



RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF
HealthyAging

Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) Supports available to Caregivers

Subcommittee on Aging and Senior Services

February 16, 2022

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Who We Are

OHA serves older Rhode Islanders (55+) and adults with disabilities, connecting them to resources and information that promote healthy aging and advocating for strong laws and policies that protect and empower our constituency.

As Rhode Island’s designated state unit on aging, we invest – primarily through the Older Americans Act – in local programs and initiatives that help fulfill our mission. And we partner with an array of government and community groups committed to helping Rhode Islanders age strong.

Mission

Through strong advocacy, programming and community partnership, we empower older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities to age healthfully, happily, and safely.

Philosophy

People come first. Our efforts will continue to be informed by reliable data and the lived experience of Rhode Islanders.



Pillars

Promote Choice: A person should be the primary author of his/her own life and have access to the information and supports needed to thrive.

Create Connections: People should have opportunities to connect with each other, with help, and with their greater community. Our work should be coordinated to make this possible.

Pursue Health Equity: All Rhode Islanders should be able to participate fully and healthfully in society and benefit from available programs and services.

Ensure People’s Safety: Older adults and those with disabilities should have the opportunity to live with dignity, feel safe in their homes and communities, and know that their needs will be met.

Inspire a Performance Culture: Our customers benefit most when we are responsible stewards of resources, making smart investments in line with people’s needs and holding ourselves accountable to achieving established goals.

Overview of At Home Supports

At Home Cost-Share Program Overview

OHA AT-HOME COST SHARE PROGRAM (CO-PAY PROGRAM/CNOM): Helps older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities live safely and happily in their homes for longer. Eligible, non-Medicaid persons can access subsidized in-home care services, day health programs, and customized care planning. In-home services may include personal care assistance, meal preparation, and housekeeping, based on an individual's care plan.



HOW IT WORKS: The State shares in the cost of in-home and/or adult-day programming in the community for eligible participants. A participant's share of cost is based on their annual income. The Program allows for up to 20 hours of homecare or a combination of homecare and Adult Day Care Services.

Services:

In home services include help with a combination of personal care and housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping provided by a licensed home care agency.

Adult day programs may offer health and wellness programs, personal care, meals, medication administration, supervision, socialization, therapeutic activities and more

Case management services assess participants needs, develop a person-centered care plan with the participant and provide on-going monitoring and support throughout the eligibility period

At Home Supports Referrals and Coordination of Care

There is “no wrong door” to gain information about and access the OHA AHS Programs.

Individuals may be referred to OHA by their doctor’s offices, RI’s Aging and Disability Resource Center “The Point”, community organizations, family members, or by contacting OHA on their own. When OHA receives an AHS referral, it is assigned to a case management agency (CMA), based on where the individual resides. The case manager will access the client and if found eligible will assist in the coordination of services

Child and Family Services:

- Jamestown
- Little Compton
- Middletown
- Newport
- Portsmouth
- Tiverton
- Providence

East Bay Community

Action:

- Barrington
- Bristol
- Central Falls
- East Providence
- Pawtucket
- Warren

West Bay Community

Action:

- Coventry
- East Greenwich
- Warwick
- West Warwick
- West Greenwich

Tri-County Community Action:

- Block Island
- Charlestown
- Exeter
- Hopkinton
- Narragansett
- North Kingstown
- Richmond
- South Kingstown
- Westerly
- Burrillville
- Cranston
- Foster
- Glocester,
- Johnston
- Lincoln
- North Providence
- North Smithfield
- Scituate
- Smithfield
- Woonsocket

At Home Cost-Share Program Eligibility

Current Eligibility

1. Income up to 200% of FPL
2. Age 65 + with an assessed need for personal care.

FY22 Changes

1. Increase of income up to 250% of FPL
2. Addition of Population 19-64 with a documented medical diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia.

Level 1- 125% FPL	Single \$16,987	Couple: \$22,887
In-Home Support		\$4.50/hour
Adult Day		\$7.00/day
Level 2- 200% FPL	Single: \$27,280	Couple: \$ 36,620
In-Home Support		\$7.50/hour
Adult Day		\$15.00/day
Level 3- 250% of FPL	Single: \$33,975	Couple: \$45,777
In-Home Support		\$7.50/hour
Adult Day		\$15.00/day

OHA RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

The Point

The Aging and Disability Resource Center, The Point, provides targeted information and help based on the customer's need and preferences: from housing, respite support and transportation to food assistance, employment options and more. Options counselors are available to help people navigate their care options and apply for public and private programs.

Through a network of over 25 partners and six geographic regions, we offer an array of programs to older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities, connecting them to information and assistance, social supports, and protective services.

Caregivers can access the Point to assist them in supporting their loved ones.

The Point Call & Walk-In Info Center at United Way

- Information and Referral
- Options Counseling/Person Centered Options Counseling
- Benefits Enrollment Assistance
- Crisis Intervention
- Disability Resources
- Caregiver Support

Point connect to info & help anytime 401.462.4444
www.oha.ri.gov



OHA Caregiver and Respite Services

Respite provides a break for caregivers caring for loved ones of any age. These services strengthen family systems while protecting the health and well-being of both caregivers and care recipients.

Carebreaks is Rhode Island's primary respite program for caregivers, operated by our partner at Catholic Social Services.

The program is open to all Rhode Island families in need of safe, affordable, temporary care for their loved ones. Services are coordinated through qualified home healthcare providers, adult day care centers, assisted living and nursing home facilities and are based on level of need.

Grandparents as Caregivers Program: Grandparent Respite services are available to older adults raising children aged 18 and under.

Offerings include free after-school and summer-break programming through our partnership with the YMCA of Greater Providence and the YMCA of Pawtucket.

Volunteer Nursing Student Respite: Respite initiative which matches student nurses to provide respite services to families or care recipients with low to moderate income.

Currently participants are:

- University of Rhode Island
- Rhode Island College
- Salve Regina University
- Community College of Rhode Island

State Plan for Family Caregivers



In September of 2021, OHA and The Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island (FCARI) announced Rhode Island's First State Plan for Family Caregivers.

The State Plan provides an overview of the support network available for family caregivers as well as addresses the work that remains to be done around ensuring equitable access to resources and advocacy.

Through implementation of the plan, the Office of Healthy Aging and FCARI will together:

- Provide a voice for all Rhode Island Caregivers
- Enhance the FCARI website and social media presence
- Ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion for Rhode Island Caregivers and those for whom they care
- Ensure Caregivers of Rhode Island seeking long term services and supports are identified and provided with information assistance
- Advance opportunities for digital access to better serve and support Rhode Island Caregivers

Alzheimer's Support Services

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Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative Grant (ADPI)

OVERVIEW OF INTIATIVE: OHA works with partners to build a “dementia-capable” system of support in Rhode Island. Efforts include providing disease-management supports to individuals and families affected by dementia – as well as offering training to first responders and healthcare professionals to improve detection, identification, care planning and referrals to services.

PROGRAM GOAL: To improve the identification, diagnosis, referral and care planning process for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) by providing training in and encouraging use of ADRD-related skills by healthcare providers, family caregivers, and people living with mild symptoms of dementia.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

1. Coordinate partner efforts to increase awareness of the importance in documenting an ADRD diagnosis and use of care management billing codes
2. Plan for, develop, and deploy training to direct service providers
3. Deliver curriculum through Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC)
4. Deliver curriculum through 'Living with Alzheimer's for People with Dementia' (PLWD)
5. Establish dementia-capable HCBS into statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative Grant (Cont.)



PARTNERS AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

1. **Trainings by RI Geriatric Education Center** to primary care practices throughout the state. These trainings equip providers to support patients with cognitive symptoms and their family caregivers. A Provider Referral Packet has been developed to assist with referring patients and family caregivers to services available. It offers guidance to the providers for conducting care planning, and outlines billing for dementia-related services.
2. **Partnership with Rhode Island College (RIC)**, Dementia Competent Practice training is conducted for direct service providers which:
 - Empowers participants to improve patient care by training them on person-centered care
 - Improves knowledge of the stages and impact of ADRD
 - Educates participants on communicating with patients, family members, and the provider team
 - Increases awareness of resources and information to share with patients' family members
 - Presents information that is valuable both for individuals new to providing patient care and those looking to refresh their knowledge of ADRD

Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative Grant (Cont.)

PARTNERS AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS (Continued)

- 3. Supports through Catholic Social Services of RI,** the PTC six-week course encourages participants to make time for self-care; create a caregiver community where participants can connect and learn from each other; educates participants on the disease progression and impact of ADRD, promotes effective communication strategies and tips for coordinating care with family and doctors, increases participant awareness of resources to support caregivers and their family members with ADRD.
- 4. Supports through the Alzheimer's Association – RI Chapter.** PLWD is a three-part program in six weeks designed to assist individuals and their families while hearing from other individuals living with Alzheimer's on what to expect, how to build a care team and planning for the future to improve quality of life for persons with early stages of ADRD.
- 5. Services through RI's ADRC.** The Point provides wrap-around support and referrals for individuals with ADRD and their families and streamline the experience for clients in accessing services through a system at different points in care to support the ADRD population. Supports include full options counseling, information and referral assistance that includes follow-up confirmation, routine check-ins on caregivers' wellbeing, and assistance in gaining access to other services.



digiAGE Collaborative Caregiver Equity Grants

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digiAGE Caregiver Grants Overview

digiAGE Collaborative: Expanding internet connectivity among older people, adults living with disabilities, and their family caregivers.



Caregiver Equity Grants: In February of 2021, the digiAGE Caregiver Equity Grants were awarded to ten local organizations, working to connect more older adults and their families to technology. Grant recipients were selected based on their commitment to advancing equity and providing free, ‘best-in-class’ tech programs to older-adult caregivers that support diverse language learners.

Caregiver Grant Recipients:

- Carelink RI
- Center for Southeast Asians
- Town of Cumberland
- YMCA – Greater Providence
- Village Common
- Cornerstone Adult Services, Inc.
- digiAGE Newport
- Grand Flourish, Inc.
- Higher-Ground International
- Tri-County Community Action Agency

WHY IT MATTERS

1 in 4 older Rhode Islanders aren’t online

Bridging the [digital divide](#) for older adults through coordinated investments in smart devices, training, online content & internet connectivity.

oha.ri.gov/digiAGE

THANK YOU

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