

Presentation to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

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Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging
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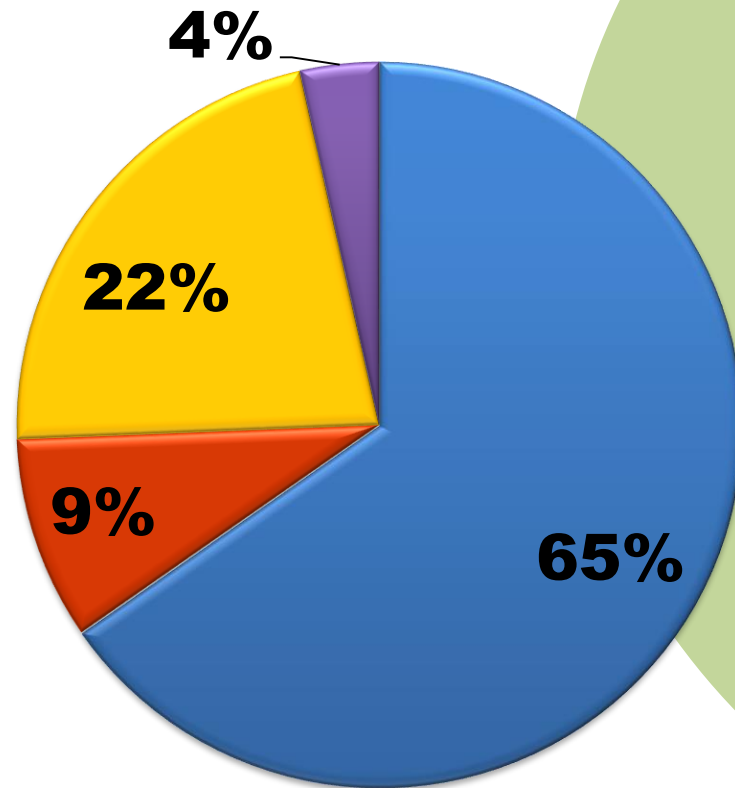
The Piedmont Triad Regional Council Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is one of 16 in North Carolina. More than 351,000 people age 60+ live in the Piedmont Triad Region.



NC Demographics

People age 60 or older

- Family Household
- Living Alone - Men
- Living Alone - Women
- Group Quarters



Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

- AAA Ombudsmen advocate for residents in Long Term Care (LTC) facilities to ensure rights are protected
- We vet and train community volunteers
- North Carolina has 46,488 Nursing Home beds and 44,039 Adult Care Homes (assisted living).
- **Challenge:** According to NC IOM, there should be one LTC Ombudsman for every 2000 beds. NC is lacking 10 FTE's statewide to fulfill this obligation. Additional funding of \$800,000 is needed for this program

Successes

- Extensive service delivery network with decades of successful examples of giving seniors choice and reducing health costs
- Local decision making
- Affordable services helping seniors remain at home, reducing reliance on Medicaid funded institutional care

Challenges

- 10,000 seniors are waiting for Home & Community Care Block Grant services due to lack of funding
- Expressing the value of home and community-based services through data
- Integrating health care and human services in order to comprehensively serve an individual
- Many communities are not prepared to address the challenges presented by an aging population
- Declining volunteerism

Recommendations

- Increase funding for the Home & Community Care Block Grant by \$7million
- Increase funding for Long Term Care Ombudsman by \$800,000
- Increase funding for senior centers
- Support volunteerism
- Promote the aging network to health care systems as the valued partner we are

Contact Information

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