

Aging Network

The Nebraska Department on Aging is part of an aging network that spans the nation. That network includes individuals and organizations in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, the Administration on Aging charts the course on the Federal level. With funds appropriated by Congress, the Administration on Aging channels money to State Units on Aging, such as the Nebraska Department on Aging. There is a State Unit on Aging in each state. In turn, the Department on Aging has designated eight Area Agencies on Aging to serve Nebraska's older citizens in each of the state's 93 counties. The Department grants both state and federal funds to the area agencies to support local programs and services.

Nebraska aging programs are determined through local grassroots processes. Ideas for programs and services are initiated by local groups and individuals interacting in communities across the state. Advisory committees in senior centers, area agencies on aging and the Department weigh and evaluate competing needs in making program and budget recommendations.

The first state program grant for aging was made in 1968 for a senior meals program in Walthill. A grant for a model project in Lincoln made in 1971 led to the creation of the Lincoln Area Agency on Aging, the forerunner of the area agency program across the state. The following chart indicates some of the growth in programs and services for older persons in the past ten years.



Aging Services in Nebraska 1978

	1978
Congregate Meal Sites	85
Congregate Meals Served	839,650
Home Delivered Meals	136,687
Total Meals Served	976,337
Total Individuals Served Meals	27,275
Transportation Clients (*1979)	8,899*
Residential Repair Clients	3,485
Homemaker Clients	1,641
Total Supportive Services Clients	50,193

A variety of aging services are provided under the federal Older Americans Act and the Community Aging Services Act. The services coordinated at the local level include the following:

- Senior Centers ■ Congregate Meals
- Home-Delivered Meals ■ Nutrition Education ■ Supportive Services
- Health Education, Promotion, and Training, Recreation and Leisure, Homemaker, Housekeeper and Health Aid, Chore Maintenance, Residential Repair and Renovation, Management, Shopping and Errand Service, Reading and Letter Writing, Legal assistance and counseling, taxes, finances and insurance, consumer fraud, Pre-retirement, Second Career Counseling, Employment and Job Training, Adult Abuse and Elder Abuse, Respite and Day Care, Disability, Housing Assistance ■ Access Services, Transportation, Outreach, Information, Visiting and Telephone Reassurance