

# PCA Backgrounder



## An Introduction to Who We Are and What We Do

**PCA**  
PHILADELPHIA CORPORATION FOR AGING  
*Enriching lives, preserving dignity.™*

# Anchored by the Older Americans Act

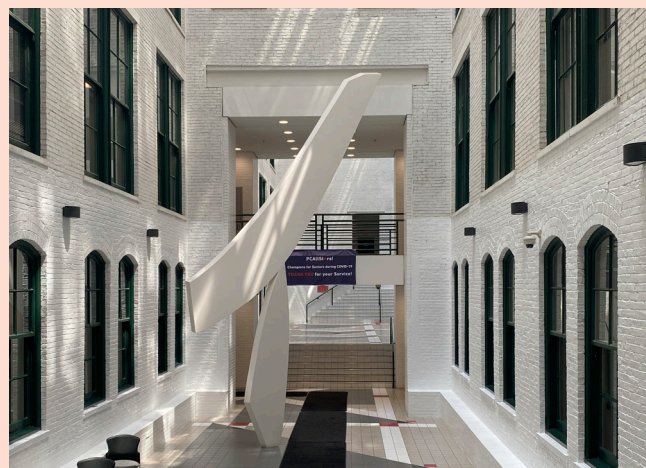
When the Older Americans Act (OAA) was signed into law in 1965, it was largely considered the most significant piece of aging legislation to date. The OAA is reauthorized by Congress every few years. The 1973 reauthorization of the OAA created Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to oversee and deliver vital home- and community-based programs. Today, there are over 600 AAAs throughout the U.S. providing OAA programs to older adults in their communities.

Federal AAA oversight and allocation of OAA-authorized funds is conducted through the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Within the commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging ([www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov)) allocates ACL funding and governs the 52 AAAs that serve Pennsylvanians locally.

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) has been an established AAA since 1973 and serves older adults and adults with disabilities in Philadelphia County. PCA provides vital programs that allow individuals to remain engaged in their communities and empowered in their homes. PCA is a private nonprofit AAA funded primarily through federal and state sources.

## PCA: Philadelphia's Area Agency on Aging

PCA is the first place for older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities to turn to for information and services to help maintain or improve the quality of their lives. One of the region's largest nonprofits, PCA offers or provides (through over 200 contracted providers) services to help older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities living in Philadelphia. PCA also works to spotlight older Philadelphians and bring visibility to their needs, in collaboration with both aging advocates and AAA associations on the state and national level, Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A) and USAging.



*PCA is governed by a Board of Directors and has an Advisory Council that provides input and acts as an advocating body.*





## PCA Services

50+

Years of improving the quality of life for older adults and adults with disabilities

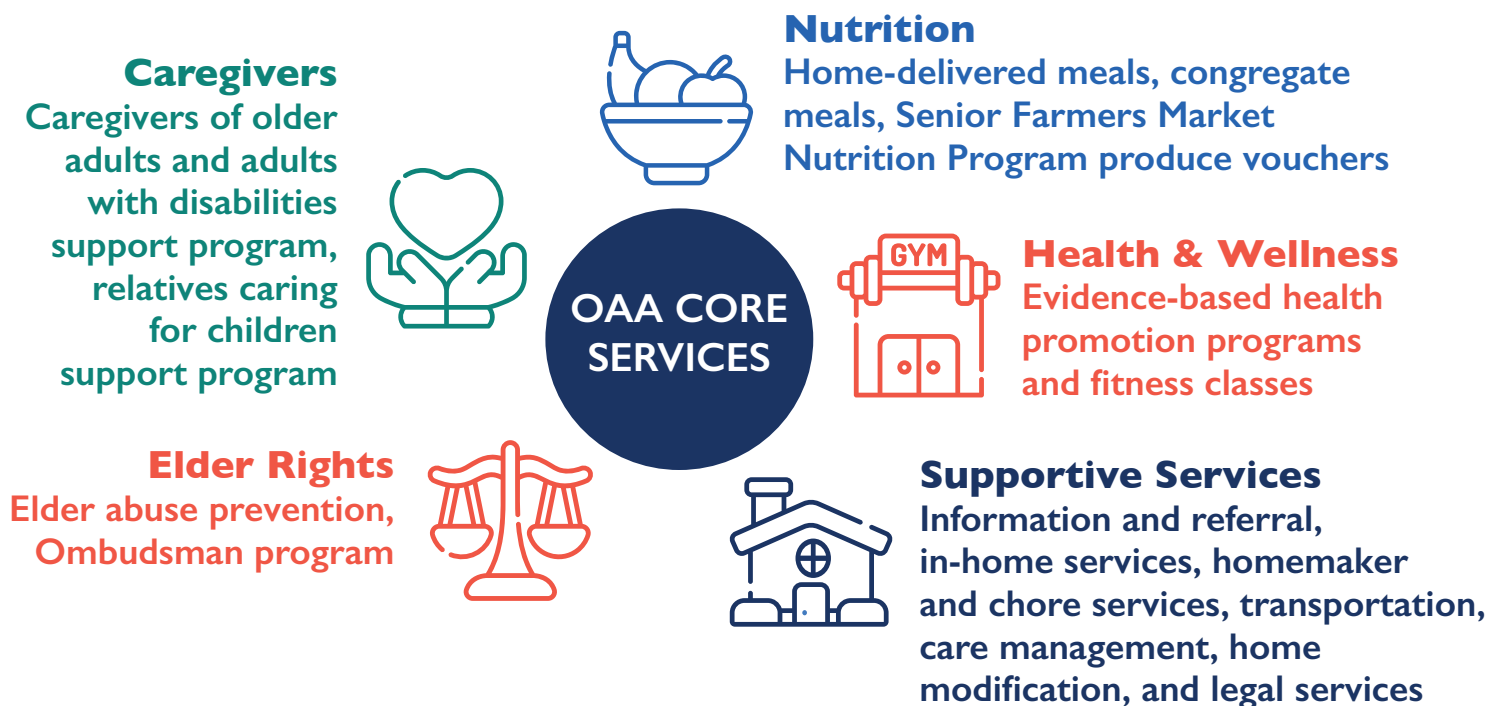
140,000

Lives touched by PCA annually

30+

Services provided to older adults and adults with disabilities in Philadelphia

Keeping older individuals independent in their homes and engaged in their communities.



PCA Helpline: 215-765-9040



[pcaCares.org](https://pcaCares.org)



[AskHelpline@pcaCares.org](mailto:AskHelpline@pcaCares.org)



## Empowering Individuals in their Homes and Communities

PCA programs and contracted services work to enhance areas that impact individuals' health and wellness as they age, so they continue to live as autonomously and independently as possible in the home of their own choosing.

### COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

#### Senior Centers

Centers throughout the city provide older adults with opportunities for social interaction, education, exercise, and nutritious lunchtime meals.

#### Transportation

Transportation is available to take older adults and adults with disabilities who are unable to use fixed-route public transportation to vital appointments and important activities.

#### Health & Wellness

Evidence-based programs that provide older adults with information, skill-building and screenings to help them reduce the risk of disability and illness and manage chronic conditions.

#### Senior Companion Program

Individuals age 55 and older are matched and meet regularly with an older adult who is homebound to provide companionship and some assistance.

#### Employment/Job Training

Helps mature workers to stay competitive in the workforce and assists with finding new career opportunities that fit their needs.

#### PA MEDI (Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight)

Health insurance assistance that provides counseling on Medicare, Medicaid and PACE/PACENET (PA's prescription assistance program).



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## HELP IN THE HOME

### Eligibility Assessments

Assessment workers evaluate individuals' eligibility for long-term care services.

### Care Management

Trained care managers provide personalized coordination of services for those who need long-term support to remain safely in their homes.

### Home-Delivered Meals

Balanced meals delivered to the door of individuals who are experiencing barriers to proper nutrition.

### Home Repairs and Modifications

Improving safety and accessibility through minor home repairs and modifications.

### Domiciliary Care

Alternative living arrangements created to place those with barriers to daily living in a friendly home environment with families who can assist with their needs.

### Caregiver Support

Empower caregivers of older adults or adults with disabilities and older relatives caring for children through information, planning, resources and financial assistance.

### Veterans Directed Care Program

Offers veterans and their caregivers greater access, choice and control over the long-term services and supports that help veterans live at home and remain a part of their community.



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## PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

### Older Adult Protective Services

Confidentially investigates reports of suspected abuse, neglect, financial exploitation and abandonment of older adults.

### Ombudsman

Advocates for residents in long-term care facilities and their families.

### Legal Services

Advises and assists older adults with legal challenges or proceedings, including wills, taxes and landlord-tenant disputes.

## ACCESSING PCA SERVICES



**PCA Helpline** – Call 215-765-9040 to be connected with programs, get information or report abuse/neglect.



**pcaCares.org** – Visit [pcaCares.org](https://pcaCares.org) for resources and information. Individuals can also inquire about services through the “Request Assistance Form” located at the top of every page.



**AskHelpline@pcaCares.org** – Email for general inquiries about PCA or aging services.

## DONATE TO PCA

**Rodney D. Williams Philadelphia Fund for Seniors** – PCA established this fund in 2014 to supplement public funding that had not kept pace with the growing needs of older Philadelphians. Each gift helps to support PCA’s mission of improving the quality of life for older adults and adults with disabilities.

**Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians** – The Emergency Fund Coalition of over 20 organizations founded this fund in 1979 to provide crisis assistance to older people with low incomes who are facing severe hardship.

Donate to either fund by visiting [pcaCares.org/donate](https://pcaCares.org/donate) or calling 215-765-9000, ext. 5067.





## Meeting the Needs of Older Philadelphians

PCA supports and empowers older adults and adults with disabilities living in Philadelphia. Special consideration is given to those who have the greatest economic and social needs.

Nearly 20% of Philadelphia's population is over 60 years old, and Philadelphia has the highest proportion of older people living in poverty among large cities in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from [data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

For more than 50 years, older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities have sought PCA's experience in aging to meet their needs. In fiscal year 2024, PCA numbers of impact include...

**1,556,047**

nutritious meals provided to older adults through PCA's home-delivered and community-based meal programs.



**89,768**

services provided to older adults at senior community centers, including exercise, workshops, counseling and art classes.



**80,500**

callers provided with information, assistance, scheduling assessments, and connections to programs through PCA's Helpline.



**72,300**

initial and follow-up assessments for long-term care conducted.



**21,036**

hours of companionship and assistance provided to homebound adults through the Senior Companion Program.



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# PCA'S MISSION

To improve the quality of life for older Philadelphians and people with disabilities and to assist them in achieving their maximum level of health, independence and productivity.

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