

Agenda
Advisory Committee on Aging
Friday, January 23, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

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).

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.

- 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 – Bob Brocker
- 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 December 5, 2025, meeting.
(Attachment A)

Action item

- 6 11:40 a.m. Discussion of recommended additional funding requests for Fiscal Year 2026– Travis Noon (Attachment B)

Informational briefings

- 7 11:55 p.m. The challenge of meeting increased demands with less resources. – Jayla Sanchez-Warren (Attachment C)
- 8 12:10 p.m. Legislative Preview – Rich Mauro (Attachment D)

9 12:30 p.m. DRCOG Board Report

10 12:40 p.m. County Reports

11 **Administrative items**

Next meeting Month 00, 2025.

12 12:50 p.m. Other Matters by Members

13 1:00 p.m. Adjourn

Calander of future meetings

February 27, 2026 – Virtual

March 27, 2026 – Virtual

April 24, 2026 – **In person**

May 22, 2026 – Virtual

June 26, 2026 – **In person**

July 24, 2026 – Virtual

August 28, 2026 – **In person**

September 25, 2026 – Virtual

October 23, 2026 – **In person**

November 2026 – To be determined

December 2026 – To be determined

January 22, 2027 – Virtual

ATTACH A

Advisory Committee on Aging (ACA)

Meeting Summary

Friday, December 5, 2025

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

Andrea Suhaka	Arapahoe County
Barbara Boyer	Arapahoe County
Bob Brocker	Denver
David Appel	Jefferson County
Dawn Perez	Adams County
Donna Mullins	Jefferson County
Edward Moss	Broomfield County
Gretchen Lopez	Douglas County
Kathy Hensen	DRCOG Board Adams County
Paul Haseman	DRCOG Board Golden
Paula Hillman	Arapahoe County
Phil Cernanec	Arapahoe County
Steve Conklin	DRCOG Board Edgewater
Wynne Shaw	DRCOG Board-Lone Tree

Guests Present

Allison Cutting, Douglas County

DRCOG Staff Present

AJ Diamontopoulos, Senior Management Analyst, Fonda Buckles, Manager Older Americans Act Services, Jayla Sanchez- Warren, AAA Division Director, Kelly Roberts, Community Resource Specialist, Mindy Patton, Division Assistant, Liv Bergman, Sr. Community Resource Specialist, Susan Anderson, Program Manager Case Management.

Call to Order

Bob Brocker Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Public Comment Period (Non-ACA Members)

There was no public comment.

Report of the Chair – Bob Brocker

Chair Brocker noted that Channel 7 has a new beat reporter focused on aging, Colin Riley. He believes Colin could be a valuable resource for the AAA.

Report of the AAA Director – Jayla Sanchez-Warren

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment wrapped up smoothly, serving 670 clients with no complaints or state callbacks. The team worked exceptionally well together, with SHIP-certified staff managing beneficiary calls and cross-trained staff stepping in wherever needed. The biggest hurdles came from UnitedHealthcare dropping plans that affected 5,523 people in the DRCOG region and Aetna changes impacting 2,283 statewide, which required significant education and support around Medigap timing, provider access, and plan transitions. Shifts in drug plan formularies also created challenges as medications were removed or moved to higher-cost tiers, and the team guided clients through adjusting their Part D or Medicare Advantage plans. A key improvement this year was offering Teams meetings, enabling counselors to assist clients while teaching them how to use Medicare.gov for plan comparisons. Despite the complexity of the season, staff stayed energized and dedicated, providing excellent service and receiving strong appreciation from clients.

Advocacy

Advocacy efforts are ramping up as Congress returns to negotiations on the appropriations bill. The aging network previously secured several million dollars in Older Americans Act increases, and the goal now is to protect those gains. The Senate Aging Subcommittee remains supportive and hopes to vote before Christmas, while the House is likely to wait until January, making early-year advocacy especially important. A federal advocacy flyer is finished and being prepared for distribution, with meetings planned for after January in coordination with lobbyists. At the state level, Rich Mauro, AJ Diamontopoulos, and Jayla met with Senator Kyle Mullica, who asked for more data

and voiced support for the program. A state advocacy flyer has also been created and will be used going forward.

c4a

The Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging will be in Denver on January 15th and 16th for a quarterly meeting, and to attend a couple legislative breakfasts. The focus will be on highlighting the importance of community-based services provided by the Area Agencies on Aging and addressing the impact of recent cuts, while beginning broader conversations with legislative staff.

State Unit on Aging

The State Unit on Aging is being moved into Children and Family Services, a transition that will likely lead to changes within counties and human services departments. Jayla has been meeting with metro area commissioners to discuss their plans and will continue those conversations to keep coordination strong.

AAA and ACA meeting

Jayla expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the AAA staff and ACA appreciation meeting, which provided a chance to thank staff and allow them to connect with ACA members. Though the meeting was long, it was meaningful, giving staff, who are usually in the field or in training, time to share a meal, talk, reflect, and celebrate accomplishments together. Overall, it was a positive and successful gathering.

Colorado Multi-Sector Plan on Aging Dashboard

Jayla announced that the Colorado Multi-Sector Plan on Aging has launched a dashboard that will provide detailed county-level data, including demographics and housing offering a valuable new resource for members. The site can be accessed at [Colorado Multi-Sector Plan on Aging Dashboard | CDHS - Multisector Plan on Aging](#)

Southwest Improvement Council visit

Jayla visited the Southwest Improvement Council (SWIC) with the state nutritionist, where they ate at the congregate meal site, reviewed the material aid program, and spoke with clients about food quality. Both the state and DRCOG have received

complaints, prompting closer evaluation. Jayla and Travis Noon's team have been sampling meals across several sites and found that while the food wasn't bad, issues persisted. Jayla also visited Gilpin County, where meals prepared by the jail were noticeably better because they didn't require the same level of reheating. The state nutrition director, Travis's team, and Jayla will be meeting to develop a plan to improve meal quality overall.

Move to approve consent agenda

Items on the consent agenda included: October 31, 2025, meeting summary.

Ed Moss asked for these changes: Ed Moss delivered a detailed financial analysis examining senior living buy-in models tailored to middle- and higher-income older adults. His presentation focused on two significant senior housing financial models: the "buy-in" model (Windcrest community located in Highlands Ranch) and the "monthly rental" model. A proposed buy in project of 1,300-unit senior living development is planned for Westminster and Jefferson County.

Phil Cernanec motioned for approval as amended. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion; the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Informational Briefings

Discussion on possible ACA member engagement opportunities to support AAA programs – Kelly Roberts

Discussion focused on how the ACA can better support the AAA. Most ACA members rated their engagement with AAA programs at a seven or eight, noting frequent communication with community groups and regular use of AAA resources for referrals. They also emphasized the value of sharing local information back with the AAA and expressed strong appreciation for the AAA's legislative work, which bolsters their advocacy at the Capitol. Participants then considered ways to better use ACA expertise, suggesting a regular newsletter to strengthen information flow among officials and partners, webinars for residents, and gathering community feedback to help shape the upcoming four-year plan.

DRCOG Board Report –Steve Conklin

There was no DRCOG Board report.

County Reports

Arapahoe County

Paula Hillman has posted a flyer for a research roadshow that is going to be at the Centennial Center of Generations on February 20th. It is an opportunity for people in the area to participate in research studies and meet researchers.

Andrea Suhaka noted that in Arapahoe County, Commissioner Baker recently held a town hall for residents on the county's rural and hard to reach east end. She also shared that the 18th Judicial District, now made up solely of Arapahoe County, will hold its own town hall on December 9, 2025.

Barbara Boyer said Arapahoe County Commission on Aging's executive board will be meeting soon to plan next year's meetings.

Jefferson County

Jayla will present at the Jefferson County Commission on Aging meeting in January.

The multi-sector accountability plan on aging is moving forward as well as discussions with Triad to potentially assist with the annual Senior Law Day.

Other Matters by Members

There were no other matters discussed

Next meeting – January 23, 2026.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTACH B

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: January 23, 2026

Agenda Item #: 6

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Discussion of recommended additional funding requests for Fiscal Year 2026

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

This item pertains to recommended additional funding requests for fiscal year 2026 Older Americans Act services.

Background

DRCOG received carryover funds from fiscal year 2025 through an option letter issued by the state in October 2025. The state has since clarified that it will enforce the 10% cap on carryover funding from FY2026 to FY2027. Consequently, FY2026 funds need to be fully committed to minimize the amount of unspent funding remaining at the end of the year.

DRCOG invited current contracted providers to submit requests for additional funding and received proposals from 17 organizations totaling more than \$1.1 million. With roughly \$350,000 available for distribution, the ACA funding subcommittee reviewed all requests. In developing its recommendations, the subcommittee prioritized support for basic-needs services, assessed each provider's performance on existing contracts, and evaluated the providers' plans for fully utilizing the funds by year-end. A summary of requested amounts and recommended allocations is attached.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

Move to recommend approval of the additional funding allocations to the DRCOG Board Finance and Budget Committee.

Attachment

List of recommended additional funding requests.

For more information

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



Summary of Additional Funds Requests Fiscal Year 2026

Provider	Service	Total Additional Funds Requested	Recommended Funds
A Little Help	Chore	\$ 20,750.00	\$ 10,000.00
Aging Resources of Douglas County	Information and Assistance	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Arapahoe County	Chore	\$ 17,529.00	\$ 17,529.00
Aurora Mental Health and Recovery	Education	\$ 9,060.72	\$ -
Aurora Mental Health and Recovery	Counseling	\$ 12,295.56	\$ -
Blue Spruce	Chore	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Brothers Redevelopment	Chore	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -
Catholic Charities	Grandparent Caregiver Information and Assistance	\$ 64,875.00	\$ -
City and County of Broomfield	Caregiver Respite	\$ 12,764.80	\$ 12,764.00
Colorado Legal Services	Legal Assistance	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
Douglas County	Assisted Transportation	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 12,250.00
Douglas County	Homemaker	\$ 14,197.00	\$ -
Douglas County	Personal Care	\$ 14,419.00	\$ 14,419.00
Jewish Family Service	Material Aid - Food	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Project Angel Heart	Home Delivered Meals	\$ 155,316.00	\$ 155,316.00
Senior Support Services	Information and Assistance	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
Seniors Resource Center	Personal Care	\$ 7,016.68	\$ -
Seniors Resource Center	Homemaker	\$ 30,007.36	\$ -
Seniors Resource Center	Caregiver Respite	\$ 150,050.16	\$ -
Southwest Improvement Council	Education	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Via Mobility Services	Assisted Transportation	\$ 103,000.00	\$ 54,358.00
Volunteers of America	Congregate Meals	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Total		\$ 1,190,031.28	\$ 353,136.00

ATTACH C

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: Month 00, 2026

Agenda Item #: 7

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Information shared at the legislative caucus and legislative breakfast

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

DRCOG staff will provide an overview of information presented during the legislative caucus and legislative breakfast held on January 15 and 16, 2026.

Background

The Advisory Committee on Aging will receive a recap of the presentation shared at the legislative caucus and legislative breakfast and review additional information provided for discussion.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None

Attachment

Legislative Caucus Meeting PP 1-12-2026

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.



The challenge of
meeting increased
demands with less
resources

Colorado Area Agencies on
Aging

Area Agencies on Aging



- Federally mandated under the Older American's Act.
- Part of Colorado Department of Human Services under the department of Children and Families.
- 16 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in the state.
- Role of AAAs
 - Serve older adults and people with disabilities that are **not** served by Medicaid.
 - Fund and provide community services.
 - Plan for current and future needs of older adults.
 - Support family caregivers with a variety of services.
 - Advocate for older adults and their caregivers.

Mandated AAA Services

- Transportation
- Nutrition services
- Ombudsman
- Legal assistance
- Evidence-based disease health promotion
- Family caregiver support
- Advocacy and education
- In-Home personal service
- Chore services
- Case management
- Information and assistance
- Respite services



Reduced funding leads to reduced services

	SFY23	SFY24	SFY25	Percentage change SFY23 -25
Units	3,050,900	2,974,630	2,352,036	-22.9%
Clients	51,972	51,068	44,147	-15.1%
# Contracted community providers	161	163	153	-5%



Budget cuts translate into service reductions

Service	SFY23 Units of services	SFY24 Units of service	SFY25 Units of service
Transportation	587,590	445,738	288,148
Meals	2,030,075	2,043,843	1,707,758
Caregiver Services	91,545	83,976	76,448
Homemaker	64,764	92,753	77,746
Chore	35,963	32,447	25,425
Case Management	31,199	27,930	12,879
Total	2,777,372	2,726,687	2,188,404

Lives are at risk due to service waits

Service	# of people on waiting list
In-Home	929
Home Delivered Meals	412
Caregiver Respite	69
Material Aid	282
Transportation	805
Other	185
Total	2,682



**Total cost to reduce the waitlist for 1 year
\$3,156,650 at the end of SFY 2024-2025**

Moving from a focus on aging well to addressing critical needs for high-risk older adults

- Focus on quality service for those **most in need.**
- Partner with health care and health payors.
- Continue to provide service. that support family caregivers.
- Data collection and data-based decisions.
- Educate and advocate.
- Support age-friendly initiatives in the region.
- Understand local non-traditional resources.



Thank You



Jayla Sanchez-Warren
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720-375-1738

ATTACH D

Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting

Name of Committee: Advisory Committee on Aging

Meeting date: January 23, 2026

Agenda Item #: 8

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Legislative Preview

Agenda item type: Informational briefing

Summary

Rich Mauro will provide an update on the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) funding efforts and an overview of other legislative issues for the 2026 session.

Background

The Second Regular Session of the Seventy-Fifth General Assembly convened on Wednesday January 14. All issues considered and actions taken during the 120 days of the session will occur under the pall of a nearly \$1 Billion shortfall facing the fiscal year 2026-27 budget. This will include considerations related to Medicaid, the Homestead Exemption and State Funding for Senior Services. We also expect bills on dementia care, financial exploitation, older adults in the workforce.

Any bills of interest introduced since January will be presented to the committee. In addition, the DRCOG Board meets on January 21, and any actions the Board takes on legislation will also be reported.

Action by others

None

Previous discussions/actions

None

Recommendation

None



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Attachment

None

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Rich Mauro, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (303) 480-6778 or rjmauro@drcog.org.

