



## Older Adults in Alabama

**24 percent** of Alabama residents are age 60 and older<sup>1</sup>

**11 percent** of all Alabama households consist of adults age 65 and older who live alone<sup>2</sup>

**41 percent** of adults age 65 and older in Alabama have a disability<sup>3</sup>

**45 percent** of adults age 65 and older in Alabama live in rural areas<sup>4</sup>

## Area Agencies on Aging

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) operate in virtually every community in the nation with the mission to help older adults age with independence and dignity at home and in the community through a coordinated system of services and supports. Established by the Older Americans Act in 1973, there are 622 AAAs nationwide.

## Budget and Staffing

Twelve of Alabama’s 13 AAAs responded to the survey, resulting in a response rate of 92 percent.<sup>i</sup> The makeup of Alabama’s AAAs is varied. They are comprised of parts of councils of government or regional planning and development agencies (75 percent), independent nonprofits (17 percent) and other types of structures (eight percent). The average budget and staff size of the AAAs that responded to the survey are listed below.

AAA Budget and Staffing	
Alabama	US
<b>\$10 Million Median Budget</b>	\$4 Million Median Budget
<b>40.5 Median Number of Full-Time Staff</b>	21 Median Number of Full-Time Staff
<b>3.5 Median Number of Part-Time Staff</b>	5 Median Number of Part-Time Staff
<b>56 Median Number of Volunteers</b>	50 Median Number of Volunteers

\*Alabama response rate for budget = 9 AAAs; response rate for staffing = 10 AAAs; response rate for PT staffing=8 AAAs, response rate for volunteers=10 AAAs

<sup>i</sup> A response rate of 70 percent or greater generally provides information that is representative of the population of AAAs in a state. If there is significant variability among AAAs within a state, it is possible that non-respondents differ from respondents in ways that would change overall findings if they had responded. Not all AAAs answered every question; the number who responded will be noted if different.

## Additional Populations Served

Reflecting the varied needs of older adults around the country, Alabama AAAs responding to the survey serve a variety of individuals in addition to adults older than 60.

Population	Percentage of AAAs Serving (Alabama)	Percentage of AAAs Serving (National)
Consumers younger than 60 who qualify for services because of disability, impairment or chronic illness	100%	78%
Consumers living with dementia of all ages	75%	52%
Veterans of all ages	50%	39%

\* Alabama response rate = 10 AAAs

## Funding Sources

AAAs receive funding from a variety of federal, state and local government sources. The table below compares information for the top funding sources listed by AAAs in Alabama responding to the survey with national figures. The average budget proportion includes AAAs reporting some amount, greater than \$0, for that particular funding source.

Funding Source	Average Budget Proportion (Alabama)	Average Budget Proportion (National)
Older Americans Act	29% (n=9)	44%
Medicaid/Medicaid Waiver	61% (n=9)	28%
State general revenue	5% (n=7)	17%

\* Alabama response rate = 9 AAAs

## Services and Supports

All AAAs provide supportive services, nutrition (e.g., home-delivered and congregate meals), disease prevention and health promotion, caregiver services and elder rights—core services required by the Older Americans Act. AAAs also provide innovative services that are tailored to local and regional needs to support the health and independence of older adults. The chart below compares the most commonly offered services by responding Alabama AAAs, **not including services already mentioned**, to national figures for all AAAs.

Service	Percentage Providing (Alabama)	Percentage Providing (National)
Assessment for care planning	100%	73%
Benefits/ health insurance counseling	100%	83%
Care transitions services	100%	47%
Case management	100%	86%
Other nutrition programs	100%	84%
Homemaker	100%	81%
Legal assistance	100%	94%
Ombudsman services	100%	66%
Options counseling	100%	79%
Respite care	100%	91%
Senior Medicare Patrol	100%	49%
Transportation services	100%	89%

*\*Alabama response rate = 11 AAAs*

### Engaging in Integrated Care Opportunities

Integrated care combines service delivery, management and organization across multiple systems such as behavioral health, long-term services and supports (LTSS), and acute care to achieve better health outcomes. Increasingly, AAAs are engaging in these types of opportunities. The table below shows the most common integrated care activities responding Alabama AAAs indicated they were participating in compared to national data.

Integrated Care Program	Average Participation (Alabama)	Average Participation (National)
Medicaid 1915(c) waiver	75%	44%
Veteran Directed Care Program	50%	31%
Medicaid 1915(b) waiver	25%	13%

*\*Alabama response rate = 11 AAAs*

The top integrated care activities that AAAs are involved in nationally are the Medicaid 1915(c) waiver (44 percent) and Veteran Directed Care (31 percent).

## Other AAA Roles

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) help consumers make decisions about their own Medicare coverage through one-on-one counseling and assistance via telephone and face-to-face interactive sessions, public education presentations and programs, and media activities. All of the responding AAAs in Alabama serve as the local SHIP.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) serve as single points of entry (often called No Wrong Door Systems) into the LTSS system for older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, veterans and families. All of Alabama’s responding AAAs lead or are a part of an ADRC.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs advocate for the rights of residents of nursing homes, assisted living and other adult care facilities. These programs also investigate and serve as mediators for concerns or problems older adults have about their care. All of the responding AAAs in Alabama operate a local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

## Partnerships

Given their role as planners, developers and funders of services for older adults, AAAs have a wide variety of formal and informal partnerships with other organizations, working with an average of 19 types of community partners to meet the needs of older adults and their caregivers in their communities. In Alabama, the most common partner types of responding AAAs are:

Partner	Percentage Partnering (Alabama)	Percentage Partnering (National)
Emergency preparedness agencies	100%	83%
Other social service organization	100%	70%
Adult protective services	92%	92%
Advocacy organization	92%	77%
Charitable organization	92%	72%
Federal programs	92%	81%
Medicaid	92%	80%
Disability service organization	83%	78%
Mental/behavioral health organization	83%	80%
Public housing programs	83%	79%

Partner	Percentage Partnering (Alabama)	Percentage Partnering (National)
Transportation agencies	83%	88%
Law enforcement/first responders	83%	72%

## About This State Profile

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey Selected Social Characteristics in the United States, 2018, 5-Year Estimates.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/acs/acs-41.pdf>.