

AGING STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT PROJECT

State Profile for

SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Background

- South Carolina's 60+ population was 849,263 in 2008 (19.0% of the state's total population), with 11.8% below the federal poverty level.¹
- The 60+ population is projected to be 1,349,390 in 2025 (27% of the state's total population).²
- About 23.4% of all households in 2007 had one or more persons age 65 years and older; and 43.3% of persons age 65 years and older had a disability.³
- Of the 861,216 Medicaid beneficiaries in the state in 2003, 11.2% were aged, 14.0% were blind and disabled, 15.4% were Dual Eligible, and 2.3% were HCBS waiver beneficiaries.⁴
- Medicaid expenditures for institutional long-term care were 65.3% of total long-term-care expenditures, compared to 35.7% 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

- **SUA:** Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging. www.ltgov.sc.gov/
- **State Medicaid Agency:** South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/index.asp
- South Carolina does not have a consolidated agency for long-term-care programs.
- The director of the SUA reports to the Lieutenant Governor, who in turn, reports to the Governor.
- South Carolina has 10 Area Agencies on Aging.

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

- South Carolina has an ADRC but it is not statewide.
- Some ADRCs sites have a physical (bricks and mortar) infrastructure; some ADRCs sites operate under a virtual model
- In addition to serving older adults, South Carolina's ADRC serves individuals with MRDD, the physically disabled and adults with cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
- Five of the ADRCs in South Carolina are within AAAs and cover 50% of the state. Three of the ADRCs lease mobile vans that serve rural, isolated areas. The remaining five AAAs do not have ADRCs. Staff in the AAAs that include ADRCs receive more extensive training across programs, making it easier for applicants to access needed services.

Assessment Process

Medicaid

- For Medicaid applicants, in determining functional eligibility for nursing home pre-admission, South Carolina requires an in-person assessment by someone other than nursing home staff.

Community Long-Term Care (CLTC) within the Medicaid office conducts the pre-admission assessment. It has branches in every county called Area Offices. A nurse conducts the functional assessment while financial eligibility assessment is conducted by a financial eligibility officer. Sometimes, an ADRC may assist with gathering financial information on an applicant for CLTC.

Non-Medicaid

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

State Medicaid Plan

- South Carolina does not typically provide HCBS through the state Medicaid plan. While it may provide them on a short-term basis through the state Medicaid plan, HCBS are primarily provided through the Medicaid waivers.
- **PACE:** South Carolina has two PACE sites: one in Columbia and one in Orangeburg.

Medicaid Waivers

- South Carolina has two waivers that provide HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. These are: Community Choices and Ventilator Dependent waivers.
- **Community Choices:** In addition to serving older adults, including those with Alzheimer's disease and related conditions, this program also serves adults with physical disabilities, individuals with MRDD, and older adults with head or spinal cord injuries. The program is the largest waiver in the state and has 12,000 waiver slots of which about 1,000 serve individuals who have MRDD or head and spinal cord injuries. The income limit for a single individual is \$1,911 and the asset limit is \$2,000. This program has consumer-directed options. Participants can choose their own case managers including independent case managers, contractors, or state employees. Participants can also get \$1,000 to help transition them to the community.

- **Ventilator Dependent:** This waiver was designed to address the needs of adults with brain and spinal cord injuries. If an applicant is over 65 years old, he/she cannot be served by this waiver unless the injury occurred prior to age 65. If the injury occurred after the age of 65, applicants are served in the Community Choices waiver. The Ventilator Dependent waiver also provides services to those who could not be served in the Community Choice waiver because of its cap on costs.
- 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

- South Carolina has one CMS-funded program that provides HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. This is: Money Follows the Person.
- **Money Follows the Person:** This program targets older adults' including those with Alzheimer's disease and related conditions, and those with physical disabilities. It provides nursing home residents with transitional costs to move into the community. These transitional costs are different from those offered in the Community Choices waiver. The program builds on earlier grants received by South Carolina including the Real Choice Systems Change and Nursing Home Diversion grants.
- Refer to Table 2 for an overview of selected HCBS programs. Table 1 shows the types of services offered.

State-funded HCBS Programs

- South Carolina has one state-funded HCBS program that provides HCBS to older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities. This is the: State Supplemental Program.
- **State Supplemental Program:** State Supplemental Program is non-recurring and was designed to help applicants on the waiting list with meals, homemaker, and residential maintenance services. Although this program does not serve any specific diagnostic group,

it targets applicants who are at risk for nursing home placement, because of their living alone, having limitations in their ADLs and IADLs and financial status. Applicants assessed to be at high risk for nursing home placement receive priority for being served by the program. Some individuals served in this program do not qualify for Title III funds if they are under age 60 or if there are no openings under Title III services. There are no asset limits to qualify for this program. Funds of \$2.9 million were appropriated through the general assembly in 2007 to provide HCBS under this program.

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

Locally Funded HCBS Programs

- South Carolina 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.
- South Carolina does not use cost-sharing mechanisms or sliding fee scales in the delivery of Title III services.
- South Carolina has one OAA-funded program and grant. 'Living Well and a Matter of Balance' is an evidence-based health promotion prevention program.

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

- South Carolina uses SSBG to provide HCBS for older adults and/or adults with physical disabilities.
- SSBG dollars are used for meals and homemaker services.

Consumer Direction

- South Carolina offers consumer-directed options. The HCBS program in the state that offers consumer direction is Community Choices Waiver.

- Models of consumer direction available in the state include: a modified Cash and Counseling option.
- Four options for consumer direction are available under the Community Choices waiver: (1) a consumer can receive services from an agency; (2) the consumer can act as the employer and select his/her companion or worker to work at the fixed Medicaid rate; (3) the consumer can employ the worker but negotiate the rate of pay; and (4) the consumer can receive a designated amount as a budget, manage the funds and decide how to spend it. Each individual is assessed and is designated a budget for six months. Some consumers work with their case managers to decide how to spend the money. Consumers have online access to their budget to monitor how much they have spent. They do not receive cash or vouchers.
- Those permitted to provide services under consumer direction in South Carolina are: family members (excluding spouses or legal guardians), provider agencies, and friends.

Managed Care

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

Major Accomplishments and Initiatives

- In the next two years, South Carolina envisages budget cuts and no increase in funding for HCBS.
- Discussions about increasing the cigarette tax in order to help expand Medicaid services are ongoing.
- South Carolina would like to increase funding for its existing ADRC sites and for developing new ADRCs, but because of budget cuts, this is unlikely to happen in the near future.

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

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

| Program Type / Funding Source | Program Name | Ages Served | | Entity Responsible for Functional Assessment | Entity Responsible for Financial Assessment | Entity Responsible for Case Management | Waiting List (Number) | Consumer Direction Option |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----|--|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Medicaid Waivers | Community Choices waiver | Seniors and adults with physical disabilities who are 18+ | Yes | State agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Community Long Term Care (CLTC) | State agency: Department of Health and Human Services | State agency; Independent case managers | Yes (2,100) | Yes |
| | Ventilator dependent waiver | Age 21+ who require mechanical ventilation | Yes | State agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Community Long Term Care Division | State agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Community Long Term Care Division | State agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Community Long Term Care Division | No | Information not reported |
| CMS-funded Programs and Grants | Money Follows the Person | 18+ | Yes | State agency: Department of Health and Human Services, Community Long Term Care Division | Area Agency on Aging; County; Non-profit (other than AAA or CIL) | Area Agency on Aging | Information not reported | Information not reported |
| State-funded Programs | State Supplemental Program | 60+ | No | Service contractors | Service providers | Area Agency on Aging | No | No |