

The Agency was founded in 1974 by the Community Planning Council of NWO, Inc., a United Way planning agency. The Agency was initially established to operate as a planning division. In 1979, the agency approached the Board of Trustees of United Way, Community Planning Council and the Ohio Commission on Aging, a.k.a., the Ohio Department of Aging, for permission to organize as an independent, private, non-profit corporation to better serve the elderly. Approval was granted by all parties and the original organizers of the new corporation were: Henry L. Morse, J. Frank Troy, Elliot Miller, Duane Stranahan, Jr., and Billie Sewell Johnson.

In 1980, the agency was chartered under Ohio law as a 501(c)(3) corporation. The corporation was established as a comprehensive agency for the elderly, responsible for planning, policy-making, funding, advocacy and direct programs/services for a ten-county region in northwest Ohio. The corporation was not exclusively chartered as an "Area Agency on Aging." Instead, it requested and received approval to retain the "area agency" designation previously granted by the Ohio Commission on Aging/Ohio Department of Aging and expand the Agency to a comprehensive corporation, addressing the needs of the older population.

PROCEDURE A AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following is a summary of the authority and responsibilities set forth in the Agency's Charter and Articles of Incorporation:

- Serve as the focal point for leadership for regional planning and service development for programs on aging;

- Develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for older adults in Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Williams and Wood Counties;

- Provide direct services to the elderly in areas where services are needed, and not available;

- Develop and implement an Area Plan, approved by the Ohio Commission on Aging (or its successor under the Older Americans Act);

- Grant funds and resources to qualified, tax exempt or public bodies (to operate services and programs for older adults); and,

POLICY 101

**AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
HISTORY AND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**

- Seek, apply for, and make use of other grants and resources to enhance the daily living of older adults.

PROCEDURE B GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Agency is the designated Regional Planning Authority for Planning and Service Area Four in Northwestern Ohio -- encompassing the counties of Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Williams and Wood.

PROCEDURE C FUNDING SOURCES AND PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY

The Agency is responsible for administering funds and assuring the quality of programs and services funded from the following sources and titles (Policy 101 further elaborates on these responsibilities):

Older Americans Act (OAA)

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was established in 1965 to provide older Americans increased opportunities for participating in the benefits of American society. As originally incorporated the OAA provided ten broad policy objectives, aimed at improving the lives of older adults in the United States by providing the following:

- a. an adequate income in retirement;
- b. the best possible physical and mental health which science can make available and without regard to economic status;
- c. suitable housing;
- d. opportunity for employment;
- e. full restorative services for those who require institutional care;
- f. retirement in health, honor and dignity;
- g. pursuit of meaningful activity within the widest range of civic, cultural and recreational opportunities;
- h. efficient community services;
- i. immediate benefit from proven research; and

POLICY 101

**AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
HISTORY AND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**

- j. freedom, independence and the free exercise of individual initiative in planning and managing their own lives.

The OAA mandates that services be directed to those persons over the age of 60+, who are in the greatest social and economic need. To the maximum extent feasible, the following client groups shall be given preference:

- a. older individuals residing in rural areas;
- b. older individuals with greatest economic need (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals);
- c. older individuals with greatest social needs (with particular attention to low-income minority individuals);
- d. older individuals with severe disabilities;
- e. older individuals with limited English-speaking ability; and
- f. older individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders with neurological and organic brain dysfunction (and the caretakers of such individuals).

TITLES of OAA

Eight different Titles are contained within the OAA. Outlined below, in summary form, are the titles and their purpose(s):

- a. Title I - Declaration of Objectives for Older Americans

Purpose: express this nation's commitment to ensuring the well-being of senior citizens; established throughout the objectives of the OAA.

- b. Title II - Administration on Aging

Purpose: the Administration on Aging (AoA) was created as a major institution in federal government for developing new or improved programs and activities to help older people, under this title.

- c. Title III - Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging

POLICY 101

**AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
HISTORY AND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**

Purpose: provides funding for community planning, services and training; this is the largest portion of the OAA and is broken into several sub-titles, which allows funding to be directed for various services. The sub-titles which are administered annually by the Agency are:

1. III-B: provides funding for supportive services and senior centers; services which the Agency will fund with these monies are - chore, escort, transportation, socialization, counseling, education/instruction, medical treatment, health assessment, supportive services, adult day care, housekeeping, ombudsman, home maintenance/repairs, information and referral, legal assistance, personal care, volunteer placement, employment placement and client finding.
 2. III-C: provides funding for dining sites and home delivered nutritional activities; dining site meals are known as Title III-C1 meals, while home delivered meals are referred as Title III-C2 meals.
 3. III-D: provides funding for services that promote health and well-being and disease prevention.
 4. III-E: National Family Care-giver Support Program
- d. Title IV - Training, Research, and Discretionary Projects and Programs

Purpose: to expand the nation's knowledge and understanding of aging and the aging process, to design and test innovative ideas in programs and services for older individuals, and to help meet the needs for trained personnel in the fields of aging.

- e. Title V - Community Service Employment for Older Americans

Purpose: to foster and promote useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for unemployed, low-income persons, who are fifty-five years old or older.

- f. Title VI - Grants for Native Americans (not applicable in PSA-4)

Purpose: promote the delivery of supportive services, including nutrition services to American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians that are

POLICY 101

**AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
HISTORY AND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**

comparable to services provided under Title III.

g. Title VII - Vulnerable Elder Rights Protection Activities

Purpose: to assist States in the design, development, and coordination of comprehensive services at the State and local levels to prevent, treat and remedy elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The Agency also provides planning, resources and support for the development of the service delivery system. Based on the groundwork laid by the Older Americans Act, with contributions of other federal, state and local resources, this system is reaching thousands of older northwest Ohioans and is in a strong position for the future.

OHIO SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDS

State funding for nutrition and supportive services comes from the Senior Community Services Funds. This block grant, which must be reauthorized by the state's General Assembly every two years, was created in 1991 out of separate budget appropriations for home delivered meals, transportation, home repair and other programs.

Senior Community Services Funds (SCS) will be awarded by the Agency on an annual and/or bi-annual basis. The purpose of these funds is to provide a range of community-based services that assist seniors in remaining independent in their own homes and communities. Allowable services that may be funded with SCS funds include:

- a. Housing - for home repairs, not to exceed the amount stated in the contract.
- b. Transportation - for transportation services designed to move clients to and from services, activities, and resources via a motorized vehicle;
- c. Nutrition - one or more home delivered meals or congregate meals per day to homebound individuals and for administrative funding of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- d. In-Home Services - 1) to provide personal care services to support basic health maintenance or personal hygiene assistance; 2) to provide homemaker services to seniors to assist with housecleaning, laundry, essential shopping, errands and meal preparation; 3) to provide adult day care services which extends a safe supervised group environment to individuals with moderate physical or mental handicaps; and 4) respite

POLICY 101

**AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO, INC.
HISTORY AND SOURCE OF AUTHORITY**

services, which provides temporary in-home care in order to relieve the Caregiver(s).

LUCAS COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES LEVY

The Agency has been designated by the Lucas County Commissioners as the Administrator of Lucas County Senior Services Levy funds. Funds generated from the levy are used to address these five program areas within Lucas County.

- a. Nutrition;
- b. Senior Services;
- c. In-Home Care Services;
- d. Alzheimer's Day and Respite Care; and
- e. Facilities (Capital Projects).

Prior to the passage of the Lucas County Senior Services Levy in 1991, local funds (within Lucas County) were secured through the Community Development Block grant (CDBG) and the City of Toledo's general fund.