

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, October 30, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

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Times listed with each agenda item are approximate. It is requested that all cell phones be silenced during the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting. Persons in need of auxiliary aids or services, such as interpretation services or assisted listening devices, are asked to contact the Denver Regional Council of Governments at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email access@drcog.org or call 303-455-1000.

- 1 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 11:05 a.m. Public comment
Up to 45 minutes is allocated now for public comment and each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes. If there are additional requests from the public to address the Committee, time will be allocated at the end of the meeting to complete public comment.
- 3 11:10 a.m. Report of the Chair – Barbara Boyer
- 4 11:20 a.m. Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Consent agenda

- 5 11:35 a.m. Move to Approve Consent Agenda
Minutes from September 25, 2026, meeting. (Attachment A)

Action Items

- 6 11:40 a.m. Adding Additional Choice Services Providers – Travis Noon (Attachment B)
- 7 11:55 a.m. Discussion on Combining the November and December ACA Meetings – Jayla Sanchez-Warren (Attachment C)

Informational briefings

- 8 12:00 p.m. Update on AAA Transportation – Kelsie Jurin (Attachment D)
- 9 12:20 p.m. Part II – Open Discussion for Advocacy – Jayla Sanchez-Warren (Attachment E)
- 10 12:50 p.m. DRCOG Board Report
- 11 1:00 p.m. County Reports

Administrative items

- 12 **Next meeting October 23, 2026.**
- 13 1:10 p.m. Other Matters by Members
- 14 1:15 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

November 2026 – To be determined
December 2026 – To be determined
January 22, 2027 – Virtual
February 26, 2027 – Virtual
March 26, 2027 – Virtual
April 23, 2027 – Virtual
May 28, 2027 – Virtual
June 25, 2027 – Virtual
July 23, 2027 – To be determined
August 27, 2027 – Virtual
September 24, 2027 – Virtual
October 22, 2027 – Virtual

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)

Meeting Summary

Friday, September 25, 2026

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Members Present

Ada Anderson	Douglas County
Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Anna Cool	City and County of Denver
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Connie Ward	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Edward Moss	City and County of Broomfield County
Greg Kahler	Adams County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Judi Kern	DRCOG Board Louisville
Karie Erickson	Douglas County
Paula Hillman	Arapahoe County
Shari Haidvogel	Clear Creek County
Sharon Tessier	City and County of Broomfield County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board Edgewater
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

Carol Johnson, Adams County, Chandra Matthews, Seniors' Resource Center, Cindy Sandu, City of Centennial, Cambria Jacobs, Age Tech, Kim Smith, Douglas County.

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Jennifer Reeves, Veterans & Community Options Manager, Kelly Roberts,

Community Resource Specialist, Kelsie Jurin, Program Manager Transportation Services, Kendra Carmickle, Service Coordinator Transportation, Liz Huer, Multi Program Support/QA Specialist, Michelle McCown, Data Analyst, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Rich Mauro, Director Legislative Affairs, Shannon Gimbel, Ombudsman Manager, Travis Noon, AAA Grant Compliance Program Manager, Yvette Del Conte, Intake Specialist.

Call to Order

Barbara Boyer Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair – Barbara Boyer

There was no report of the Chair.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Jayla Sanchez-Warren reported that the final community conversations for the Area Plan on Aging were completed, including a well-attended session in Broomfield and a smaller but highly engaged discussion at Senior Planet. Kelly Roberts is compiling the community input data for inclusion in the Area Plan on Aging.

Jayla also provided a federal advocacy update following a meeting with DRCOG's lobbyist, Greg Burns. The Senate has passed the Older Americans Act reauthorization, but the measure remains stalled in the House. Bipartisan support has raised hopes that it could advance during the lame-duck session. However, funding remains a major concern because new federal regulations are being implemented without significant additional funding.

Jayla highlighted efforts to expand congregate meal sites throughout the region. She and Travis Noon met with Golden Corral, which has experience meeting federal nutrition program requirements and remains interested in participating after previous partnerships ended when the Senior Hub closed.

Other updates included discussions with Chandra Matthews about the innovative work underway at Seniors Resource Center, participation in lengthy state policy meetings to help shape implementation of new federal regulations, and involvement in a statewide affordable

housing preservation committee. Jayla is advocating for older adults to be included in conversations about repurposing vacant schools and other properties into affordable housing, helping ensure senior housing needs remain part of statewide planning efforts.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: August 28, 2026, meeting summary.

Steve Conklin motioned for approval. Andrea Suhaka seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Informational Briefings

Nymbbl and Kaiser Permanente Falls Prevention Study – AJ Diamontopoulos

AJ Diamontopoulos presented findings from a study examining the effectiveness of the Nymbbl fall prevention app, a smartphone-based program that combines physical exercises with cognitive activities designed to improve balance, coordination, and brain-body connections. Falls remain a major health concern for older adults, and Nymbbl was developed as a more accessible alternative to traditional evidence-based fall prevention classes that often require transportation, scheduling commitments, and multi-week participation.

The study was conducted in partnership with Kaiser Permanente and analyzed outcomes among Kaiser members who used the Nymbbl app. While the findings were not statistically significant overall, the research showed that participants who consistently used the app, especially those with a prior fall-related injury, experienced a 26.5% reduction in fall-related injuries. The study also confirmed that meaningful benefits were seen only when participants actively engaged with the program and completed a sufficient number of sessions.

AJ noted that Nymbbl was highly popular among DRCOG participants, with users consistently reporting positive experiences. The program was particularly valued because it could be completed at a participant's own pace and from home, reducing many barriers associated with traditional fall prevention programs. DRCOG previously worked with Nymbbl to promote participation and improve access for Spanish-speaking older adults by supporting translation efforts.

Jayla emphasized the strong community support for Nymbbl, sharing that she received more complaints when the program ended due to funding cuts than for any other discontinued

service. Community members continue to identify Nymbbl as a preferred investment, sometimes even ahead of transportation services. She also shared personal examples and participant testimonials describing improved balance, stability, and confidence after using the app.

The discussion explored challenges around funding and certification. Although some health insurers now cover Nymbbl, access is not universal. Additionally, while the app has demonstrated promising results, it is not yet officially designated as an evidence-based program, limiting the ability to fund it through certain Older Americans Act programs. AJ explained that the published study helps move Nymbbl closer to meeting evidence-based certification requirements.

Committee members discussed similar programs, including Ageless Grace and VIVO, which also combine physical and cognitive exercises. Participants agreed that programs that reduce transportation and scheduling barriers while helping older adults maintain mobility and independence are increasingly important. Jayla noted that as fall prevention becomes a greater priority in federal ageing regulations, accessible and technology-based options like Nymbbl could become valuable tools alongside traditional classroom-based programs.

How AgeTech and Longevity Ecosystems Support Older Adults – Cambria Jacobs

Barbara Boyer introduced the discussion by emphasizing that funding reductions make it increasingly important to invest in programs that blend personal support with technology to maintain or expand services for older adults.

Cambria Jacobs introduced AgeTech Connect Colorado and Longevity Global Colorado, two networks that bring together aging-sector organizations, innovators, and other partners. Their goal is to advance practical solutions that help older adults live healthier, more independent lives.

AgeTech Connect works with community organizations, universities, and startups to identify real-world needs and connect them with appropriate technology. The network also supports pilot projects and helps promote promising solutions designed for older adults.

Jayla emphasized that limited funding should be used effectively and focused on older adults with the greatest needs. She supported partnerships that connect new technology and innovation with the Community Care Hub and other services for vulnerable older adults.

The discussion concluded with Cambria offering to serve as a connector between organizations, researchers, and innovators.

Open Discussion for Advocacy – Jayla Sanchez-Warren/Barbara Boyer

The committee discussed how to increase awareness of aging issues and support for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) amid funding challenges and growing demand for services. Barbara Boyer encouraged members to leverage their expertise, networks, and community connections to elevate conversations about aging and advocate for older adults.

Jayla noted that while public awareness is important, the AAA's bigger challenge is ensuring policymakers, community leaders, and decision-makers understand the impact of Colorado's rapidly aging population. She emphasized that the goal is not simply to attract more clients, as waiting lists already exist, but to build understanding of the critical needs facing older adults and the consequences of inadequate support, including increased homelessness, food insecurity, transportation barriers, and higher healthcare costs.

Committee members suggested several advocacy strategies, including developing a stronger public awareness campaign, engaging local media, incorporating aging issues into candidate forums and public policy discussions, and creating concise information summaries for city councils, county officials, and elected leaders. Steve Conklin emphasized the importance of making aging issues relevant to younger generations and caregivers, while Ed Moss suggested providing one-page updates to local governments to keep aging issues visible.

The group agreed that a key challenge is identifying a clear and consistent message. Rather than immediately focusing on funding requests, members discussed first building broader awareness of aging-related needs and the role of the AAA. Barbara encouraged members to continue thinking about advocacy opportunities and community connections that could help amplify the message.

The discussion concluded with agreement to revisit the topic at a future meeting and work toward defining a focused advocacy goal and unified message that committee members can share throughout their communities and professional networks.

Rich Mauro suggested expanding the committee's advocacy discussion to include both year-round awareness efforts and legislative advocacy during the Colorado legislative session. He

offered to participate in future discussions and highlighted opportunities for committee members to support aging-related legislation by contacting legislators, testifying on bills, and engaging with elected officials through town halls and community meetings.

Rich also recommended continuing the advocacy conversation at upcoming meetings, particularly after the election when there will be greater clarity about policy priorities and budget conditions. He noted that the governor's budget proposal, expected in November, along with election results and updated revenue forecasts, will shape the state's funding outlook and advocacy strategy for aging services in the coming year.

The committee agreed that Rich should be included in future advocacy discussions as they work to refine priorities and messaging around aging issues and AAA funding.

DRCOG Board Report

Judi Kern reported on several topics discussed at the DRCOG Board of Directors meeting. The Board reviewed the Power Ahead initiative, including new community engagement grants available to nonprofits and community organizations to promote clean energy and air quality programs. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) updates were also briefly discussed.

A significant regional update was the Governor's approval of adding Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties to the DRCOG region, making them fully included in regional transportation, aging, and planning efforts.

Judi also highlighted GoTober, a regional challenge encouraging organizations and individuals to reduce car travel by using alternatives such as walking, biking, transit, and paratransit.

Finally, RTD shared information about its RTD Connect initiative, which is gathering public input on the future direction of transit services. RTD is hosting several public engagement meetings across the region and encourages stakeholders to participate and provide feedback. While the current discussions do not specifically focus on paratransit or microtransit services, Judi encouraged attendees to raise those issues during the public meetings.

County Reports

Adams County

Greg Kahler reported that the September 23rd fall resource fair had moderate turnout despite construction at the recreation center and related parking challenges. The event connected older adults with community resources. Another fair is planned for next spring.

Greg shared that a developer is pursuing a 100-unit intergenerational senior housing project near Old Town Westminster. Although the city supports the project, financing and regulatory hurdles could delay it for up to seven years, underscoring the need for faster, creative housing solutions.

Arapahoe County

Paula Hillman shared that DRCOG funding may cover eligible participants' costs for the YMCA's evidence-based Diabetes Prevention Program. She will conduct outreach across the southern metro area, including senior housing communities, and welcomed additional outreach suggestions.

Andrea Suhaka announced a Senior Resource Fair at the Aurora Center for Active Adults on October 8 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

City and County of Broomfield

Ed Moss shared that Broomfield's Aging Well Expo will take place on October 9.

Broomfield voters will consider raising the lodging tax from 3.5% to 6% to fund affordable housing, including projects for older adults. Because the tax mainly affects visitors, Ed Moss noted strong local support and optimism that it will pass.

City and County of Denver

Anna Cool reported Denver Commission on Aging will be hosting an event in partnership with the Mayor's office on October 29th at Senior Planet to celebrate aging. This will be open to the public, but people must RSVP as space is limited.

Douglas County

Gretchen Lopez reported the Seniors Council and Aging Resources of Douglas County hosted a successful Creativity and Healthy Aging Workshop featuring 16 older adult artists and presentations on creativity's health benefits. Organizers may include the topic in next year's Vintage and Vibrant event.

Jefferson County

Connie Ward reported that Jefferson County representatives discussed affordable housing, transportation, and food insecurity with county commissioners. They noted that some affordable housing, particularly multi-story developments, may not be age friendly.

Jefferson County and Triad will revive Senior Law, Safety, and Wellness Day next June. In addition, county officials discussed the significant financial impact of upcoming Medicaid changes, which are expected to require increased coordination between Jefferson and Clear Creek counties and could result in costs totaling millions of dollars.

Other Matters by Members

There were no other matters discussed.

Next meeting – The next meeting will be held in person on October 30, 2026, at the new Aging Resources of Douglas County building, 410 S. Wilcox, Suite 100, Castle Rock. Please note the date change.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: October 30, 2026

Agenda Item #: 6

If you have difficulty using this document's content, please email mmpatton@drcog.org or call 303-480-6723. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

Adding Additional Choice Services Providers

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

This item pertains to adding another vetted provider to the Choice Services in-home program for homemaker, personal care, and caregiver respite services, as well as another provider for the transportation services.

Background

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Choice Service Program provides vouchers for eligible participants to receive in-home, caregiver respite, and transportation services. Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) currently contracts with six in-home providers including Alpine Homecare, Apollo Home Care, Firstlight Home Care Boulder, Firstlight Home Care Greater Denver, Griswold Home Care, and Home Instead Castle Rock. DRCOG has contracts with HopSkipDrive, MedRide, and Uber for transportation services. DRCOG staff are proposing to add Senior Helpers Foothills as an in-home provider and Sunshine Rides as a transportation provider to our list of vetted providers.

DRCOG conducts initial evaluations of the providers prior to issuing a contract for services which includes a confirmation of licensure, a review of the most recent survey from the



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, if applicable, a review of their background check procedures, and ensures that they can comply with the requirements of DRCOG's contract and the State Unit on Aging's policies and procedures.

DRCOG conducted the evaluations of Senior Helpers and Sunshine Rides, and they met all the requirements of DRCOG's program. Adding Seniors Helpers as a provider expands the program's reach allowing us to serve clients on the waiting list who cannot be served by other providers in the program. Senior Helpers' service area includes southwest Denver and the 285 corridor. Sunshine Rides will add another wheelchair accessible provider to the transportation providers to help fill the gaps that MedRide cannot complete. Adding these providers does not change the budget for these services, which was approved by the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget Committee at their meeting on April 29, 2026. The budget for Homemaker and Personal Care services is \$547,170 and \$168,088 is budgeted for In-home Respite. DRCOG has budgeted \$1,155,000 for transportation services between OAA and FTA 5310 funding.

Action by others

April 29, 2026 – Finance and Budget Committee adopted a resolution for fiscal year 2027.

Previous discussions/actions

April 24, 2026 – Advisory Committee on Aging made a recommendation to approve the budgets

Recommendation

Move to recommend to the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget committee approval of a contract with Senior Helpers and Sunshine Rides as choice services providers for the period ending June 30, 2027.

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Travis Noon, Manager, Administration and Finance at 303-480-6775 or tnoon@drcog.org

ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: October 30, 2026

Agenda Item #: 7

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Discussion on combining the November and December ACA meetings

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

Vote to combine the November 27th and December 25th meeting.

Background

In past years, the ACA has typically canceled its December meeting due to reduced member availability during the holiday season. This year, additional scheduling challenges exist as DRCOG offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 26th and 27th, leaving staff unavailable to support the regularly scheduled November meeting. In addition, the December meeting falls on Christmas Day.

To address these scheduling conflicts, it is proposed that the November and December meetings be combined into a single meeting on Friday, December 11th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Member approval will be requested to finalize this adjustment.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

Move to combine the November 27th and December 25th meeting to December 11th.

Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, (303) 480-6723 or mpatton@drcog.org.

ATTACH D

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: October 30, 2026

Agenda Item #: 8

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AAA Choice Services Transportation Overview

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Kelsie Jurin will be presenting on the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Transportation Program. Kelsie will be providing an overview of program eligibility, services offered, program stats, program goals for this next fiscal year, and sharing client stories.

Background

The AAA has been supporting transportation in the region through the Choice Services Transportation program since Fall of 2020. It continues to provide trips to clients in the eight-county region through AAA contracted providers for both medical and personal trips.

Action by others

None.

Previous discussions/actions

None.



Page 2

Recommendation

None.

Attachment

Presentation AAA Transportation Overview 10-30-26

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Kelsie Jurin, Program Manager Transportation Services, at (720) -278-2345 or kjurin@drcog.org.



AAA Transportation Program

Kelsie Jurin, Transportation Program Manager

Choice Services Transportation



The Area Agency on Aging's
Choice Services
Transportation program offers
free transportation for personal
and medical appointments to
adults 60 and older throughout
the Denver metro area.

To qualify, a participant must:

- Be 60 or older.
- Live in the Area Agency on Aging service area.
- Live in the provider's service area.
- Not be a resident of a skilled nursing home or assisted living facility.
- Be able to walk or roll and wait between rides.
- Independently request rides.
- Not be a recipient of certain forms of Medicaid.

Area Agency on Aging programs

The Area Agency on Aging offers people enrolled in its Choice Services Program one of two options:

- Transportation voucher program.
- Go Lite program.



Transportation voucher program

- Clients receive \$250 to \$400 a month to use with four ride providers depending on eligibility and service area.
- Provides trips to medical and personal destinations.
- On-demand scheduling through the Area Agency on Aging call center, a voucher for the Uber app (smartphone required), or Regional Transportation District services.
- The transportation voucher program has a waiting list.

Go Lite program

Clients may select either:

1. One round-trip a month for a needs-based service such as a medical appointment or trip to a grocery store or food bank.
 2. Monthly bus pass or 12 Access-a-Ride tickets (Access-a-Ride clients must already be Access-a-Ride certified by RTD).
- Rides are available monthly on a first come, first served basis.

Ride providers

- Approved ride providers (as-of fall 2026): RTD, Uber, HopSkipDrive and MedRide.
- Providers offer transportation for ambulatory clients as well as wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- Participants are provided with a call center number to use to schedule rides seven days a week.
- Service to rural areas is available.



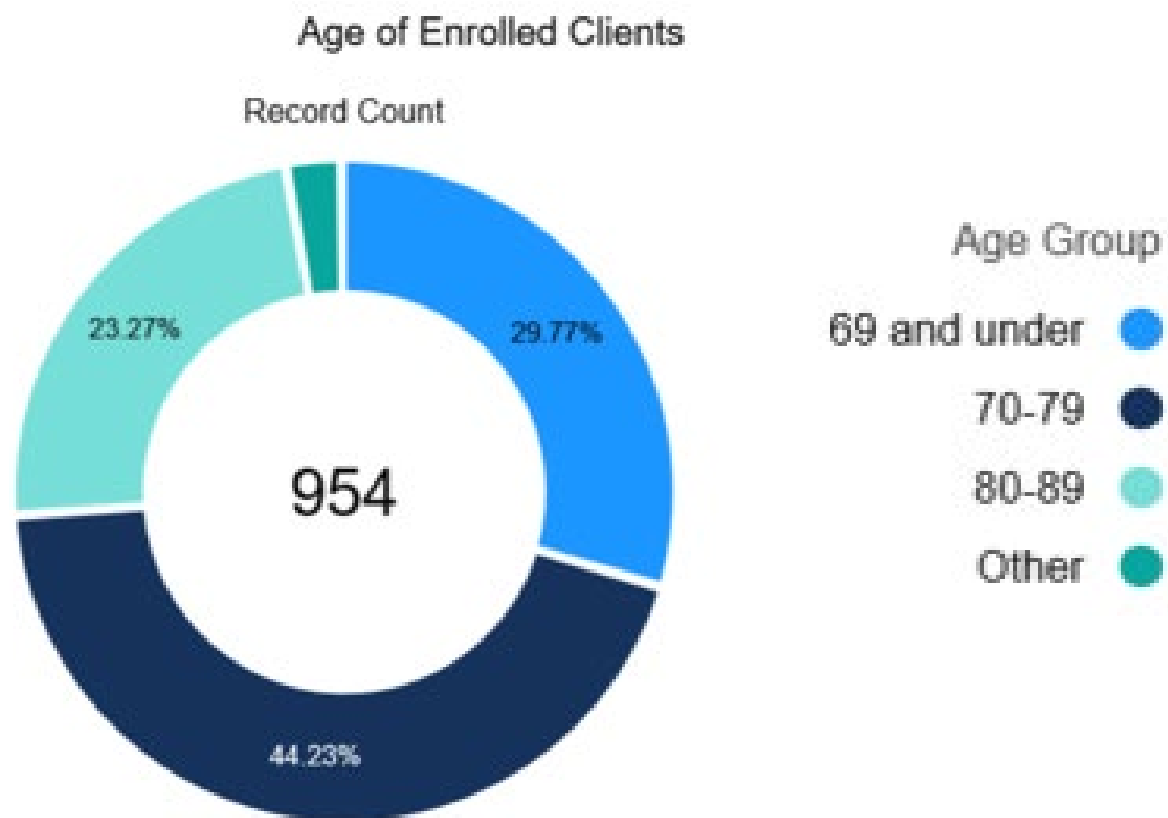
Program Stats: Who are we serving

DRCOG area agency on
aging+
Service | Support | Advocacy

Client Stats (As of 10/8/2026)

- Current Total Enrolled: 954
 - Current Enrolled in Voucher Program: 536
 - Current Enrolled in Go Lite Program: 418
- Voucher Program Breakdown
 - Uber App Clients: 329
 - Call Center Clients: 491 (includes Go Lite)
 - RTD only clients: 134 (includes Go Lite RTD)
- Current Wait list: 431

Client Age Stats (As of 10/8/2026)



Trip Stats Snapshot: Call Center (As of 10/8/2026)

- Total trips with call center since launch in April 2026: 5,221.
- Trip Reasons
 - Medical: 2,117.
 - Personal: 3,104.

Other Trip Stats (As of 10/8/2026)

- Average RTD orders monthly: Around 90-110 bus passes and 100-135 Access-a-ride ticket booklets (6 in each).
- Total Uber App Trips this FY since July 2026: 9020 (does not include October).

Current issues/service gaps we are seeing

- Clients need more rides in general, more consistency, and timeliness.
- Medicaid not being a reliable ride option.
- Difficulty getting consistent services in Rural areas.
- Difficulty with reliability/cost of WAV trips.
- Costs of trips continue to get higher in general.
- Clients feeling safe during trips.
- Post-Op Transportation gaps.



FY 2026-2027 Goals

Current Goals

- Continuing to enroll clients as we can.
- Providing in person training on transportation resources in the community.
- Looking for additional contractors for wheel chair accessible vehicles.
- Educating the community on what we do.



Client Success Stories



DRCOG area agency on
aging+
Service | Support | Advocacy



Thank you!
Questions?

DRCOG area agency on
aging+
Service | Support | Advocacy

ATTACHE

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: October 30, 2026

Agenda Item #: 9

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Part II – Open Discussion for Advocacy

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Area Agency on Aging staff will lead the Advisory Committee in a discussion on advocacy strategies to support Fiscal Year 2028 and beyond funding priorities. This will be a continuation of the September 25, 2026, discussion.

Background

Concerns about funding reductions have created a greater need to consider how the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Advisory Committee can work together to strengthen advocacy for aging services. The committee's collective experience and connections throughout the region provide a valuable foundation for increasing awareness, building relationships, and engaging community and policy leaders. Moving forward, the conversation can explore strategies for protecting existing resources, identifying additional funding opportunities, and strengthening understanding of the programs and services that support older adults and caregivers across the region.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

At the September 25, 2026, meeting, committee members explored ways to strengthen advocacy efforts and increase understanding of aging-related priorities. Ideas included expanding public outreach, working with local media, bringing aging issues into candidate forums and policy conversations, and providing brief, accessible information to local officials and elected leaders. Members also emphasized the importance of developing a unified message and agreed that raising awareness of community needs and the AAA's role should come before pursuing specific funding requests.

Recommendation

None

Attachment

1. AAA Advocacy Flyer FEDERAL_12.25
2. AAA Advocacy Flyer Provider_10.26
3. AAA Advocacy Flyer.pdf_11.25

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Director Area Agency on Aging at (720) 375-1738 or jswarren@drcog.org.

We need your support to **reauthorize the Older Americans Act** to preserve critical services that support older adults.

A statewide survey found that **9 in 10 adults ages 65 or older prefer to stay in their homes** as they age. Federal and state funding makes it possible for them to do that by providing nutritious meals, transportation, in-home care, legal assistance, caregiver support and more. Last year, the Denver Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging provided more than 800,000 service units for its most critical services.

In 2024-2025, the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging provided:



126,222 home-delivered meals



458,731 congregate meals



163,006 transportation services



4,324 case management services



45,606 chore and homemaker services



25,667 caregiver services



10,729 ombudsman services



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But as Colorado’s population ages, the need for these services is rising.

The number of adults ages 65 and older will increase by 29.9% between 2024 and 2035.

Meanwhile, federal funding for community-based services provided to area agencies on aging has been relatively flat over the past decade.

The combination of flat funding and the upsurge in the number of older adults means area agencies on aging are struggling to provide critical services such as home-delivered meals, transportation, in-home services and more. Waitlists of people requiring these critical services continue to grow.



264 clients are waiting for home-delivered meals



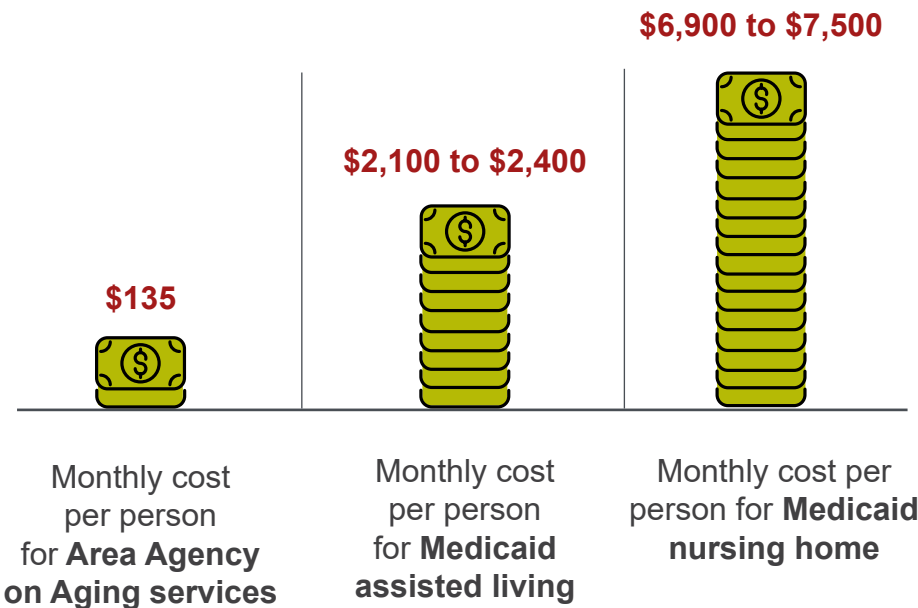
783 clients are waiting for transportation services



1,192 clients are waiting for chore and homemaker services

Area Agency on Aging funding is much more affordable than Medicaid funding for long-term care.

Area agencies on aging deliver **by far the most cost-effective services for older adults and for taxpayers.** Keeping people out of long-term care saves taxpayers millions of dollars.



Support funding for critical services for older adults.

Reauthorize the Older Americans Act to preserve funding for critical services for older adults.



Why your support is crucial to older Coloradans



Adequate funding for area agencies on aging protects your neighbors' health and well-being, strengthens communities, and reduces public costs.

Most older adults want to age safely in their own homes and communities. Area agencies on aging are the backbone that makes this possible. The Denver Regional Council of Governments' Area Agency on Aging provides services and support to older adults in **Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties**. Staff provide critical direct services and allocate funds to trusted local providers, maximizing impact with limited resources.

Essential direct services

Case management: Helping older adults stay at home

The Area Agency on Aging's case managers serve older adults with complex, high-risk needs. They help clients navigate confusing systems to access benefits and services

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related to affordable housing, nutritious meals, transportation to grocery stores and medical appointments, unsafe living conditions, and limited family and social support.

This results in fewer emergency interventions and better health, and keeps people living at home and out of long-term care facilities, all at a fraction of the cost of institutional care.

More accountable care because ombudsmen are there

Area Agency on Aging ombudsmen provide essential protection and support for **23,000 residents** living in more than **465 nursing homes and assisted living communities** across the region.

Through regular in-person visits, ombudsmen identify and resolve issues with care, address complaints from residents and their families, and provide critical oversight to strengthen long-term care. Ombudsman oversight results in fewer hospitalizations, fewer legal cases and, most importantly, better quality of life for residents. *Funding makes it possible for older adults to go places.*



Partnerships with providers make it possible to serve more older adults

The Area Agency on Aging stretches public dollars by funding and supporting community-based organizations that deliver essential services, including nutritious meals, transportation, in-home care, home modification, caregiver support and services to reduce social isolation.

Despite **flat federal funding and declining state investment**, the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging allocated \$22.6 million in fiscal year 2025 to deliver critical services in the face of growing demand, which means fewer people are receiving services.

Without adequate funding, these community-based solutions — often the most cost-effective option — are at risk.

Local providers in action

Chandra Matthews, president and CEO, Seniors Resource Center

“Older Americans Act funding through the Area Agency on Aging makes it possible for Seniors Resource Center to provide critical in-home care, chore assistance, support for those struggling with hoarding and adult day respite for caregivers of older adults experiencing cognitive decline. These services help older adults age safely and independently in homes and communities they know and love.”

Area agencies on aging are a proven lifeline

A real impact on real lives

For the past 12 years, Ann has been caring for her 91-year-old mother, Mary, who lives with multiple chronic conditions and struggles with limited use of her hands and feet.

“She wanted to cook, but I worried she’d hurt herself,” Ann said. “And I wanted to make sure she had real meals, not just fast food or something processed.”

Ann turned to **Project Angel Heart** for help and learned that Mary qualified to receive medically tailored meals. Now, she receives chef-prepared meals each week that meet her specific dietary and health-related needs, delivered to her door by a friendly volunteer.

“She can live at home with dignity,” Ann said. “It’s been a godsend.”



Preserve and fully fund critical services for older adults.

Funding from the Colorado Department of Human Services is essential for area agencies on aging to meet rising needs, protect vulnerable older adults and deliver cost-effective solutions that work.

We need your support to keep critical services that help older adults remain in their homes as they age.

A statewide survey found that **9 in 10 adults ages 65 or older prefer to stay in their homes** as they age. Federal and state funding makes it possible for them to do that by providing nutritious meals, transportation, in-home care, legal assistance, caregiver support and more. Last year, the Denver Regional Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging provided more than 800,000 service units for its most critical services.

In 2024-2025, the DRCOG Area Agency on Aging provided:



126,222 home-delivered meals



458,731 congregate meals



163,006 transportation services



4,324 case management services



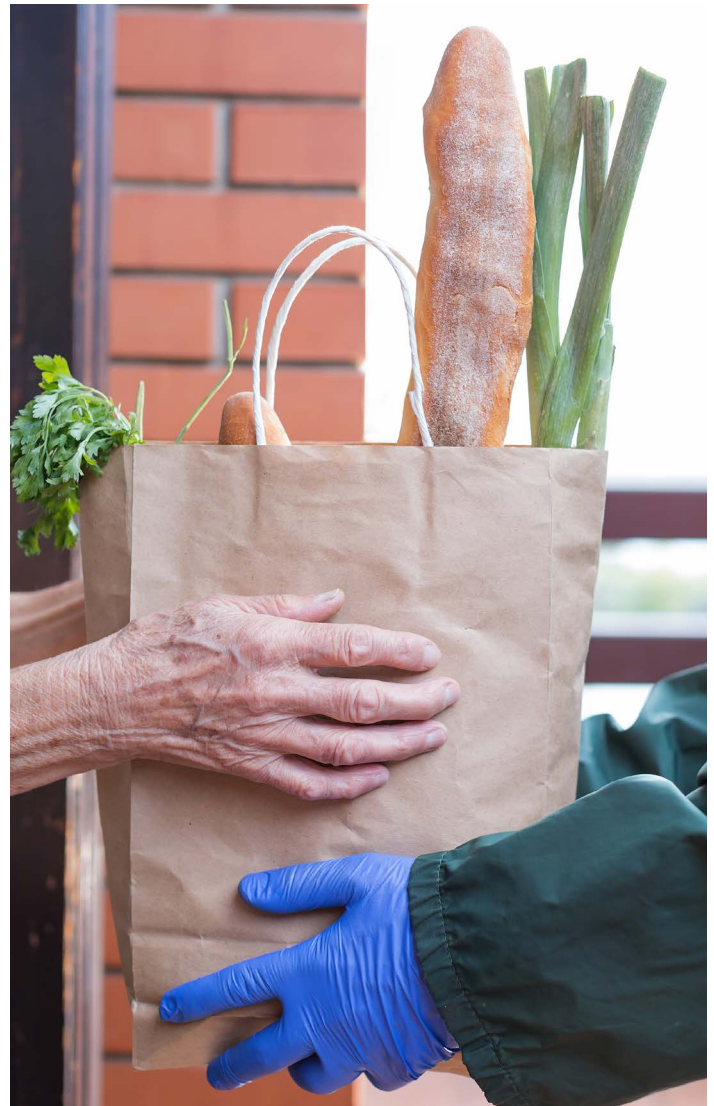
45,606 chore and homemaker services



25,667 caregiver services



10,729 ombudsman services



If you need digital accessibility assistance, submit a request at drcog.org/access or call 303-455-1000. Please expect a response within 72 hours (three business days).

But as Colorado’s population ages, the need for these services is rising.

The number of adults ages 65 and older will increase by 29.9% between 2024 and 2035.

State funding for community-based services provided by area agencies on aging has seen almost a 25% decrease over the past decade. This decrease in funding means there are significant waitlists of people needing services but unable to access them. The Area Agency on Aging has considerable waitlists for services that are critical for older adults who want to stay in their homes.



264 clients are waiting for home-delivered meals



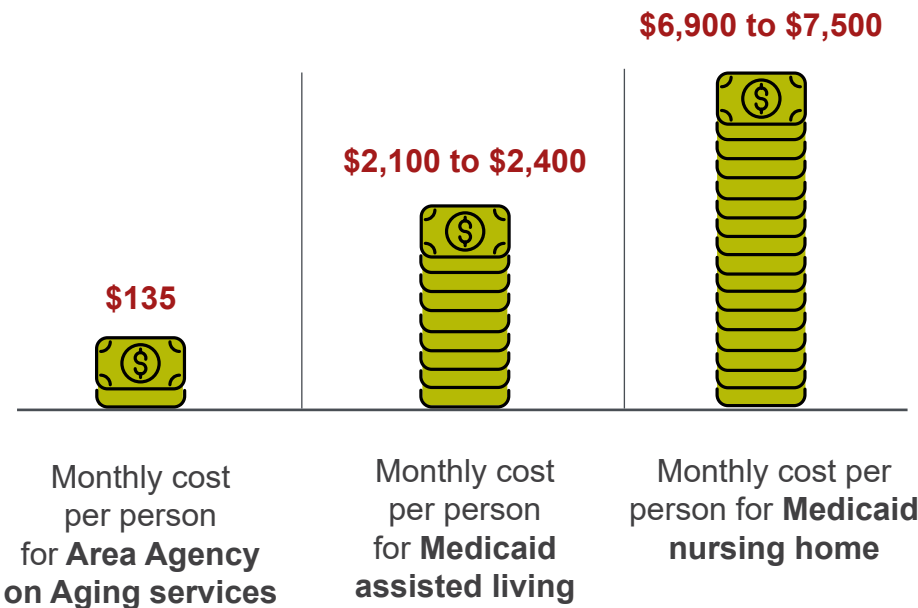
783 clients are waiting for transportation services



1,192 clients are waiting for chore and homemaker services

Area Agency on Aging funding is much more affordable than Medicaid funding for long-term care.

Area agencies on aging deliver by far the most cost-effective services for older adults and for taxpayers. Keeping people out of long-term care saves the state millions of dollars.



Preserve funding for critical services for older adults.

Funding allocated by the Colorado Department of Human Services is critical for area agencies on aging in their efforts to respond to the growing demand for services.

