

A close-up photograph of an elderly woman with glasses and a young girl smiling together. The woman is on the right, wearing round glasses and a purple top. The girl is on the left, wearing a pink top. They are both looking towards the camera with warm, happy expressions.

SECTION C

State-Funded Programs

The following programs are funded wholly or primarily with state General Revenue dollars. They provide a wide variety of home and community-based services for elders, including adult day care, Alzheimer's disease screening, caregiver training and support, case management, congregate meals, counseling, education and training, home-delivered meals, personal care, respite, and transportation.

State-Funded Programs

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI)

Description

The Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) was legislatively created in 1985 to provide a continuum of services to meet the changing needs of individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD). In conjunction with a 10-member advisory committee appointed by the Governor, the program includes three components: 1) Supportive services such as counseling, consumable medical supplies, and respite for caregiver relief; 2) Memory Disorder Clinics to provide diagnosis, education, training, research, treatment, and referral; and 3) the Florida Brain Bank to support research.

Administration

The Department plans, budgets, coordinates, and develops policy at the state level necessary to carry out the statutory requirements for the ADI.

The Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee, composed of 10 members selected by the Governor, advises the Department regarding legislative, programmatic, and administrative matters that relate to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers.

Eligibility

- ADI respite care is available for caregivers of adults age 18 and older who have been diagnosed as having probable Alzheimer's disease or other related memory disorders.
- ADI respite care is available for individuals

who have been diagnosed with or suspected of having a memory loss where mental changes appear and interfere with the activities of daily living.

- Caregivers of eligible consumers can receive training and other ADI support services in addition to respite care. Individuals of any age suspected of having a memory disorder may request that a Memory Disorder Clinic conduct diagnostic evaluations to determine probable Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.
- Individuals of any age, regardless of a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other related memory disorder, are eligible to sign up with the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative Brain Bank. Medical records documenting a general physical examination, neurological examination, hematological and biochemical studies, and a scan of the brain must be available.

Statutory Authority

Sections 430.501-430.504, Florida Statutes.

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

The Alzheimer's Disease Initiative is funded by General Revenue. There is no match requirement. The Department allocates General Revenue funding to each of the Area Agencies on Aging, which then fund providers of respite care programs in designated counties. The allocation for ADI respite funding is based on each county's

population age 75 and older (50 percent weight) and probable number of Alzheimer’s cases (50 percent weight). Additional Alzheimer’s disease services are administered by Department staff through contracts with designated Memory Disorder Clinics and the Florida Brain Bank. Remaining funds are allocated to special projects per proviso language and legislative intent in the General Appropriations Act. Clients are assessed a co-payment based on a sliding scale developed by the Department. Co-pay collections help expand the availability of client services.

Services and Activities

RESPITE SERVICES FOR CAREGIVER RELIEF

Alzheimer’s Respite Care programs are established in all of Florida’s 67 counties, with many counties having multiple service sites.

Many individuals with Alzheimer’s disease require care 24 hours a day, especially in the late stages of the disease. ADI respite includes in-home, facility-based (usually at adult day care centers), emergency, and extended care (up to 30 days) respite for caregivers who serve individuals with neurocognitive disorders.

In addition to respite care services, caregivers and consumers may receive supportive services essential to maintaining persons with Alzheimer’s disease or related disorders in their own homes. The supportive services may include caregiver training and support groups, counseling, consumable medical supplies, and nutritional supplements. Services are authorized by a case manager based on a comprehensive assessment including unmet needs.

MEMORY DISORDER CLINICS

The Legislature has authorized 16 Memory Disorder Clinics to provide comprehensive diagnostic and referral services for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. The clinics, all of which receive funding from the State, also conduct service-related

research and develop caregiver training materials and educational opportunities. Memory Disorder Clinics are required to:

- Provide services to persons suspected of having Alzheimer’s disease or other related disorders. Services include accepting referrals from all respite and service providers and conducting subsequent diagnostic evaluations for all referred consumers and the public within the Memory Disorder Clinic’s designated service area.
- Provide four hours of in-service training during the contract year to ADI respite service providers in the designated service area and develop and disseminate training models to service providers and the Department of Elder Affairs. A staff member of the Memory

Respite/Special Projects Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served
2008-2009	\$9,621,935	2,174
2009-2010	\$8,050,666	1,999
2010-2011	\$8,362,200	2,300
2011-2012	\$9,404,262	3,348
2012-2013	\$9,554,262	*1,808
2013-2014	\$10,412,201	1,832
2014-2015	\$16,093,452	2,657
2015-2016	\$16,471,449	2,673
2016-2017	\$18,031,499	3,567
2017-2018	\$21,309,195	#4,215

*Beginning 2012-2013, clients served is an unduplicated number.

#Projection

Source for clients served: CIRTS

Memory Disorder Clinics Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served
2008-2009	\$3,254,474	4,761
2009-2010	\$2,968,081	5,116
2010-2011	\$2,968,081	7,096
2011-2012	\$2,968,081	6,732
2012-2013	\$2,968,081	6,886
2013-2014	\$3,413,603	6,560
2014-2015	\$3,463,683	6,638
2015-2016	\$3,463,683	7,006
2016-2017	\$3,463,683	8,092
2017-2018	#\$3,463,683	#8,092

Note: The definition of unduplicated persons served is total new patients seen plus registered persons who had at least one clinic visit during the annual contract. New and registered persons are counted only once each contract year for an unduplicated count.

#Projection

Source for clients served: Memory Disorder Clinics manual reports

Disorder Clinic is to be designated to act as a training liaison for service providers.

- Develop training materials and educational opportunities for lay and professional caregivers who serve individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or related disorders and provide specialized training for caregivers and caregiver groups and organizations in the designated service area.
- Conduct service-related applied research. This research may address, but is not limited to, therapeutic interventions and support services for persons suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders.

- Establish a minimum of one annual contact with each respite care and service provider to discuss, plan, develop, and conduct service-related research projects.

Memory Disorder Clinic services are available to individuals diagnosed with or suspected of having a memory loss where mental changes appear and interfere with activities of daily living. A map of the Memory Disorder Clinics with contact information can be found on Page 19 of this publication.

RESEARCH

The State of Florida Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative Brain Bank is a service, education, and research-oriented network of statewide regional sites. The intent of the brain bank program is to ultimately find a cure by collecting and studying the brains of deceased patients who in life were clinically diagnosed with dementia. Mt. Sinai Medical Center contracts annually with the State of Florida to operate the primary brain bank. Coordinators at regional brain bank sites in Orlando and Miami help recruit participants and act as liaisons between the brain bank and participants’ families. Alzheimer’s disease respite care program providers and memory disorder clinics also recruit brain bank participants. Families of Alzheimer’s patients obtain two significant service benefits from the brain bank including: 1) a diagnostic confirmation of the disease written in clear, understandable terms; and 2) involvement in various research activities both inside and outside of Florida.

Brain Bank Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Persons Registered	Autopsies
2008-2009	\$128,876	159	79
2009-2010	\$117,535	135	80
2010-2011	\$117,535	120	87
2011-2012	\$117,535	129	119
2012-2013	\$117,535	89	69
2013-2014	\$117,535	83	92
2014-2015	\$117,535	88	75
2015-2016	\$117,535	61	59
2016-2017	\$117,535	71	54
2017-2018	#\$117,535	#40	#40

#Projection

Source for persons registered and autopsies: Brain Bank reports

Program Highlight

Martin County Council on Aging assisted a caregiver in need of respite services. The caregiver now has some time to themselves, which has relieved the stress they were under while caring for their spouse alone. If not for the respite, the caregiver stated that they would not have been able to continue to care for their spouse at home and would probably have placed their spouse into a long-term care facility, breaking up their family unit.

State-Funded Programs

Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Training

Services and Activities

The Department of Elder Affairs must approve Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) training providers and training curricula for the following entities licensed in Florida:

- Adult day care centers;
- Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs) that advertise they provide special care for persons with ADRD;
- Home health agencies;
- Hospices; and
- Nursing homes.

The approval process is designed to ensure that employees of these licensed entities receive quality Alzheimer’s disease training. A list of all approved Alzheimer’s disease training providers is available online at www.trainingonaging.usf.edu.

Administration

The Department contracts with the University of South Florida’s Training Academy on Aging within the Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging for the review and approval of training providers and curricula, and for the maintenance of the website that lists the approved training providers. This information is available at www.trainingonaging.usf.edu.

Eligibility

The specific eligibility requirements for trainers and curricula are documented in Florida Statute and Florida Administrative Code. The Florida

Statute and rules, along with the names of the forms that need to be submitted, are listed on the following page. Additional information is contained on the forms which are available online at www.trainingonaging.usf.edu.

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

ADRD Training is funded by General Revenue. There is no match requirement. The Department allocates General Revenue funding to one provider.

ADRD Appropriation History

State Fiscal Year	State Funding
2008-2009	\$77,826
2009-2010	\$73,935
2010-2011	\$73,935
2011-2012	\$73,935
2012-2013	\$73,935
2013-2014	\$73,935
2014-2015	\$73,935
2015-2016	\$80,997
2016-2017	\$80,997
2017-2018	\$80,997

ADRD Training Eligibility

Entity	Statutory Authority	Training Provider Certification Form	Training Curriculum Certification Form
Adult Day Care Centers	See section 429.917(1), Florida Statutes; and Rules 58A-6.015 and 6.016, Florida Administrative Code.	DOEA Form ADC/ ADRD-001, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Training Provider Certification	DOEA Form ADC/ ADRD-002, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Training Three-Year Curriculum Certification
Assisted Living Facilities	See section 429.178, Florida Statutes; and Rules 58A-5.0191 (9), 5.0191(10), and 58A-5.0194, Florida Administrative Code.	DOEA Form ALF/ ADRD-001, Application for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Training Provider Certification	DOEA Form ALF/ ADRD-002, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Training Three-Year Curriculum Certification
Home Health Agencies	See section 400.4785(1), Florida Statutes; and Rules 58A-8.001 and 8.002, Florida Administrative Code.	DOEA Form HH/ADRD-001, Application for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Training Provider Certification	DOEA Form HH/ ADRD-002, Application for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Training Three-Year Curriculum Certification
Hospices	See section 400.6045(1), Florida Statutes; and Rules 58A-2.027 and 2.028, Florida Administrative Code.	DOEA Form Hospice/ ADRD-001, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Training Provider Certification	DOEA Form Hospice/ ADRD-002, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Three-Year Curriculum Certification
Nursing Homes	See section 400.1755, Florida Statutes; and Rules 58A-4.001 and .002, Florida Administrative Code.	DOEA Form ADRD-001, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Training Provider Certification	DOEA Form ADRD-002, Application for Alzheimer's Disease or Related Disorders Training Three-Year Curriculum Certification

ADRD Approved Trainers and Curriculum

State Fiscal Year	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
ALF Approved Trainers	105	85	65	90	90	#90
ALF Approved Curriculum	18	40	20	16	44	#44
NH Approved Trainers	70	68	54	47	51	#51
NH Approved Curriculum	15	23	19	6	19	#19
Hospice Approved Trainers	17	12	13	15	22	#22
Hospice Approved Curriculum	18	14	15	6	11	#11
Adult Day Care Approved Trainers	10	9	9	9	10	#10
Adult Day Care Approved Curriculum	6	6	8	12	9	#9
Home Health Agency Approved Trainers	90	75	67	57	59	#59
Home Health Agency Approved Curriculum	9	9	15	12	5	#5

#Projection

Source: University of South Florida Alzheimer's approval program database quarterly reports



State-Funded Programs

Community Care for the Elderly (CCE)

Description

The Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) Program provides community-based services in a continuum of care to help elders with functional impairments to live in the least restrictive and most cost-effective environment suitable to their needs.

Services and Activities

Eligible individuals may receive a wide range of goods and services, including adult day care, adult day health care, case management, case aide, chore assistance, companionship, consumable medical supplies, counseling, escort, emergency alert response, emergency home repair, home-delivered meals, home health aide, homemaker, home nursing, legal assistance, material aid, medical therapeutic services, personal care, respite, shopping assistance, transportation, and other community-based services.

Administration

The Department administers the program through contracts with Area Agencies on Aging, which subcontract with Community Care for the Elderly Lead Agencies. Service delivery is provided by 52 Lead Agencies and their subcontractors.

Eligibility

Individuals must be age 60 or older and functionally impaired, as determined by an initial comprehensive assessment and annual reassessments. Primary consideration for services is given to elders referred to Department of Children and Families' Adult Protective Services (APS) and determined by APS to be victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation and in need of immediate services to prevent further harm.

Statutory Authority

Sections 430.201-430.207, Florida Statutes.

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

The CCE program is funded by General Revenue. A 10-percent match is required of service providers. Clients are assessed a co-payment based on a sliding scale developed by the Department. Co-pay collections help expand the availability of client services.

CCE Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served
2008-2009	\$41,521,133	15,773
2009-2010	\$40,578,617	16,165
2010-2011	\$40,479,617	16,015
2011-2012	\$40,479,617	13,459
2012-2013	\$41,479,617	14,244
2013-2014	\$45,229,617	12,423
2014-2015	\$49,479,617	*31,866
2015-2016	\$50,479,617	38,596
2016-2017	\$52,434,837	42,966
2017-2018	\$54,679,837	#44,806

**Increase beginning in SFY 2014-2015 reflects an increase in the number of individuals receiving intake and case management services while waiting for Medicaid Services.*

#Projection

Source for clients served: CIRTS

Program Highlight

An 100-year-old veteran and his 92-year-old spouse recently received assistance from the Osceola County Council on Aging (COA) CCE Lead Agency to remain living safely and independently in their own home. Both are frail and must use walkers to remain mobile. After a fall while attempting to help his neighbor whose home was burning, the client fell and broke his collar bone. The fall made his previous request for a home access ramp urgent. The COA coordinated resources throughout the community to complete construction of the ramp and to make other necessary repairs to the couple's deteriorated property, including repairing holes in the floors and walls, a broken window, roof insulation, and removal of mold. The couple was also assessed for services to help them meet their needs for daily living. They now receive Meals on Wheels and transportation to medical appointments. The client has reported that things are improving now that he and his wife are receiving the assistance they so desperately needed.



State-Funded Programs

Home Care for the Elderly (HCE)

Description

The Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) program supports care for Floridians age 60 and older in family-type living arrangements within private homes as an alternative to institutional or nursing facility care. A basic subsidy is provided for support and maintenance of the elder, including some medical costs. A special subsidy may also be provided for services and supplies.

Services and Activities

Most HCE participants receive a monthly subsidy of \$106. Special subsidies are authorized for some participants and can be used for the following: incontinence supplies, medications, medical supplies, wheelchairs, assistive devices, ramps and home accessibility modifications, nutritional supplements, home health aide, home nursing, and other services to help maintain the individual at home. Formal case management is provided when needed.

Administration

The Department is responsible for planning, monitoring, training, and technical assistance. Unit rate contracts are established by Area Agencies on Aging for local administration of the program within each Planning and Service Area.

Eligibility

Individuals must be age 60 or older, meet the Institutional Care Program (ICP) asset and income limitation, be at risk of nursing home placement, and have an approved adult caregiver living with them who is willing and able to provide or help arrange for care.

Statutory Authority

Sections 430.601-430.608, Florida Statutes.

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

Current funding allocations are based on Department of Children and Families (DCF) district allocations in use when the program was transferred to the Department of Elder Affairs in January 1996.



HCE Appropriation History And Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served
2008-2009	\$8,319,323	4,204
2009-2010	\$7,903,357	2,620
2010-2011	\$7,903,357	2,624
2011-2012	\$7,903,357	2,628
2012-2013	\$7,903,357	2,877
2013-2014	\$7,903,357	2,831
2014-2015	\$7,903,357	2,760
2015-2016	\$7,903,357	2,824
2016-2017	\$7,903,357	2,627
2017-2018	\$8,903,357	#2,959

#Projection

Source for clients served: CIRTS

Program Highlight

Citrus County Support Services has an 80-year-old client who receives services under HCE. This client lives with her daughter who is her caregiver. Her daughter believes in physical exercise and works to keep the client active. Another family member is a nurse who works to ensure that the client’s medications are improving her quality of life. One of the main sources of assistance provided to this client is incontinence supplies. The caregiver says that she and the client are grateful for the financial and supply assistance. The assistance has been a key factor in the caregiver being able to provide for the client’s needs and has helped the client to have an improved quality of life.

State-Funded Programs

Local Services Programs (LSP)

Description

Local Services Programs (LSP) provide additional funding to expand long-term care alternatives that enable elders to maintain a favorable quality of life in their own homes and avoid or delay nursing home placement.

Services and Activities

The table below identifies Planning and Service Areas (PSAs) that offer specific services funded through LSP. PSAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11 offer at least one of these services.

Administration

The Department administers these programs through contracts with Area Agencies on Aging, which then subcontract with local providers to deliver services.

Eligibility

Individuals age 60 and older may receive these services. There are no income criteria; however, emphasis is placed on serving those with greatest need.

Local Services Programs by Service Area

Service	PSA(s)	Service	PSA(s)
Adult Day Care	2, 3, 5,10,11	Legal Assistance	5
Case Management	2	Material Aid	10
Chore	5	Nursing	11
Congregate Meals	4, 5,10,11	Personal Care	9,11
Counseling	5	Recreation	10,11
Emergency Alert Response	5	Referral	5
Health Promotion, Health Support, Health Risk	11	Respite	2,11
Home-Delivered Meals	4, 5,11	Screening and Assessment	11
Homemaker	5, 6, 9,11	Specialized Medical Equipment, Services, and Supplies	2
Information	5	Transportation	5, 9, 10,11

Statutory Authority

General Appropriations Act, State of Florida.

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

The program is wholly funded by General Revenue, and funds are allocated as designated in proviso language of the General Appropriations Act. No match or co-payment is required.

LSP Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served
2008-2009	\$7,032,833	21,613
2009-2010	\$7,015,811	15,389
2010-2011	\$7,465,811	23,763
2011-2012	\$7,465,811	6,305
2012-2013	\$7,465,811	5,766
2013-2014	\$8,915,811	8,776
2014-2015	\$12,745,811	12,316
2015-2016	\$10,915,811	10,605
2016-2017	\$9,555,811	10,982
2017-2018	\$11,311,754	#13,000

#Projection

Source for clients served: CIRTS and Manual Reports

Program Highlight

Community Coalition provides hot home-delivered meals and telephone contact for frail homebound elders with great economic and social need and high nutritional deficiency. A 94-year-old client lives with her disabled nephew. She and her nephew were unable to prepare healthy meals, and she ate primarily yogurt, soup, milk, cheese, ham, bread, and crackers. The client was assessed with a high nutrition risk score. For the past year, the client has been provided daily hot meals, Monday through Friday, as well as nutritional information about healthy foods that can be consumed without cooking for a second meal daily. A year later, the client's nutrition risk score had declined significantly. Healthy meals and other in-home services allow the client to continue living at home without the need for nursing home placement.

State-Funded Programs

Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG)

Description

The Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG), formerly known as the Statewide Public Guardianship Office (SPGO), was created by the Florida Legislature in 1999 to help provide services to meet the needs of vulnerable persons who lack the capacity to make decisions on their own behalf and who have no family or friends to serve as guardian. Guardians protect the property and personal rights of incapacitated individuals. SPGO was responsible for appointing and overseeing Florida's public guardians, as well as for the registration and education of Florida's professional guardians. With the signing of Senate Bill 232 in 2016, the program was renamed the Office of Public and Professional Guardians and given the additional duties of regulating professional guardians.

Services and Activities

OPPG provides direction, coordination, and oversight of public and professional guardianship services in the state; develops performance measures; collects data on individuals served; and works to find ways to enhance funding to increase the availability of public guardians to serve individuals in need. OPPG worked to develop the curriculum and training of public and professional guardians, creation and administration of the professional guardian competency exam, and registration of professional guardians as mandated by Florida Statutes.

OPPG is also responsible for establishing standards of practice for public and professional guardians, receiving and investigating complaints against public and professional guardians, and taking disciplinary action pursuant to Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, when warranted. OPPG may impose penalties, up to and including the permanent revocation of a professional guardian's registration, for a violation of any administrative rule adopted by the office governing guardians or guardianship or for the violation of any offense enumerated in section 744.20041(1), Florida Statutes.

Administration

Currently, 17 public guardian programs serve all 67 counties across Florida.

Eligibility

A person must meet the following criteria to be served by a public guardian, pursuant to Chapter 744, Florida Statutes:

- Be of low economic means (indigent);
- Have no friends or family willing or able to serve; and
- Be incapacitated pursuant to Chapter 744, Florida Statutes, or eligible for a guardian advocate under section 393.12, Florida Statutes.

Professional Guardian Oversight

In October 2016, OPPG entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with seven Clerk of the Court’s Inspectors General to conduct investigations into allegations made against professional guardians. OPPG reviews all investigative findings and is responsible for determining whether disciplinary action is warranted.

In June 2017, OPPG adopted Standards of Practice and Disciplinary Actions under the Florida Administrative Code. OPPG has conducted upwards of 70 investigations of registered professional guardians to date.

Statutory Authority

Chapter 744, Florida Statutes; Chapter 120, Florida Statutes; and 58M-2.001-2.011 Florida Administrative Code

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

Funding appropriation is General Revenue and Administrative Trust Fund dollars. Public guardians receive funding from the State. Funds are distributed based on contracts with local entities to meet local needs. Additional funding sources include counties, the United Way, and grants. Contracts are negotiated annually.

OPPG Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served
2008-2009	\$2,308,146	2,598
2009-2010	\$2,498,558	2,622
2010-2011	\$2,755,400	2,667
2011-2012	\$2,963,687	2,650
2012-2013	\$2,592,051	3,156
2013-2014	\$2,769,851	2,931
2014-2015	\$6,489,345	3,329
2015-2016	\$5,734,662	3,874
2016-2017	*\$7,327,575	3,861
2017-2018	\$6,986,185	#3,900

**Beginning in 2016 with the transition to OPPG, a portion of funding will be used to investigate complaints against professional guardians.*

#Projection

Source for clients served: Office of Public and Professional Guardians reports and data





Program Highlight

During the last fiscal year, OPPG worked to create and adopt standards of practice for professional guardians and to establish disciplinary actions for those violating the standards of practice or associated statutes. With the adoption of the new legislation and rulemaking, OPPG has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Clerks' Statewide Investigations Alliance. Alliance members have specialized investigatory training related to guardianship and provide an independent and objective investigation upon receipt of legally sufficient complaints submitted to them by OPPG.

OPPG implemented a complaint hotline for OPPG to receive grievances related to public and professional guardians. Recently, the Alliance held its first training symposium in West Palm Beach with various partners including OPPG, the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, Department of Children and Families' Adult Protective Services, the Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and elder law attorneys. There is a lot of work ahead for OPPG's oversight, and the program will continue to adapt to the needs of Florida's aging and disability population in need of qualified guardians.

State-Funded Programs

Respite for Elders Living in Everyday Families (RELIEF)

Description

The Respite for Elders Living in Everyday Families (RELIEF) Program offers respite services to family caregivers of frail elders and those with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias so that they can continue caring for a homebound elder, thus avoiding the need to institutionalize the elder. Individuals who do not currently receive other Department services are given first priority.

A multi-generational corps of volunteers receive pre-service training and are individually matched with clients to ensure that their personalities, skills, interests, and abilities are a good fit with the elders and caregivers they will be serving. Some volunteers may receive stipends.

Services and Activities

RELIEF respite care is provided primarily during evenings and weekends – times that are not usually covered by other respite programs. Volunteers may spend up to four hours per visit providing companionship to a frail homebound elder, giving the caregiver an opportunity to take a much-needed break. Activities may include conversation, reading together, playing board games, or preparing a light snack.

Administration

Services are administered through Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), and the Department provides contract management and technical assistance. The AAAs are selected for RELIEF contracts in Planning and Service Areas (PSAs) where it is determined that evening and weekend respite volunteers can be recruited, screened, matched with clients, and supervised. Contracts require regular reporting of activities and expenses. The RELIEF Program is currently administered in PSAs 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Eligibility

This program serves frail, homebound elders age 60 and older who live with a full-time caregiver who would benefit from up to four hours of respite, especially during evenings and weekends.

Statutory Authority

Section 430.071, Florida Statutes.

Funding Source and Allocation Methodologies

The RELIEF program is wholly funded by state General Revenue.

RELIEF Appropriation History and Numbers Served

State Fiscal Year	State Funding	Clients Served	Volunteers	Units (Hours)
2008-2009	\$1,044,530	510	303	121,326
2009-2010	\$909,034	498	464	131,384
2010-2011	\$909,034	499	410	153,575
2011-2012	\$909,034	400	300	120,000
2012-2013	\$909,034	486	336	69,213
2013-2014	\$993,672	492	369	110,267
2014-2015	\$993,670	402	300	120,000
2015-2016	\$993,670	320	278	111,312
2016-2017	\$977,256	394	303	97,000
2017-2018	#\$977,259	#320	#300	#100,000

#Projection

Source for clients served, volunteers, and hours: Monthly program progress reports and contracts

Program Highlight

Ms. Cooper is 85-years-old and is the oldest volunteer in the RELIEF program, having served in the program for over 20 years. Ms. Cooper is known as the Energizer Bunny because of her quickness and readiness to provide hope, rest, and support to families that so desperately need respite care. Ms. Cooper is very thankful to be a volunteer and believes that volunteering has strengthened her and given her longevity. She is proud to have the opportunity to spend a few hours a week reading, talking, and playing games with her peers.