

Your Area Agency on Aging

**Greene County Department for the Aging
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2010 Plan for Services

October 2009

Annual Plan of Service

For the

Year 2010

The goal of the Greene County Department for the Aging is to ensure a network of supportive services to assist the County's senior residents to maintain their dignity and independence within their communities.

The Department for the Aging is entering the third year of its Four Year Plan of Services for the period of April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2012. The Four Year Plan projects service needs for the future and sets appropriate goals to ensure that the needs of Greene County's older residents will continue to be addressed effectively and efficiently. This 2010 Plan will describe the plans for the period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011 and will outline the progress made in 2009.

Overview

The Department for the Aging provides a network of over thirty distinct services designed to meet the needs of the more than 9,800 older residents of Greene County. These services are offered through a combination of subcontracted programs and direct services provided by the Department staff and volunteers. The Department operates from six locations situated throughout the county to ensure maximum accessibility to its services. Services demand and usage have increased steadily over the past several years and are projected to continue at an even greater rate.

These projections are based on demographics for the year 2015, provided in a report by the New York State Office for the Aging titled "Project 2015: the Future of Aging in New York State". Although Greene County has already been experiencing a growth in its 60+ population, the approach of the "baby-boomers" (those born from 1946-1966) to the ranks of the senior citizens will have a profound impact on both the county and the state. For example, while the total population of Greene County will increase by 7.6% by 2015, the 60 plus population will grow 37%. Even more significantly, the total number of people over the age of 85 will increase by 60%. Currently there are 9,841 Greene County residents over the age of 60 years. This group is the Department's primary target population. By the year 2015 this group will grow from 20.8% of the population to 26%, a total of 13,486 older county residents.

The Department for the Aging consists of over thirty-five employees and approximately 300 volunteers providing services from five senior service centers and the Department's main office. A fleet of seven vehicles is utilized for transportation of seniors, food and staff.

At the Department for the Aging's main office in Catskill, we provide such direct services as information and assistance, legal services, caregiver support, energy assistance, entitlement and health insurance counseling, transportation and the operation of volunteer programs. Additional supportive services coordinated through the main office include transportation to medical appointments and the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Such long term care services as case management, homemaker/personal care services, home delivered meals, respite services, senior companions and personal emergency response systems provide necessary support to frail homebound older persons. Over 130 seniors per day enjoy a noon-time dinner at the five senior service centers at which various social, health, recreational and educational activities are scheduled each month. From these five locations over 270 meals are prepared and delivered daily to the homes of frail elderly.

Over 1,900 senior citizens received one or more services from the Department for the Aging in 2008. Attachments A and B illustrate the continuum of services and the actual numbers of elderly served per service for the period of April, 2008 through March, 2009. In addition to the services provided to seniors, the Department also targets services to the caregivers of seniors, i.e. family and friends who are caring for an older person. The Department also educates and assists people in the 40-60 age range with information about long term care insurance.

The Department's revenues are received from a variety of sources including federal and state grants, fund-raising and client contributions. There is no fee for any of our services and no older person is denied a service due to inability to pay. The only exception is for homemaking and personal care services for individuals who are required to share in the cost of the care, based on their income level. The Department utilizes the following funding sources to make its array of services available:

- Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA)
- Title VII Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)
- WRAP (Weatherization, Referral and Packaging Program)
- HIICAP (Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program)
- Corporation for National Service Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- NYS Community Services for the Elderly Program
- NYS Congregate Services Initiative
- NYS Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program
- NYS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- NYS Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
- NYS Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
- Greene County
- Participant Contributions and Donations
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program Donations
- Greene County Aging Services Foundation, Inc.

Highlights, Accomplishments and Goals

1. In 2006, in response to a requirement from the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Office for the Aging, the Greene County Departments of Aging and Social Services began developing a partnership to provide a consumer-centered point of entry for long term care services. This project, the Greene County New York Connects – Choices for Long Term Care, provides information and assistance, screening, and public education to all persons in need of long term care, regardless of age or payment source. The Department for the Aging will continue to operate Greene County New York Connects in 2010, and will make referrals as appropriate to the Departments of Social Services, Public Health and local community agencies.
2. The Department continues to offer a high level of assistance to clients who have questions about Medicare and other health insurance coverages, especially regarding Medicare Part D Prescription Coverage. In 2008 we assisted 220 people with questions and problems regarding health insurance. We are planning to continue our outreach and education efforts to groups and, since each individual's situation is different, we plan to continue to assist people on a one-to-one basis.
3. The Department took advantage of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to provide fourteen special events at the Senior Service Centers in 2009. These special dinners, cook-outs and brunches have been very well attended at each of the five centers. In addition, the ARRA funds will be used to purchase "blizzard boxes" of shelf-stable meals to be distributed to clients receiving home delivered meals for use on days when meals cannot be delivered due to weather or other emergencies. The Department will pursue using these funds again in 2010 if available.
4. The Senior Angel Program continues to be a success, now in its seventh year of operation. In 2008, over \$5,600 was donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals to be used to purchase specific holiday gifts for seniors in need, as identified by Department staff. Fifty-six older residents received these individual gifts and both recipients and donors were very pleased with the program.
5. The Greene County Aging Services Foundation, Inc. supported the Homebound Transportation program with a donation of \$3,500 and made two Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) units available for at-risk homebound individuals.
6. The First Annual Senior Citizen Cook-Off Contest held at the Washington Irving Senior Center in Catskill was such a success that seniors throughout the county are preparing their recipes for next year.

The Department for the Aging remains dedicated to the goal of ensuring a network of supportive services to assist the County's senior residents to maintain their dignity and independence within their communities.

Specific goals per service are listed in Attachment C, Service Projections for 2020-2011.

GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

ATTACHMENT A

Independent Living Services

Employment Services

- ♥ Workforce Investment Office
- ♥ Experience Works

Volunteer Opportunities

- ♥ RSVP-Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Recreation & Educational Activities

- ♥ Craft Groups
- ♥ Art and Crafts Classes
- ♥ Card/Games/Bingo
- ♥ Socialization
- ♥ 55 Alive Safe Driving Classes
- ♥ Educational Programs

Health & Wellness Programs

- ♥ Health Screening
- ♥ Blood Pressure Screening
- ♥ Flu & Pneumonia Vaccine Clinics
- ♥ Exercise Programs

Public Information

- ♥ Senior Life
- ♥ Radio-WHUC (1230 AM) Wed. 8:50am
- ♥ Roundtable News
- ♥ Informational Packets
- ♥ Press Releases
- ♥ Guest Speakers

Nutrition Education

OAA Access Services

***Information & Assistance**

- ♥ NY Connects, Choices for Long Term Care
- ♥ Health Insurance-Information, Counseling, & Assistance Program (HIICAP)
- ♥ Benefits and Entitlements
- ♥ Case Assistance

***Transportation**

***Outreach**

Support Services

Congregate Meals

Diet Counseling

Telephone Reassurance

Caregiver Support & Counseling

Long Term Care Insurance

Resource

Center

Health and Prescription Insurance

Counseling

Case Assistance

Shopping Assistance

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Weatherization Referral &

Packaging

(WRAP)

***Legal Services**

Farmers Market Coupon Program

Extra Helpings Food Buying Club

Long Term Care Services

Community - Based

- ♥ *Case Management Services
- ♥ *Homemaking
- ♥ *Personal Care
- ♥ Home Delivered Meals
- ♥ Senior Companions
- ♥ Caregiver Outreach & Respite
- ♥ PERS-Personal Emergency Response Systems

Ancillary Services

Institutional

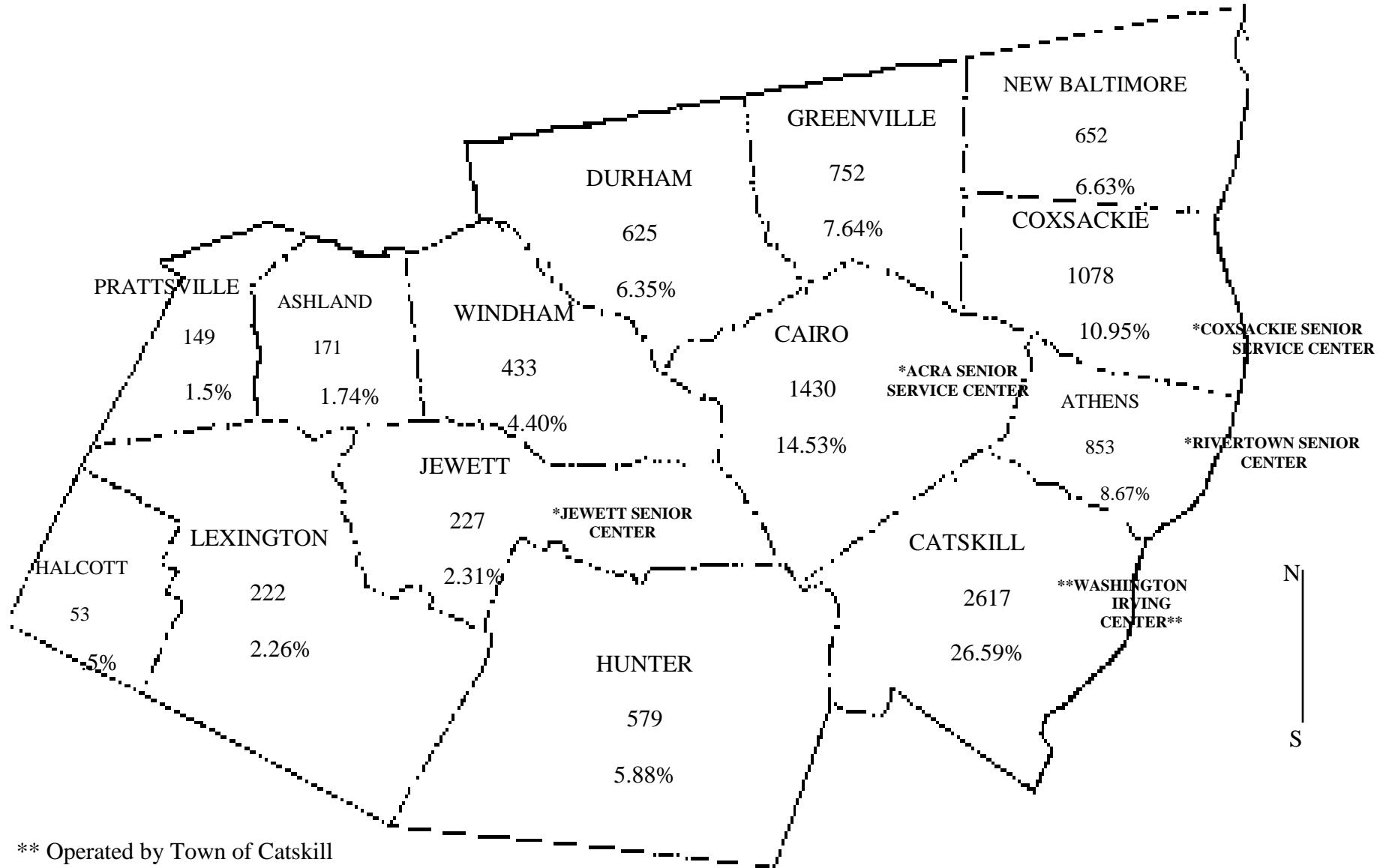
- ♥ Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

This Continuum of Services is provided at the Department for the Aging's main office at 411 Main St., Catskill and the Department's 5 Senior Service Centers.

*These Services are priority services under the Older American's Act (OAA) for an Area Agency on Aging to provide.

Number and % of Total County (9841)
Senior Citizens Age 60+ By Town

Greene County Department for the Aging 2000 Census Data



** Operated by Town of Catskill

***LOCATIONS OF SENIOR CENTERS**