

AGING STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

State Profile for

ALABAMA

Home- and Community-based Services for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Background

- Alabama's 60+ population was 888,870 in 2008 (19.1% of the state's total population), with 12% below the federal poverty level.¹
- The 60+ population is projected to be 1,268,024 in 2025 (26.4% of the state's total population).²
- About 24.6% of all households in 2007 had one or more persons age 65 years and older, and 49.7% of persons age 65 years and older had a disability.³
- Of the 780,617 Medicaid beneficiaries in the state in 2003, 7.8% were aged, 22.6% were blind and disabled, 24.6% were Dual Eligible, and 1.6% were HCBS waiver beneficiaries.⁴
- Medicaid expenditures for institutional long-term care were 71.6% of total long-term-care expenditures, compared to 28.4% for HCBS, in fiscal year 2007.⁵

Abbreviations

AAA	Area Agency on Aging
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
AoA	Administration on Aging
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
HCBS	Home- and Community-based Services
IADL	Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
MRDD	Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
OAA	Older Americans Act
PACE	Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly
SUA	State Unit on Aging

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. (2009). *AGing Integrated Database (AGID): American Community Survey (ACS) demographic data 2004-2007 and state-level population estimates data 2000-2008* [Data files]. Available from <http://198.136.163.234/default.asp>

² Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging. (2009). *Aging statistics: Projected future growth of the Older population; By state: 2005-2030; Aged 60 and above* [Data files]. Available from http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/future_growth/future_growth.aspx.

³ Reimbursement and Research Department, American Health Care Association. (2006, August 29). *The state long-term health care sector 2005: Characteristics, utilization, and government funding*. Washington, DC: Author.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey, United States and States. *Percent of households with one or more people 65 years and over* (R1104) and *Percent of people 65 years and over with a disability* (R1803).

⁵ Burwell, B., Sredl, K., & Eiken, S. (2008, September 26). *Medicaid long term care expenditures FY 2007*. Eagan, MN: Thomson Reuters.

Government Structure to Manage HCBS Non-Medicaid

- **SUA:** Alabama Department of Senior Services. www.adss.alabama.gov
- **State Medicaid Agency:** Alabama Medicaid. www.medicaid.alabama.gov
- The Alabama Department of Senior Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Rehabilitation Services and Department of Mental Health are all involved in providing home- and community-based services for older adults and adults with physical disabilities in Alabama.
- The director of Alabama's SUA reports to the Governor.
- Alabama has 13 Area Agencies on Aging.

Single Point of Entry/ADRC

- Alabama has a virtual ADRC that is statewide.
- Some ADRC sites have a physical (bricks and mortar) infrastructure and some ADRC sites operate under a virtual model.
- Agencies or individuals seeking information regarding aging services can access the web link at www.alabamaconnect.gov or call 1-800-Ageline toll-free to obtain information about the services offered for individuals who live in Alabama.

Assessment Process

Medicaid

- For Medicaid applicants, in determining eligibility for nursing home pre-admission, Alabama does not require an in-person assessment by someone other than nursing home staff. Eligibility for nursing home admission is determined by nursing home intake staff. Each individual state agency is responsible for performing assessments to determine if a client meets the eligibility criteria for HCBS.

- For non-Medicaid applicants in Alabama, nursing home pre-admission assessment is not performed by someone other than nursing home staff. Eligibility for nursing home admission is determined by nursing home intake staff. Each individual state agency is responsible for performing applicable assessments for any services they may offer for non-Medicaid clients.

State Medicaid Plan

- Alabama does not provide HCBS through the state Medicaid plan.
- Consumer-directed options are under the State Medicaid Plan; however, participants must be enrolled in the Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program or the SAIL Waiver Program in order to be eligible to participate in the state plan program. (For more information see 'Medicaid Waivers' and 'CMS-funded Programs and Grants' below.) Clients enrolled in the program will receive services not covered under consumer direction through the traditional waiver program.
- Refer to Table 1 for specific services provided.
- **PACE:** Alabama does not have any PACE sites.

Medicaid Waivers

- Alabama has three waivers that serve older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are: Elderly and Disabled Waiver, State of Alabama Independent Living Waiver (SAIL), and Technology Assistance Program for Adults.
- Elderly and Disabled Waiver serves all age groups. The Department of Senior Services and the Department of Public Health each manage half of the participants in this waiver program. The Alabama Department of Senior Services contracts with local Area Agencies on Aging, whose case managers conduct the initial assessment for services. The appli-

cant's physician must certify the medical level of care criteria for participation, and Medicaid approves the financial eligibility.

- State of Alabama Independent Living Waiver serves disabled adults with specific medical diagnoses who meet nursing home level-of-care criteria. The program is administered by the Department of Rehabilitation Services. In FY 2005, 554 individuals were served through community-based long-term-care options. About \$6.5 million was spent on community-based long-term-care options. To further promote personal responsibility and choice by allowing individuals to make decisions about their long-term-care needs, Medicaid has submitted a proposal to CMS to allow case management activities to begin while an individual is in a nursing home. The case management activities will assist in the coordination and arrangement of services and support to facilitate the individual's successful transition from the nursing home back into the community through the SAIL program.
- Technology Assistance Program for Adults serves individuals who received private-duty nursing through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program and are no longer eligible for the services upon turning 21 years of age. The program is administered by the Department of Rehabilitation Services. In FY 2005, four individuals were served through community-based long-term-care options, and \$287,003 was spent on community-based long-term-care options.
- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered under each program.

CMS-funded Programs and Grants

- Alabama has one CMS-funded Programs and Grants that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. This is Personal Choices.
- **Personal Choices:** This program was initially set up through Robert Wood Johnson grant funding re-

ceived from the National Cash and Counseling Program. The grant has expired; however, the program is continuing as a state plan program under the 1915j option in the pilot region. Clients enrolled in the program will receive services not covered under consumer direction through the traditional waiver program. The SUA is partnering with the Department of Rehabilitation Services to provide consumer-directed services to clients in a seven-county area in Western Alabama.

- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered.

State-funded HCBS Programs

- Alabama does not have State-funded HCBS programs that serve older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities

Locally Funded HCBS Programs

- Alabama does not use local funds for HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

OAA-funded Programs and Grants

- Refer to Table 1 for services provided through Title III of the OAA.
- Alabama does not use cost-sharing mechanisms or sliding fee scales in the delivery of Title III services with the exception of the Title III – E caregiver program.
- The SUA contracts with 13 AAAs to provide services for HCBS and Title III.

Social Service Block Grants (SSBG) and Community Service Block Grants (CSBG) for HCBS

- Alabama does not use SSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

- Alabama does not use CSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

Consumer Direction

- Alabama offers consumer-directed options. The HCBS program in the state that offers consumer direction is Personal Choices (through the state Medicaid plan).
- Models of consumer direction available in the state include: Traditional Cash and Counseling.
- Those permitted to provide services under consumer direction in Alabama are: spouses, adult children of the consumer, other family members, and friends.
- Alabama uses one fiscal intermediary agency's services in connection with consumer direction.

Managed Care

- Alabama does not have HCBS programs run by managed care health plans.

Major Accomplishments and Initiatives

- Alabama has added up to two meals per day as a service option for HCBS, allowing participants to have improved nutrition, thereby contributing to their increased ability to remain in the community. Meals are served based upon need.
- The Personal Choices innovation will provide increased opportunities for the state to make significant changes in the way health care is delivered.

Table 1: Types of Home- and Community-based Services Provided Under Alabama's Programs for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities

Types of Services	Program Type / Funding Source					
	Medicaid Waivers			CMS-funded Programs and Grants	State Medicaid Plan	OAA Title III
	Elderly and Disabled	SAIL (State of Alabama Independent Living Waiver)	Technology Assistance Program for Adults	Cash and Counseling		
Adult Day Care / Adult Day Health	X					X
Assisted Living						
Caregiver Services / Respite / Education	X			X		X
Case Management / Care Coordination	X	X	X			X
Chore / Homemaking	X			X		X
Companion Services / Socialization Activities	X			X		
Employment						
Equipment / Supplies / Modifications / Assistive Technology		X	X			
Health Promotion Activities						X
Home Health / Personal Care	X	X	X	X		X
Information / Assistance / Referral						X
Legal Assistance / Financial Advice						X
Medical / Dental / Medication Care						
Mental and Behavioral Health Services						
Nursing			X			
Nutrition / Meals	X					X
Personal Supports for Community Living / Transitioning		X				
Rehabilitation / Therapy						
Residential Services						
Transportation						X
Other/Unspecified HCBS						

Table 2: Selected HCBS Programs for Older Adults and Adults with Physical Disabilities in Alabama

Program Type / Funding Source	Program Name	Ages Served	Nursing Home Level of Care Required	Entity Responsible for Functional Assessment	Entity Responsible for Financial Assessment	Entity Responsible for Case Management	Waiting List (Number)	Consumer Direction Option
Medicaid Waivers	Elderly and Disabled	All ages	Yes	State agency: Alabama Department of Senior Services and Department of Public Health; Area Agency on Aging; Physician	State agency: Alabama Medicaid Agency	State agency: Department of Senior Services and Department of Public Health	Yes (1,200)	No
	SAIL (State of Alabama Independent Living Waiver)	18+	Yes	Information not reported	Information not reported	State agency: Department of Rehabilitation Services	Information not reported	Information not reported
	Technology Assistance Program for Adults	21+	Yes	Information not reported	Information not reported	State agency: Department of Rehabilitation Services	Information not reported	Information not reported
CMS-funded Programs and Grants	Personal Choices	All ages	Yes	State agency: Alabama Department of Senior Services	State agency: Alabama Medicaid Agency	State agency: Alabama Department of Senior Services and Department of Rehabilitation Services; Area Agency on Aging	No	Yes