

Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)
DD Council Winter Report 2021

GOEA, is the designated State Unit on Aging and is the administrator of the Older Americans Act (OAA) program services:

Congregate due to Meals (suspended Covid-19)	Home Delivered Meals
Nutrition Counseling	Nutrition Education
Assisted Transportation	Information & Assistance
Outreach	Medical Transportation
Adult Day Health Care	Case Management
Group Respite	In-Home Respite
Individual Counseling	Material Aid
Personal Care	Caregiver Public Education
Caregiver Sitter Service	Support Group
Counseling	Crime Prevention
Homemaker	Legal Assistance
Medical Alert	Medication Management
Recreation	Telephoning
Utility Assistance	Visiting
Wellness	

Currently due to COVID-19, All Meal Sites and Senior Centers remain closed. Meals are being delivered to the participant's homes and/or as "Grab and Go" to be consumed in the participants home. GOEA and the aging network have been actively involved in the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hurricane Laura Response and Hurricane Delta. To minimize social isolation, the aging network has increased telephone assurance for participant and social media podcasts.

Units of core service were provided in first and second quarter for FY 2021 are as follows:

Home Delivered Meals:	797,069
Transportation:	39,726
Homemaker:	21,995

Other services provided through GOEA or are provided by partnerships are SenioRx Prescription Assistance, National Family Caregiver Support, Louisiana Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Program and the Senior Employment Program.

Since March 2020, due to COVID-19 and other natural disasters, the Emergency Management for the Disabled and Aged Coalition (EMDAC) have been actively working to ensure the rights and safety of the disabled and aged are being met. EMDAC has been in existence since 2005 (post Katrina) and

For more information about elderly programs and services, visit:
www.goea.louisiana.gov or contact 225-342-7100

meet monthly in non-emergent months. During H-Laura Response, EMDAC partners visited non-congregate shelter sites, established toll-free hotline to receive requests for assistance and coordinated DME transport for individuals who evacuated from H-Laura. Core partners of EMDAC are as follows:

Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Governor's Office of Disability Affairs
Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs
Louisiana Dept. of Health
Louisiana Dept. of Children and Family Services
FEMA
Louisiana Workforce Commission
The American Red Cross
LATAN
ARC of Louisiana
ALS of Louisiana
New Horizons
@SLIC
Trache Mamas of Louisiana
Disability Rights Louisiana

EMDAC is now meeting monthly to plan and prepare for hurricane season 2021. Efforts continue for recovery from Hurricanes that affected Louisiana in 2020 and the continued COVID health pandemic. Virtual Round Table Exercises have been planned in partnership with the University of Louisiana-Monroe, Statewide Independent Living Council, New Horizons and @SLIC.

Note: EMDAC is a volunteer coalition without funding. All activities are conducted by agency partners to facilitate the needs of the victims of disasters.

Long Term Care Ombudsman

Long Term Care Ombudsman program is a federal and state funded program mandated to advocate on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities and to ensure that the rights of the residents of the long-term care facilities are being maintained. Ombudsman and Ombudsman volunteers make monthly visits to long-term care facilities across the state.

Due to COVID-19, the ombudsmen are limited on physically visits the residents of long term care facilities but continue to be available to visit via teleconferencing.

For information, contact the State LTC Ombudsman, at 225-342-7100

Elderly Protective Services (EPS)

EPS is mandated by Louisiana revised statute 15:1501 et seq. to prevent remedy halt or hinder acts of abuse and neglect against an older person in the community while promoting the maximum degree of personal freedom dignity and self-determination for that individual. Elderly Protective Services has six regional offices to respond to report the abuse, neglect, and exploitation. EPS is State operated with four direct State offices and three offices contracted to local providers.

The purpose of Elderly Protective Services (EPS) is to protect adults who cannot physically or mentally protect themselves and who are harmed or threatened with harm through action or inaction by themselves or by the individuals responsible for their care or by other persons.

For FY 2021, the EPS program has received 1823 reports for abuse, neglect and/or exploitation and 1079 are currently open. 206 of the reports were considered High Priority and seen within 8 hours of the report. There have been 1682 closures for cases that may have been received prior to the fiscal year begin. During COVID-19, face-to-face interviews have resumed for High Priority cases only to ensure the health safety of the senior clients and the staff. EPS Specialists continue to work cases via teleconference for Medium and Low Priority. EPS is working closely with local law enforcement to ensure the safety of all clients reported for abuse, neglect, exploitation and/or extortion.

For more information about Elderly Protective Services (EPS), contact 1-800-259-4990.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)/SenioRx Program

The ADRC/SenioRx serves as a clearinghouse for an array of long-term care options, prescription assistance, and other resources available in Louisiana to elderly and disabled adults aged 21 and over. For more information about ADRC, contact the toll- free Louisiana information, referral and assistance line at 877-340-9100 or visit: www.louisianaanswer.com

Louisiana Answers is designed to assist older adults and persons with disabilities in locating supportive services and eldercare resources in order to continue living as they choose in their community. Using this website, you can easily obtain information about Louisiana's in-home and community-based services.

SenioRx has assisted seniors and people who are aged or have disabilities receive free or low cost prescriptions resulting in a savings of \$2,824,393 during the first quarter of 2021. Cares Act Funding for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers have been received and contracted to the 8 regional ADRC/SenioRx partners. This funding allows enrollment assistance and follow-up services for constituents who are aged or disabled with application to

economic stability programs such as SNAP, Utility Assistance, Commodities and other local programs that may stabilize the constituent's financial situation. These programs and service assistance is provided at no charge to the constituent.

The **Louisiana MIPPA Program** is a federal grant to provide education, outreach and enrollment assistance to Medicare eligible individuals relevant to Medicare, Medicare services, the Low Income Subsidy Program (LIS) and the Medicare Savings Plan (MSP). Contracts for the new MIPPA Grant period began October 1, 2020 and will close June 30, 2021.

Medicare Open Enrollment period ended December 2020, but an extension was granted for those that reside in Federally Declared Disaster areas. The SEP period ending date for Hurricane Sally is January 31, 2021 and Tropical Storm Zeta and Hurricane Delta will have a period ending date of February 28, 2021.

For Free, unbiased assistance you may call the local Aging and Disability Resource Centers (www.louisianaanswers.com) or the state hotline at 1-877-340-9100.