

Rick Scott
Governor

Samuel P. Verghese
Secretary

Department of
ELDER AFFAIRS

STATE OF FLORIDA



2015 FUNDING INCREASES AT A GLANCE

Governor Scott increased funding by more than \$10 million, including the following:

\$1.7 million for the Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative (ADI) for respite care services and to remove individuals from the waitlist;

\$2 million for Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) to help reduce the program’s waitlist;

\$250,000 to restore and expand the Senior Legal Helpline;

\$3.2 million for the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Long-Term Care Program (SMMCLTC);

\$650,000 for Alzheimer’s initiatives; and

\$2.25 million for hot meals across South Florida.

Since coming to office, Governor Scott has provided nearly \$153 million increases to benefit Florida elders.

DOEA Profile

The Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) is the official State Unit on Aging. Since 1992, DOEA has served as the primary state agency for administering human services programs for elders and developing policy recommendations for long-term care.

DOEA Goals



DOEA Services to Seniors: FY 2014-2015

- More than 1.1 million elders were served through DOEA programs.
- More than 12.7 million meals were provided to elders through the Department’s programs. Of these, more than 7.4 million meals were delivered to individuals’ homes, and more than 5.3 million were provided at congregate meal sites.

2015 Accomplishments

- **Dementia Care and Cure Initiative:** In August, Secretary Verghese announced the new initiative to improve the lives of Floridians affected by dementia. The mission of the initiative is to engage communities across the state to be more dementia friendly, promote better care for Floridians affected by dementia, and support research efforts to find a cure.
- **Silver Alert - Lost on Foot Expansion:** The Silver Alert program has expanded again to include a new initiative – Lost on Foot. Most of the previous efforts through Silver Alert were focused on individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease or Related Dementias who went missing in a vehicle. Lost on Foot provides a better reporting system for when those individuals elope on foot.
- **SHINE** (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteers increased to the highest number ever recorded with more than 650 active or in training.

Seniors in Florida

- With more than 4.9 million residents age 60 and older, Florida currently ranks first in the nation in percentage of citizens who are elders.
- Florida’s senior population is expected to increase to 7.1 million by 2030.
- More than 1.6 million Floridians are age 75 and older, and 100 and older is the fastest growing age group by percentage.
- It is estimated that more than 510,000 individuals in Florida are living with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD).

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Some of our program highlights include:

- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI)
- Dementia Care and Cure Initiative
- Respite for Caregivers
- Elder Abuse Prevention Program
- Health & Wellness Programs
- Intergenerational Connections
- *Elder Update* Newspaper
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Meals on Wheels Program
- Memory Disorder Clinics
- Nutrition Programs
- Statewide Public Guardianship Office
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Communities for a Lifetime Initiative
- Senior Legal Services
- Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders (SHINE) Program

For a full list of programs and services, visit elderaffairs.org.



 elderaffairs.org

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4040 Esplanade Way - Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: (850) 414-2000 | Elder Helpline: 1-800-963-5337

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find information about receiving long-term care services?

CARES staff completes face-to-face assessments and medical case file reviews of individuals to assist them and their caregivers in determining the individual's long-term care service needs. They focus on recommending the least restrictive living arrangement in which the individual can be safely served. Individuals seeking Medicaid services through home and community-based waiver programs must first be determined medically eligible by CARES staff. For eligibility information, please contact the Elder Helpline to locate your local Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

Can I file an abuse complaint with the Department of Elder Affairs?

To file an abuse, neglect, or exploitation complaint, contact the Abuse Hotline at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873). You may also call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) and ask for the abuse prevention coordinator in your area.

I'm a low income senior, and I need help with a legal problem. Where can I get assistance?

The Senior Legal Helpline provides free legal assistance for eligible Floridians age 60 and older at 1-888-895-7873. Staff at the Elder Helpline (1-800-96-ELDER) can also make referrals to local legal aid programs that provide free legal representation to low income individuals with civil legal problems.

I'm a low income senior on a tight budget and need to find work. Where can I get help?

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) trains low-income individuals age 55 and older in part-time community service assignments and assists them to develop skills and gain experience to facilitate their transition to unsubsidized employment. You may contact SCSEP's State Director at (850) 414-2000.

For other questions call the Elder Helpline at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) or visit elderaffairs.org

Elder Update

Elder Update is the Department's bimonthly newspaper that features articles of interest to Florida seniors and their families and is distributed at no cost to approximately 50,000 seniors. Topics covered include important news and updates from the Department of Elder Affairs, messages from the Secretary and Governor Rick Scott, frequently asked questions pertaining to Medicare, stories about outstanding veterans and volunteers, and other important information about programs in Florida that help support Florida's 4.9 million seniors and their families. Once a year, a special edition is published in advance of hurricane season. The Department's *Disaster Preparedness Guide* provides important information about preparing for emergency events, such as hurricanes, safety tips during an emergency event, and how to prevent becoming a victim of fraud following an event. Subscribe today for free at elderaffairs.org.

