Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs): Target Populations

- Funded by DADS to assist:
  - Persons age 60 and over
  - Caregivers of persons age 60 and over
  - Caregivers of persons of any age with Alzheimer’s or related dementias
  - Grandparents at least 55 years of age with custody of grandchildren under the age of 18
AAAs and Client Eligibility

- Programs are age-based rather than means tested
- Enabling legislation requires that programs target older persons/caregivers who are “at risk” associated with economic need, social isolation, frailty, minority status, cognitive impairment
AAAs and Service Cost

- Services provided at no cost to eligible individuals, although voluntary contributions are encouraged
AAAs and Service Array

- "Core" services (i.e., available through all):
  - Information, referral and assistance
  - Care coordination/caregiver support coordination
  - In-home services
  - Home-delivered meals
  - Congregate meals
  - Benefits counseling
  - Long-term care ombudsman
AAAs and Service Array

- AAAs have flexibility to determine other services they will offer and funding priority
- Other services include transportation, adult day activity, senior center operations, supports for grandparents raising grandchildren, caregiver respite, health promotion
AAA Programs of Interest to HHSC Ombudsmen/Clients

- Benefits counseling: assists persons age 60 and over and Medicare beneficiaries of any age with public and private benefit issues
  - Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Veterans Administration
  - Pensions
Benefits Counseling Scope of Work

- **Medicare**
  - Coverage
  - Medicare supplements
  - Medicare Advantage Programs
  - Medicare Part D plan comparisons
  - Medicare Savings Programs and Low Income Subsidies
  - Claim denials
Benefits Counseling Scope of Work (2)

- Medicaid
  - Nursing home Medicaid
  - Qualifying income trusts
  - Spousal impoverishment
  - Medicaid Estate Recovery Program
Benefits Counseling Scope of Work

- Veterans Administration
  - Homebound pensions
  - Aid and Attendance

- Private benefits
  - Pensions
  - Pharmaceutical companies’ patient assistance programs
Information, Referral and Assistance Scope of Work

- Identify federal, state and local programs
Care Coordination Scope of Work

- Provide temporary assistance, while seeking to secure on-going assistance as possible
  - Case management
  - Purchased services
    - In-home services
    - Home modifications
    - Medical equipment and supplies
    - Emergency financial assistance
Care Coordination Target Populations

- Older persons who are unable to access services through other programs, either public or private
  - In general, will not authorize Medicaid-funded services for Medicaid beneficiaries
Caregiver Support Coordination Scope of Work

- Provide temporary assistance, while seeking to secure on-going assistance as possible
  - Case management
  - Purchased services
    - Respite care
    - Home modifications
    - Medical equipment and supplies
    - Emergency financial assistance
Caregiver Support
Coordination Target Population

- Caregivers who are at risk of burnout because of illness/care receivers’ demands/work demands/responsibilities for more than one care receiver
Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Scope of Work

- Help identify facilities best equipped to meet care needs
- Resolve residents’ concerns regarding quality of care or quality of life
- Assist with appeals of nursing home Medicaid denials/involuntary discharges, as requested
When to Refer to AAAs

- **Need for:**
  - local resources to help older persons at risk of nursing home placement
  - supports for caregiver at risk of burnout
  - nutrition services
  - help with Medicare/other public benefits
  - advocacy to help nursing home/assisted living facility residents
When to Refer to AAAs

- If primary need is for financial assistance, 2-1-1 is best resource
  - AAAs may be able to help with bills/purchased services, but will apply screening criteria
AAA Limitations

- In most cases cannot assist persons under age of 60 (unless they’re caregivers of age-eligible individuals)
- In-home services/financial assistance extremely limited
AAA Network

- DADS contracts with 28 parent organizations, providing statewide coverage
  - 24 Councils of Governments (one administering two AAAs)
  - Community Council of Greater Dallas
  - United Way of Tarrant County
  - City of Houston
Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) Eligible Populations

- Persons of all ages with all types of disabilities
- Caregivers of persons with disabilities
- Persons who wish to plan in advance of need
- Persons with all income levels
ADRC Primary Target Population

- Persons in need of long-term services and supports
ADRC Core Services

- Specialized information, referral and assistance
- Housing navigation
- Nursing home options counseling
- LTSS screening
Housing Navigation Scope of Work

- Compile affordable housing inventory
- Advocate for expansion of affordable, accessible, integrated, and service-enriched housing
Nursing Home Options
Counseling Scope of Work

- Counsel nursing home residents without Medicaid benefits regarding community-based services
LTSS Screening

- Conduct Level One Screen for persons in need of long-term services and supports
  - Generate referrals to DADS, LIDDAs, LMHAs, AAAs for those who meet basic eligibility criteria
When to Refer to ADRCs

- Persons of any age in need of:
  - long-term services and supports
  - subsidized housing
- Nursing home residents who wish to return to community
Limitations of ADRCs

- Not funded for case management
- Not funded for purchased services
- Little/no access to Medicaid data or ability to intervene with Medicaid eligibility issues
ADRC Network

- Parent organizations selected by DADS via competitive procurement
  - Councils of Governments
  - Local Authorities
  - Centers for Independent Living
  - Not-for-profit organizations
Contact Information

Texas Area Agencies on Aging:
   1-800-252-9240

Texas Aging and Disability Resource Centers:
   1-855-937-2372
Questions?

Doni Green
817-695-9193
dgreen@nctcog.org