



ADULT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Colorado Department of Human Services

A Fact Sheet
Bill Owens, Governor

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Adult Assistance programs serve adults aged 18 and older who have disabilities, functional impairments or are otherwise at-risk. The mission of the Division is to assist recipients to live safely with maximum personal independence by planning and promoting an effective, integrated, accessible delivery system.

- The Division serves its Colorado clients through four main programs:
 - ◆ *Adult Income and Medical Support* — provides cash grants to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons for basic living expenses and funeral and burial costs.
 - ◆ *Adult Protective Services* — provides intervention services to at-risk adults over 18 years old to address situations of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
 - ◆ *Older Americans Act and Older Coloradoans Fund* — provides community-based services to adults 60 and over with the goals of self-sufficiency and economic independence.
 - ◆ *Information and Referral Services* — provides an information and referral network through Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), information and referral handbooks, and toll-free elder care and adult protection telephone numbers.
- The FY 2004-05 budget for Adult Assistance programs totals approximately \$121 million, including \$14 million in General Fund – a 25 percent increase over FY 2003-04. The General Fund was increased by \$4.3 million for both the Aid to the Needy Disabled and the Aid to the Blind programs.
- During the 2003 legislative session, Governor Owens signed Senate Bill 03-022, transferring the Old Age Pension (OAP) Health and Medical Care Program, and the Supplemental OAP Health and Medical Care Program from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.
- During the 2002 legislative session, Governor Owens signed two landmark bills granting additional, ongoing General Fund support to aged adults. The Governor's support of this legislation demonstrates his commitment to Colorado's aging community.
 - ◆ House Bill 02-1209 created an ongoing appropriation of \$2.0 million in sales and use taxes to create the Older Coloradoans Cash Fund. The Older Coloradoans Program provides funding to the Area Agencies on Aging to provide grants and community-based services to persons sixty years of age or older. Funds are used to assist such persons to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
 - ◆ House Bill 02-1276 created the Supplemental OAP Health and Medical Care Program and provides an ongoing appropriation of \$1.0 million in sales and use taxes. The Supplemental OAP Fund is to assist old age pension recipients whose needs are not being met under the old age pension health

and medical care fund (limited by the Constitution to \$10 million). Note that due to severe, statewide budget constraints, House Bill 03-299 was passed during the 2003 legislative session, reducing the annual OAP supplemental transfer from \$1.0 million to \$750,000.

- Significant achievements of the Division of Aging and Adult Services include:
 - ♦ **Guardianship Manual developed by Adult Protective Services (APS).** This manual is used to direct county APS workers in carrying out duties related to the guardianship and other forms of legal authority. The manual, *A Basic Guide to Understanding Guardianship, Conservatorship, Powers of Attorney, Representative Payeeship, and Medical Advance Directives*, was provided to Colorado county departments of social services in November 2003. The manual may also be of use to other professionals who work in tandem with adult protection programs, such as ombudsmen, county attorneys, and health care personnel. Colorado's manual was accepted by the National Adult Protective Services Association and the National Association of State Long -Term Care Ombudsmen as a model for other states to develop manuals with state specific information.
 - ♦ **Protocol Developed.** Throughout FY 2003-04, staff of the Division for Developmental Disabilities and the Adult Protective Services program developed a model protocol for coordinating the investigations and service delivery of developmentally disabled adults who are victims or are at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. From May through July 2004, the protocol is being reviewed by groups of stakeholders representing both adult protection and developmental disabilities programs. When finalized, the protocol will be distributed to local agencies and adapted to local Adult Protection programs, Community Centered Board programs, and Regional Centers.
 - ♦ **Colorado State Plan on Aging Approved.** The State Plan covers federal fiscal years 2004 through 2007, and represents the State's response to information about the needs of older persons and older persons with disabilities obtained by the Colorado Department of Human Services, the State Unit on Aging, the Colorado Commission on Aging, and from citizens and organizational representatives who live in Colorado's sixteen planning and service areas.
 - ♦ **Colorado Strengths and Needs Assessment.** Between May and June 2004, over 9,000 Colorado seniors age 60 and older, participated in a telephone survey addressing: nutrition, health care, in-home services, transportation, care-giving, and quality of life. Analysis of the information gained will assist strategic and long range planning of service provision to seniors. The maturing of the "Baby Boomer" generation represents a dramatic demographic shift that will profoundly affect Colorado in the coming decades. Results of the study will be completed Fall 2004.