you to your local agency.

**How is OSA funded?**

The U.S. Administration on Aging awards OAA funds to OSA and other state units on aging across the United States. The Michigan Legislature also awards funds to OSA for home and community-based services.

Funding is allocated to OSA based on the number of older adults, those who are age 60 years and older, in the state. Most states, including Michigan, are divided into planning and service areas so that programs and services can be tailored to meet specific needs.

OSA currently manages nearly \$93 million in federal and state (non-Medicaid) funding for community-based programs and to serve older adults throughout the state.

**Where is OSA located?**

OSA is located at 300 E. Michigan Avenue (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) in Lansing, Mich.

**How do I contact OSA?**

To contact OSA, you can visit [www.michigan.gov/osa](http://www.michigan.gov/osa) and fill out the "Contact Us" form or you can call 517-373-8230.

