

---

**Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA)**

DD Council Report

June 2024

---

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

Congregate Meals

Home Delivered Meals

Nutrition Counseling

Assisted Transportation

Outreach

Adult Day Health Care

Individual Counseling

Personal Care

Caregiver Sitter Service

Counseling

Homemaker

Medical Alert

Recreation

Utility Assistance

Wellness

Nutrition Education

Information & Assistance

Medical Transportation

Group Respite

In-Home Respite

Material Aid

Caregiver Public Education

Support Group

Crime Prevention

Legal Assistance

Medication Management

Telephoning

Visiting

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.

For more information about elderly programs and services, visit:

[www.goea.louisiana.gov](http://www.goea.louisiana.gov) or contact 225-342-7100

Program Name: **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.

Did you know? Louisiana has 269 nursing homes and 152 assisted living facilities accommodating approximately 44,000 residents.

There are 26 staff and volunteer ombudsman in the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

What to Watch for in 2024:

- A first-of-its-kind federal law aiming to fix widespread understaffing in nursing homes with mandatory minimum staffing levels is expected to take effect in 2024. The plan mandates each nursing home to provide residents with a minimum of 0.55 hours of care from a registered nurse and 2.45 hours from a nurse aid daily.
- Approximately 75% of nursing homes need to enhance staffing to meet the proposed minimums. The regulations aim to improve resident safety and care quality, aligning with President Biden's broader plan to address long-standing issues in nursing homes, particularly highlighted by the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Critics argue that staffing shortages make the new standards unattainable, while some resident advocates believe the proposal falls short of implementing the president's directives.

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

---

Program Name:     **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.

Types of reports of abuse are as follows:

- Caregiver Neglect     912
- Emotional Abuse     331
- Extortion             102
- Financial Exploitation   1,076
- Physical Abuse        342
- Self-Neglect          1,267
- Sexual Abuse          15
- Other                 6

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

---

**Program Name:     **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)****

The ADRC 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.

---

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). This project continues to offer Enrollment Assistance for the Low Income Subsidy Program, Medicare Savings Plan, Conduct Medicare Part D Counseling, Medicare Part D Enrollment Assistance and conducts follow-up to ensure the needs of the client beyond Medicare have been met.

For Medicare Information and Counseling, call 1-877-340-9100 toll free.

Open Enrollment starts October 15<sup>th</sup> and ends on December 7<sup>th</sup> of each year.

---

GOEA continues to work with the Emergency Management for Disabled and Aged Coalition (EMDAC), Feeding Task Force and other Response/Recovery Support Function groups. These activities are structured to plan and implement activities prior to an emergency, during the emergency and post emergency for expedient recovery for the constituents and the state.

GOEA serves as an effective and visible advocate for the elderly population of Louisiana, ensuring seniors in need receive appropriate services from providers in the Aging Network.

At the closing of the 2024 Regular Legislative Session, House Bill 1 was signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and sent to Governor Landry for executive approval. GOEA’s budget remained intact, and we expect to add several new positions, including many in the Elderly Protective Services unit. The Elderly Protective Services unit has had a case load that has been above the national average and the additional positions will help us get closer to the national average.

During May, we celebrated Older American Month, and the theme of “Powered by Connection.” This emphasized the profound impact that relationships and social connections have on health and well-being.

Elder Abuse Day was recognized on June 15<sup>th</sup> to increase awareness of the often hidden problem of neglect and abuse of the elderly population. It is important to shine a light on the potential signs of neglect and abuse, and share methods of reporting and contributing to the solution of the problem.

GOEA's Compliance and Planning division was selected make their presentation "Whole-state Disaster Preparation for a Culturally and Geographically Diverse Older Population" at the USAging conference in Tampa, Florida on July 10, 2024. GOEA is very proud of our reputation in this field, and Louisiana has been recognized on a national level in the aging network as a leader in disaster planning.

It's hurricane season, and it is important for all citizens to have a plan in case of a disaster. This plan should be specific to the needs of each individual, particular those with specific medical needs or disabilities. You can read more about this on the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP") planning website: <https://getagameplan.org/>