

National Aging Program Information System Comprehensive Aging Reporting and Data System (CARDS)

The CARDS program is a web-based decision support system for NAPIS and houses all NAPIS data. It includes a web-based tool for SUAs to submit data and enable reporting for AoA.

Lead Agency:

Administration on Aging
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Agency Mission:

The mission of the Administration on Aging (AoA) is to help elderly individuals maintain their dignity and independence in their homes and communities for as long as possible. AoA does this by serving as the Federal agency responsible for advancing the concerns and interests of older people, and by working with and through a nationwide network of 29,000 community-based organizations, known as the Aging Services Network, to promote the development of comprehensive and coordinated systems of care at the community-level that respond to the needs and preferences of older people and their family caregivers.

Principal Investigator:

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Partner agency:

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General Description:

The CARDS system houses the data warehouse and reporting tools for program information and services provided under the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA, administered by AoA, provides grant programs for an array of supportive services, as well as state and local efforts to develop comprehensive systems of care for older people and their family caregivers. Data and information on these programs is gathered through the National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) in collaboration with an Aging Network that includes 56 State Units on Aging (SUAs), 655 Area Agencies on Aging

(AAAs), 244 Tribal organizations, and over 29,000 local community service organizations.

The NAPIS database system has multiple components. Review, analysis and infrastructure upgrades of each part of the system are crucial for continued stability, security and validity of the data and the elements contained within the database and web elements. The NAPIS data allows AoA to develop and dissect information about aging services to Congress, states and other stakeholders. NAPIS components include State Program Report (SPR), National Ombudsman Reporting System (NORS), Title IV of the OAA, Senior Medicare Patrols Project (SMP), and the Census data.

The CARDS system houses AoA's NAPIS data and provides the following benefits:

- One-stop shopping because the system is a web-based portal using single "Hub" application.
- Easy-to-use single-click electronic report submission, which does not require any email or file transfer protocol.
- Simple method to capture, validate and report data.
- Decision support system and projections.
- Improve data timeliness, reliability, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 24/365 availability.
- Automatic backup.
- Year-by-year, multi-year, state-by-state and multi-state reporting, allowing local and nationwide reports.
- Ad hoc analysis.
- Standardized reports and procedures.
- Cross-program reporting.
- Historical analysis including variance reporting.
- Single data repository.
- Automated tracking, notification and logs.
- Role-based use.
- Third-party data import allowing flexibility.
- Scalable.
- Streamlined support.
- Streamlined training.

Excellence

What makes this project exceptional?

The CARDS program is exceptional because it enables state and other grantees to electronically submit data and information to the NAPIS database. It captures, validates and reports on data, and serves as a decision-support system for AoA. It enhances the timeliness, reliability, efficiency and effectiveness with which AoA manages data; and it establishes a web-based, hosted database and decision-support system to be operational, initially for SPR, NORS and information from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Significance How is this research relevant to older persons, populations and/or an aging society?

The CARDS data is designed to assist States and grantees to do reporting in a quick and efficient manner. The software is user-friendly and the system is designed to detect anomalies in data. As a result, the system can help reduce redundancy, lower costs, and maximize the level of care provided to consumers.

Effectiveness What is the impact and/or application of this research to older persons?

The data makes it possible for AoA to develop and disseminate information about services for the aging to Congress, states and other stakeholders.

Innovativeness Why is this research exciting or newsworthy?

The CARDS program provides an integrated environment to house AoA program and performance data. The data and information is gathered through NAPIS in collaboration with an Aging Network that includes 56 SUAs, 655 AAAs, 244 Tribal organizations, and over 29,000 local community service organizations.