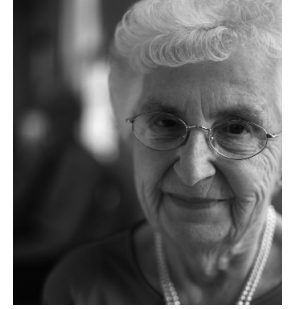
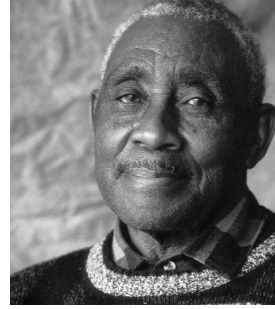




## Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging



# 2010 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Priorities

Within the next 20 years one in five Virginians will be elderly. The Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) advocates policies that acknowledge the diversity of older Virginians, their caregivers and the communities in which they live. V4A focuses on the most critical needs by promoting legislation and budget investments that address current needs while building sustainable structures and laws that strengthen the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in preparing Virginia to become a commonwealth of livable communities for all ages.

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### *Action Item:*

**Update Code sections regarding the Department for the Aging and aging services to better reflect the expanse of the work being done and individuals being served. Additionally, to the extent possible, consolidate and streamline reporting requirements around planning and services for older Virginians and their families.**

### **Updating and moving from plans to action:**

To reflect the array of needs of Virginia's rapidly growing older population and to facilitate efficiencies for agencies, the Department for the Aging should integrate the several reports affecting services for older Virginians into the Four Year Plan (2.2-273.1). Subsequently, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, with the Department for the Aging, should complete developing and integrating these data into the Commonwealth's Blueprint for Aging Services and move into implementation. Additionally, the Code sections governing aging services must be updated to reflect more accurately the kinds of services, venues and provision of these services today, while eliminating outdated Code terminology.



# Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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## *Action Item:*

**Prevent further reductions to core services for older adults and adults with disabilities. Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia to eliminate waiting lists for the core services of nutrition, transportation and in-home services for older Virginians by 2016.**

**Livable communities will have an adequate supply of services** to allow older people to have the choice to remain independent in their own homes. Each year that Virginia reduces or does not increase funds for core services results in growing waiting lists for services. Costs that are postponed today escalate tomorrow.

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## *Action Item:*

**Adopt budget language that will allow Area Agencies on Aging with Care Coordination for Elderly Virginians programs, in coordination with the Department, to refine these programs to better meet the needs of clients and to integrate best practices and accountability standards into the programs. Service Outreach to Seniors is one such model.**

**Enable seniors to get access to services without additional funding or increasing costs.** Enhance the Care Coordination for Elderly Virginians programs to include updated best practices and accountability standards.