

# AGING STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

## State Profile for

# LOUISIANA

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

### Background

- Louisiana's 60+ population was 757,486 in 2008 (17.2% of the state's total population), with 13.2% below the federal poverty level.<sup>1</sup>
- The 60+ population is projected to be 1,152,602 in 2025 (24.2% of the state's total population).<sup>2</sup>
- About 22.9% of all households in 2007 had one or more persons age 65 years and older, and 47.4% of persons age 65 years and older had a disability.<sup>3</sup>
- Of the 995,362 Medicaid beneficiaries in the state in 2003, 8.5% were aged, 16.2% were blind and disabled, 16.3% were Dual Eligible, and 1.6% were HCBS waiver beneficiaries.<sup>4</sup>
- Medicaid expenditures for institutional long-term care were 63.8% of total long-term-care expenditures, compared to 36.2% for HCBS, in fiscal year 2007.<sup>5</sup>

#### 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                               |

<sup>1</sup> 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>

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/future_growth/future_growth.aspx).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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)*.

<sup>5</sup> 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

- **SUA:** Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. [goea.louisiana.gov/](http://goea.louisiana.gov/)
- **State Medicaid Agency:** Department of Health and Hospitals. [www.dhh.state.la.us](http://www.dhh.state.la.us)
- Louisiana does not have a consolidated agency for long-term-care programs. The following agencies handle long-term care: The Office of Elderly Affairs and the Department of Health and Hospitals.
- The director of Louisiana's SUA reports to the Governor.
- Louisiana has 34 Area Agencies on Aging. The main role of the AAAs is to provide, through a comprehensive and coordinated system, supportive services and nutrition services, and to assure that each activity includes planning, advocacy and system development. The AAAs focus on the needs of low-income older individuals, and coordinate services through the Parish Councils on Aging. AAAs also provide information, assistance, and legal services.

### Single Point of Entry (SPE)/Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

- Louisiana has an ADRC that is statewide.
- All ADRC sites have a physical (bricks and mortar) infrastructure; all ADRC sites operate under a virtual model.
- In addition to serving older adults, Louisiana's ADRC serves the physically disabled, cognitively impaired (Alzheimer's and related conditions), and veteran populations.
- Louisiana's ADRC is currently not the SPE for Medicaid long-term-care services. The Office of Elderly Affairs and the Department of Health and Hospitals are piloting an SPE for OAA and Medicaid services using the ADRC. If this pilot is successful, the intent is to replicate it statewide. Once this ADRC is

statewide, it will be responsible for doing the financial and functional assessments for HCBS programs.

- One particular ADRC is working with the veterans hospital to provide services to individuals who are neither elderly nor disabled but are still in need of services. While it is currently an informal relationship, the desire is to formalize and establish it throughout the state.

### Assessment Process

#### Medicaid

- For Medicaid applicants, in determining functional eligibility for nursing home pre-admission, Louisiana does not require an in-person assessment by someone other than nursing home staff. Final eligibility decisions are made by state staff.

#### Non-Medicaid

- For non-Medicaid applicants in Louisiana, nursing home pre-admission assessment is not performed by someone other than nursing home staff.

### State Medicaid Plan

- Louisiana provides HCBS through the state Medicaid plan.
- Refer to Table 1 for specific services provided.
- **PACE:** Louisiana has two PACE sites located in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Six more sites are in the planning stage. Louisiana would like to have one PACE site in each of the nine major regions of the state.

### Medicaid Waivers

- Louisiana has two waivers that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are: Adult Day Health Care and the Elderly and Disabled Waiver.
- **Adult Day Health Care:** This program is targeted toward persons in nursing homes and those at imminent risk of nursing home placement. It is able to serve 825

individuals, and there is a waiting list of approximately 400. Services are paid at a per diem rate. Transportation is provided to and from the center and is considered time at the center. The centers also include medical and social service components. Income and asset limits are the same as for nursing home care. The income limit is three times the current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) amount; \$2,022 for an individual and \$4,044 for a couple. Asset limits are the same as Medicaid; \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple. Spousal impoverishment rules apply.

- **Elderly and Disabled Waiver:** This program is targeted toward persons in nursing homes and those at imminent risk of nursing home placement. It is able to serve 4,603 individuals. There is a waiting list of approximately 9,000. There are plans to include adult day health services in the near future. Income and asset limits are the same as for nursing home care. The income limit is three times the current SSI amount; \$2,022 for an individual and \$4,044 for a couple. Asset limits are the same as Medicaid; \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple. Spousal impoverishment rules apply.
- 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

- Louisiana does not have CMS-funded programs and grants that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.

### State-funded HCBS Programs

- Louisiana has one state-funded HCBS program that provides HCBS to older adults. This is the Councils on Aging.
- **Councils on Aging:** The Councils on Aging serve individuals age 60 and older who are considered “most needy.” Two-thirds of the funding for the Councils is from state and local sources. There is one council for every parish, totaling 64 statewide, and they are considered part of the delivery infrastructure. The council

is the service provider for OAA services in each parish. Many parishes provide expanded non-OAA services using state and local funds.

- The Governor’s Office on Aging also provides the following services using state funds: state-match for Senior Corps, which provides socialization and companion services; caregiver education through web-based training; supplemental Title V employment services; financial education and law enforcement training on financial exploitation; supplemental funds to expand services provided through OAA; and guardianship services.
- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered.

### Locally Funded HCBS Programs

- Louisiana uses local funds for HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.
- Some parishes use local funding to supplement and expand the services provided by OAA and, in some cases, to create new HCBS programs.

### OAA-funded Programs and Grants

- Louisiana does not use cost-sharing mechanisms or sliding fee scales in the delivery of Title III services.
- Refer to Table 1 for services provided through Title III of the OAA.
- Louisiana has two OAA-funded grants that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are: Medicaid Diversion Grant and Alzheimer’s Disease Medicaid Diversion Grant.

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

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

### Consumer Direction

- Louisiana does not currently offer consumer-directed options but they are being planned. The following information is pending the approval of consumer-direction options.
- Models of consumer direction available in the state will include: an option modeled after Cash and Counseling and voucher options.
- Those permitted to provide services under consumer direction in Louisiana will be: provider agencies, adult children of the consumer, other family, and friends.
- The only restriction on providers is that the provider cannot live with the individual to whom they are providing services.
- Louisiana will use fiscal intermediary services in connection with consumer direction.
- Through the two OAA-funded HCBS programs, consumer-direction components will be built into the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs policies and procedures, allowing consumer direction at the local level using state, local and OAA funds.

### Managed Care

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

### Major Accomplishments and Initiatives

- Louisiana noted that systems transformation grants have assisted in rebalancing long-term care toward person-centered care, the major initiative of the last two years.
- In the next two years, Louisiana expects the Medicaid Diversion Program to significantly affect HCBS in the state. This should further refine the types of services available and follow the direction of OAA in keeping people in the community.
- Another major initiative of the next two years will be to formally coordinate services between OAA programs and Medicaid programs.
- The ADRC becoming statewide should also have an impact on transitioning individuals from the nursing homes to the community.

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

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

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

| 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              | Adult Day Health Care Waiver      | 22+         | Yes                                 | Private Case Management Entity               | State agency: Local Medicaid office; Private entity | Private case management entity         | Yes (400)              | No                        |
|                               | Elderly and Disabled Adult Waiver | 21+         | Yes                                 | Private Case Management Entity               | Local Medicaid Office                               | Private case management entity         | Yes (9,000)            | No                        |
| State-funded Programs         | Parish Council on Aging           | 60+         | No                                  | Information not reported                     | N/A   | Intake Coordinator (Varies by Parish)  | Yes (Varies by Parish) | No*                       |

\*Updated information indicates that this program now has consumer direction that varies by Parish.