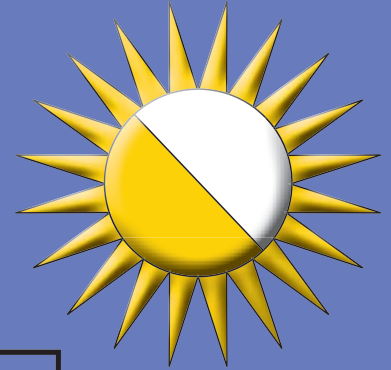
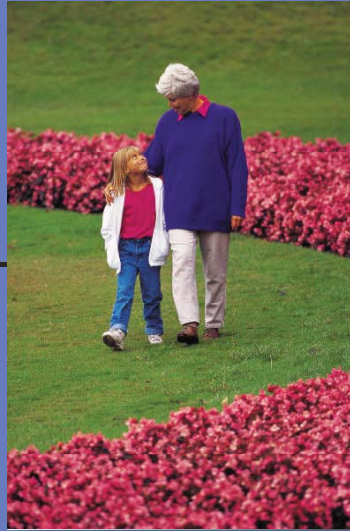


Ventura County



Ventura County Area Agency on Aging
"To Serve. To Guide. To Envision."

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

MISSION STATEMENT

The responsibility of the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) is to serve Ventura County's 60-plus population, including those with different social and cultural needs; to support self determination and independence among the older population; to provide leadership in addressing issues that relate to older Californians; to develop community-based systems of care that provide services which support independence within California's interdependent society, and which protect the quality of life of older persons and persons with functional impairments; and to promote citizen involvement in the planning and delivery of services.



This mission is accomplished through a network of education, advocacy, problem solving, program planning and funding. The VCAAA directly operates a number of programs such as Information and Assistance, Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), Case Management, and the County's Senior Nutrition Program.

The agency provides approximately \$2 million a year in grants to community-based organizations and municipalities to provide services to seniors. Funding for these programs is provided by the Federal Older Americans Act, State of California Older Californians Act, County of Ventura and program donations.

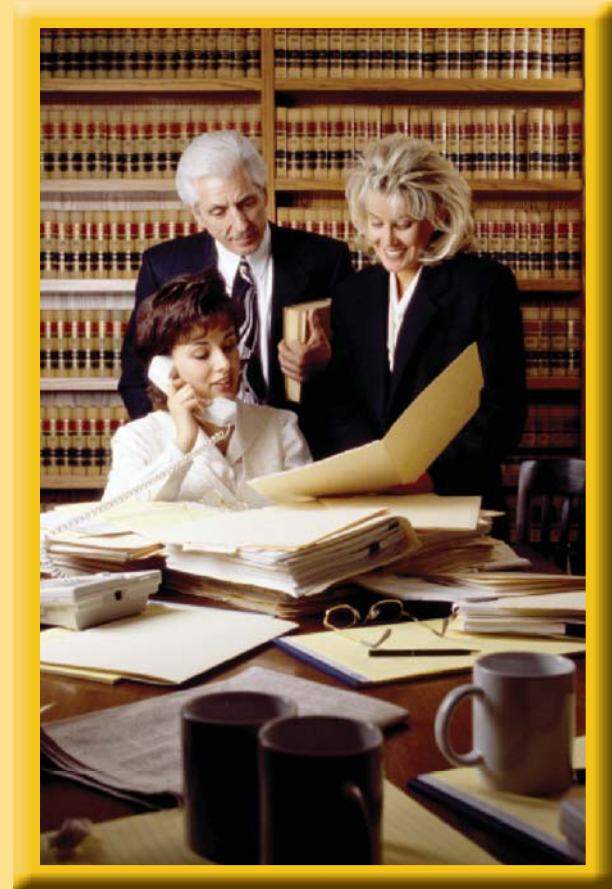
Critical to helping the VCAAA accomplish its mission is the Advisory Council.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The VCAAA's Advisory Council is a community-based body of advocates for persons age 60 and over. Members represent the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, local cities and service providers.

The objective of the Council is to involve the community in creating and sustaining programs which impact senior living at the local level. To achieve this goal members participate in outreach, grantee site visits, task force groups and issues of County concern.

The Council meets seven times a year; much of the work is done in committees. Current standing committees include: Housing and Transportation, Community Outreach, Health Issues and Senior Nutrition.



INFORMATION



ASSISTANCE

As the size of the older adult population increases, so does the demand for accurate information about programs and services for seniors and caregivers.

VCAAA specialists provide older adults and their caregivers with information regarding health care, housing, financial management, nutrition, long term care and life enhancement issues. Also, referrals to community-based organizations are given. There is no charge for information and assistance services.



To reach a specialist call the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at **(805) 477-7300** or **(800) 510-2020**.

H I C A P

Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program

The VCAAA's HICAP program provides counseling to and advocacy for Medicare beneficiaries and those who will soon be receiving Medicare. Trained volunteer counselors, registered by the California Department of Aging, offer objective information regarding medical plan options and additionally provide assistance with problems relating to Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans, supplemental (Medigap) insurance policies, long term care insurance and prescription drug plans. There is no charge for HICAP services.

Counseling is also available in Spanish and other languages. For more information please call HICAP at **(805) 477-7310** or **(800) 434-0222**.



“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” Abraham Lincoln



SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES

The VCAAA provides funding and food for both congregate and home-delivered meals programs throughout Ventura County. The VCAAA collaborates with seven cities, two special districts and three non-profits in order to provide these services. Our partners include the Cities of Moorpark, Simi Valley, Fillmore, Santa Paula, Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme, the Camarillo Health Care District and Conejo Recreation and Parks District, HELP of Ojai, Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Fillmore and San Salvador Mission in Piru.



Congregate meals are provided daily (Monday – Friday) to persons age 60 and older. Home-delivered meals are available for eligible, homebound seniors in most communities and weekend meals are available on an as-needed basis. All meals meet the USDA's Dietary Recommended Intake (DRI) for Older Adults and all menus are approved by a Registered Dietitian. Additional services include nutrition and health education and nutritional counseling. Meals are provided free of charge, however, there is a suggested donation. No one will be denied a meal if they choose not to contribute.

For more information about Ventura County's award winning Senior Nutrition Program or to volunteer, please call (805) 477-7311.

VCAAA CASE MANAGEMENT



MSSP



The VCAAA operates a case management program called the Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), which assist adults in remaining safely in their own homes and when appropriate, an assigned nurse and social worker assess client needs. In turn, the social worker develops an appropriate plan of care and coordinates services. Subsequently, staff monitors the plan's effectiveness and modifies it as needed.

The program has an age and eligibility requirement that must be met prior to enrollment. There is no charge for case management services. For more information please contact **(805) 477-7300** and ask for the supervising social worker.

ElderHelp Program

The VCAAA provides services to assist seniors through the ElderHelp Program (EHP). These services, such as medi-ride transportation, dial-a-ride tickets, personal care, homemaker and chore, home modification and/or assistive devices, are intended for Ventura County residents aged 60 and over who need temporary assistance in maintaining their independence.



The goal of the EHP is to reach out to frail seniors in need by offering short term assistance while working together with them to find long term solutions. Due to the cost of providing the services, referrals to the program must come from senior service agencies or from VCAAA Information and Assistance (I&A) staff.



For more information call the VCAAA at (805) 477-7300

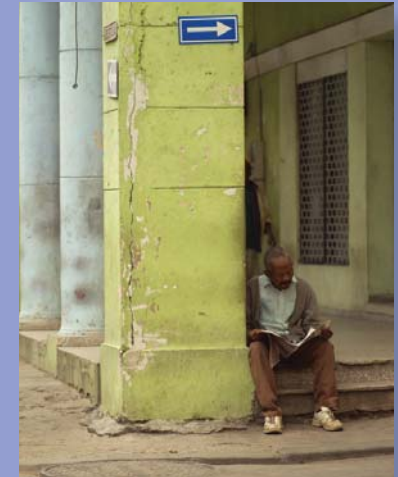


COMMUNITY PARTNERS



In order to achieve our mandate, we periodically partner with government agencies on a federal, state and local levels, as well as with public and private agencies.

“The greatest potential for growth and self-realization exists in the second half of life.” Carl Jung



AND MORE...PROGRAMS



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