North Carolina
Division of Aging and Adult Services

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND CONNECTIONS

Providing support to ensure the success of
North Carolina's aging population.

NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Aging and
Adult Services

North Carolina's
AGING POPULATION

North Carolina ranks among the **top 10 nationally** for number of people **age 65 and over**.

1 in 5 NC residents will be older than 65 by 2025.

An estimated **1 out of every 4** adults age 65 and over live alone.

Despite growing life expectancy, **baby boomers experience high rates of heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, and obesity.**

Alzheimer's is the 4th leading cause of death in North Carolina among people 65 and over.

1 in 5 NC adults identify themselves as a caregiver; of these, 62% are caring for someone age 65 or older.

An Age of
OPPORTUNITY

As the older adult population in North Carolina increases, we are presented with new and unique opportunities. This rapid rise of older adults in the state's population has placed a greater demand on available funding and the work force. The increase also has affected resources such as community- based services and supports.

However, these challenges provide opportunities for innovative partnerships, collaboration, and dialogue to identify and address the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities and their caregivers.

Our Mission

The Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) works to promote the independence and enhance the dignity of North Carolina's older adults, people with disabilities, and their families through a community-based system of opportunities, services, benefits, and protections.

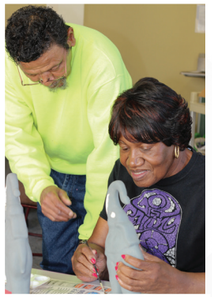
Service Delivery System

DAAS relies on a solid network of partners, including 16 Area Agencies on Aging and 100 county Departments of Social Services, to connect with older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers throughout the state.

- **Federal Government**
- **State Government**
  - **16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)**
    - **Non-Profit Agencies**
    - **For-Profit Agencies**
    - **County Government Agencies**
  - **100 County Governments**
    - **County Departments of Social Services (100)**

DAAS Core Areas of Emphasis

*Senior Community Service Employment Program, Emergency Solutions Grant Program



Advocacy and Protection

Advocacy and protection programs inform individuals about their rights and how to address their concerns which allow them to protect themselves against exploitation, neglect, and abuse.

Adult Protective Services include evaluating the need for protective services and helping to secure food, safe housing, or medical care to remedy the problems that resulted in the abuse, neglect, or exploitation. ***North Carolina is a "mandatory reporter state",*** *which means that anyone suspecting mistreatment of an adult, of any age, with a disability needs to report their concerns to the DSS in the county where the person lives.*

The local DSS will:

- **Take the report**
- **Assure confidentiality**
- **Explains what happens once the report is taken**

Guardianship Services are provided to individuals alleged to be incompetent or determined to be incompetent by the county Clerk of Superior Court. DSS will:

- assess the need for guardianship
- help locate appropriate guardian(s)
- petition or assist the individual's family to petition for determination of incompetence and appointment of guardians
- provide ongoing support when the DSS director/assistant director has been appointed as guardian

Long Term Care Ombudsmen assist long term care residents by advocating to:

- ensure their ability to exercise their rights, receive quality care, and resolve complaints
- provide information to the public on long term care issues
- promote community involvement with residents and facilities
- assist providers with staff training

Economic Supports

Economic supports help ensure an individual's financial viability by supplementing discretionary income or by providing financial assistance for housing or shelter.

State/County Special Assistance provides a monthly financial supplement to eligible individuals to offset the cost of room and board in adult care homes/assisted living, family care homes, and group homes.

Special Assistance In-Home provides an alternative to placement in adult care homes for those who can live safely in the community with appropriate services. Payments assist with financial needs for health and safety related services.

Key Rental Assistance provides rental assistance to individuals with disabilities and a low income who occupy supportive housing units developed under the Targeted Housing Program.

Senior Community Service Employment Program is a workforce training program serving unemployed adults, age 55 and over, who live at or below 125% of federal poverty level.

Emergency Solutions Grant Program awards grants to homelessness service providers to offer street outreach, operate emergency shelters, and promote housing stability.

Home and Community-Based Services

Home and community-based services include a variety of health and human services delivered in the home or community to address social isolation and other social determinants of health and help people stay in their homes for as long as possible.

Health and Wellness Programs promote healthy aging and include services such as:

- community meal programs
- senior centers
- health and wellness classes that have been proven effective

Supportive Services include programs that allow individuals to remain independent such as:

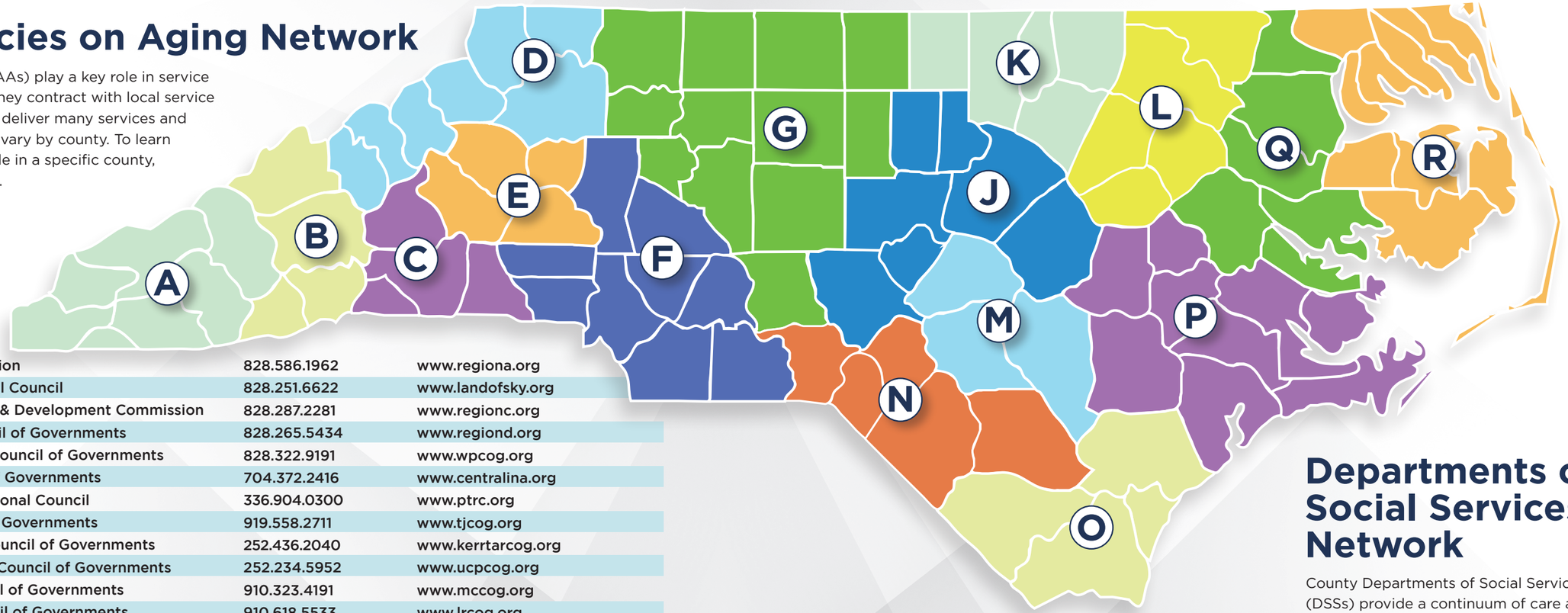
- home-delivered meals
- in-home aide assistance
- transportation
- legal aid
- home improvement
- resource navigation assistance

Family Caregiver Resources include an array of services to assist caregivers such as:

- information and referral
- training and counseling
- respite
- supports to keep individuals in the community

Area Agencies on Aging Network

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) play a key role in service coordination and delivery. They contract with local service providers to coordinate and deliver many services and supports. Available services vary by county. To learn more about services available in a specific county, contact the associated AAA.



A. Southwest Commission	828.586.1962	www.regiona.org
B. Land of Sky Regional Council	828.251.6622	www.landofsky.org
C. Isothermal Planning & Development Commission	828.287.2281	www.regionc.org
D. High Country Council of Governments	828.265.5434	www.regiond.org
E. Western Piedmont Council of Governments	828.322.9191	www.wpcog.org
F. Centralina Council of Governments	704.372.2416	www.centralina.org
G. Piedmont Triad Regional Council	336.904.0300	www.ptrc.org
J. Triangle J Council of Governments	919.558.2711	www.tjcog.org
K. Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments	252.436.2040	www.kerrtarcog.org
L. Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments	252.234.5952	www.ucpcog.org
M. Mid-Carolina Council of Governments	910.323.4191	www.mccog.org
N. Lumber River Council of Governments	910.618.5533	www.lrcog.org
O. Cape Fear Council of Governments	910.395.4553	www.capefearcog.org
P. Eastern Carolina Council of Governments	252.638.3185	www.eccog.org
Q. Mid-East Commission	252.946.8043	www.mideastcom.org
R. Albemarle Commission	252.426.5753	www.albemarlecommission.org

Departments of Social Services Network

County Departments of Social Services (DSSs) provide a continuum of care across the lifespan and work to promote self-reliance and self-sufficiency and prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation. To learn more about services available in a specific county, contact the county DSS.

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Division of Aging and Adult Services

UNC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Center for Aging and Health

Mailing Address: 2101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699 - 2101

Telephone: 919-855-3400 • www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/aging-and-adult-services

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