

The Older Americans Act

The Older Americans Act funds a wide range of programs to help older adults live and thrive in the community. Programs include congregate and home-delivered meals (i.e., Meals on Wheels), home care services, family caregiver support, elder abuse prevention, senior employment, and long-term care ombudsman services.

Older Americans Act programs are funded by the federal government and delivered locally by Area Agencies on Aging and other local service providers that understand the needs of their community.

Senator Casey is leading the work to reauthorize the Older Americans Act in the United States Senate.

Impact on Pennsylvania

The Older Americans Act has significantly impacted the lives of older Pennsylvanians. In 2022, approximately*:

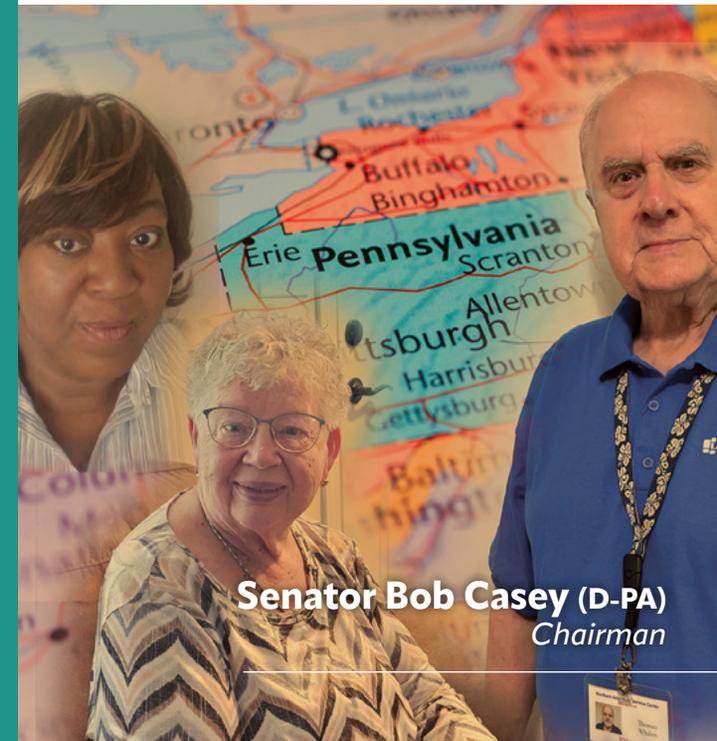
- **39,000** older Pennsylvanians received home-delivered meals and **47,000** participated in congregate meals (i.e., meals served in a community setting);
- **226,000** Pennsylvanians received caregiver support, which can include respite care, caregiving training, and financial assistance; and,
- **7,000** older Pennsylvanians received legal assistance under the Act's elder rights protection programs.

*Data provided by the Administration for Community Living



U.S. Senate
Special Committee on Aging

Federal Policy on a Local Level: THE IMPACT OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA



Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)
Chairman



U.S. Senate
Special Committee on Aging

The Older Americans Act in Action

Glenn Jackamonis

*Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Montgomery County*

Glenn is a long-term care ombudsman. In his role, Glenn ensures the safety of more than 5,500 Pennsylvanians who reside in 53 long-term care facilities and adult day care centers across the county by advocating for their rights.



Denise Croom

*Former Resident in a Long-Term Care Facility
Philadelphia County*

Denise was a resident of a nursing home after she underwent surgery. She sought assistance from Glenn, an ombudsman, who was a resource for her when she felt unsafe. Denise says, "Because of the ombudsman, I felt like I had someone to turn to in a challenging situation."



Leslie Grenfell
*Executive Director of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Washington County*

Leslie is the Executive Director of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. For nearly 50 years, Leslie has worked in the aging network ensuring older adults in the region have access to programs and services that assist them and allow them to live full and independent lives.



Janet Billotte
*Home-Delivered Meal Participant
Clearfield County*

Janet has been receiving home-delivered meals from her local AAA for nearly four years. Meals were a lifeline while she was undergoing treatment for cancer and while her husband was struggling with his health. Janet says, "Receiving a meal is kind of like getting a special present every day."



Jeanine Tome
*Home-Delivered Meals Driver
Erie County*

Jeanine has been a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels in Erie for the past four years. In this role, she and other volunteers deliver hot meals to more than 220 older adults and veterans, providing food for every day of the week.



Tom Whalen
*Home-Delivered Meals Driver
Allegheny County*

Tom delivers meals to older adults who are served by a Meals on Wheels program in Pittsburgh. Tom not only delivers nutritious meals to the older adults enrolled in the program, but he also checks on their welfare and provides friendly conversation for a few days every week. Tom delivers meals to approximately 40 older adults each day.



Eleanor Dorin
*Senior Center Manager
Lackawanna County*

Eleanor is the volunteer manager at the Taylor Senior Center in Lackawanna County. Eleanor's commitment to volunteering has improved the lives of countless older adults who participate in meal programs and other activities furnished by the senior center.



Doris Philhower
*Senior Center Participant
Erie County*

Doris attends the Erie West Senior Center, where she also serves as a member of the Senior Center's Advisory Committee. The Erie West Senior Center provides a range of activities from daily lunch to crafts, musical entertainment, and holiday celebrations. Doris says, "It has filled my life with new friends over the years. It's my home away from home."

