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GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING
NRS 439 REPORT
COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES
FOR OLDER NEVADANS



Submitted to
Richard Whitley, Director
Department of Health and Human Services
June, 2016

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AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

COMMISSION ON AGING

June, 2016

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*Patsy Waits,
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This is the final report from the Commission on Aging, NRS 439 Subcommittee.

This report represents the Independent Living Grants and the seniors for whom they provide a safety net of home and community based services that save at least \$17 million annually in General Funds and keep older people living, as all people wish to do, independently in their own homes.

The three most needed services, as delineated in this report, are Case Management, Home Health Care and Transportation. However, all home and community based services are important to keep older people in their homes and to save taxpayer dollars.

The recommendations in this report are submitted for consideration in the apportionment of the Fund for a Healthy Nevada. However, as the tobacco settlement funds diminish, the need for these services will increase. Finding alternative funding is an important goal.

COA Subcommittee for NRS 439 Report:

Patsy Waits

Joe Tinio

Travis Lee

Nevada Commission on Aging

Non-Voting Members

*Richard Whitley,
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Living Longer,
Growing Stronger
In America

Resource Material

Resources and research components

Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division 2015 Annual Report for Independent Living Grants

Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Integration Plan: Consumers, Staff and Provider Survey Report

State Plan for Aging Services (DRAFT) 10-01-2016 to 09-30-2020

Governor's Commission on Aging 2014, NRS 439 Report Community Needs and Priorities for Older Nevadans

2015 Statewide Focus Groups

Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Service Provider Waitlist

Nevada Demographic Data

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Independent Living Grants Annual Report

(For more complete information regarding the application, granting, use and outcomes, see the 2015 Independent Living Grants Report on the Aging and Disability Services website. This information is from that report)

1. Independent Living Grants (ILG) provide supportive social services that delay or prevent institutionalization of frail, elderly Nevadans, saving millions in Nevada General Fund dollars.
2. During SFY 2015, ILG grants served 12,567 unduplicated clients, at an average annual expenditure of \$350 per client – 44 times less expensive than the annual General Fund expenditure of \$15,312 to institutionalize a Medicaid client.
3. Relevant to income status, 52 percent of ILG clients (6,492) live at or below 100 percent of the 2015 Federal Poverty Level, or \$980.83 monthly for a single person in SFY15. Absent other disqualifying assets, this income level meets the “financial” eligibility criteria for Medicaid coverage in a skilled nursing facility.
4. More than 44 percent of ILG clients (5,494) had three or more deficits in Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs). Without social supportive services, these clients are at risk for institutionalization.
5. About 15 percent of ILG clients (1,909) are *severely* frail and considered at imminent risk for institutionalization. Each has at least three deficits in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). This level of frailty meets the “functional” criteria for Medicaid coverage in a skilled nursing facility
6. Almost 9 percent of these severely frail clients (1,122) also likely meet the “financial” criteria for Medicaid coverage, because they live on incomes at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Factoring this with the annual cost to Nevada for each Medicaid client in skilled nursing facility, ILGs helped save at least \$17.2 million in Nevada General Fund annually.
7. The accounts of clients and social workers about clients are compelling and underscore elder Nevadans’ struggles and desire for independence. ILG services comprise a vital safety net that stands between these elders and their complete loss of independence.
8. Loss of Independent Living Grant services would create a cascading effect of overwhelming numbers of frail, elderly Nevadans, who would rather live independently, instead declining to incapacitation and skilled nursing facility placement.

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Independent Living Grants Annual
Report, cont.

The Economic Sense of Funding ILGs

In addition to supporting the desire of older people to live independently in the community, funding ILGs makes economic sense for preserving the Nevada General Fund. Skilled nursing facility care is almost 44 times the average annual cost of caring for an ILG client at home.

ILG Community-Based Care vs. Medicaid-Supported Institutionalization:

*Annual average Medicaid (General Fund Expenditure) Per Skilled Nursing Facility:

\$15,312

**Annual average ILG Expenditure per client is 2% of Medicaid Institutionalization Cost:

\$350

Considering that 1,122 ILG clients live at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and have three or more ADL deficits, it is reasonable to estimate that ILGs achieve at least **\$17.2 million in general fund savings each year.**

**Based on the 2015 weighted average Medicaid Skilled Nursing Facility daily rate of \$116.66, with the Nevada share being \$41.95 per Medicaid bed day X 365 days = \$15,311.75 per year, per client – rounded to \$15,312. (Mary Gordon, MA3, DHCFP Rates & Containment Unit)*

*** Based on the total number of unduplicated ILG clients served in SFY 2015 (12,567), divided into the funding allocated to serve these clients (\$4,396,217), for annual average cost of serving an ILG client (\$*

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COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR OLDER NEVADANS

The nine core services that have been identified by Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) as most instrumental in maintaining independence, based on numerous studies over the past several years, are, in alphabetical order:

Adult Day Care
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Case Management
Home Care/Homemaker
Legal Services
Personal Emergency Response System
Respite Care
Senior Companion
Transportation Services

STATEWIDE FOCUS GROUPS – 2015

In preparation for the State Plan of 2016-2020, ADSD Deputy Administrator Jill Berntson and staff conducted 21 focus groups throughout Nevada. The groups were comprised of 198 senior center participants, some chosen by the senior center director and others from the general community. The participants were provided, in advance, with the seven questions that were asked to give them time to prepare their answers. An average of 9 people attended each group, 2/3 female and 1/3 male. They were diverse in income, education and vocation. Following is a list of the questions asked and generalized analysis of the answers. The full plan and analysis can be found at the ADSD website as soon as it is finalized.

Question 1: Where do you go or who do you talk to in your community, when you need help in finding services for older adults? (*Older adults are those age 60 and above*).

Answers: Most often cited was the senior center. In Southern Nevada, next was friends, neighbors and relatives. In Eastern Nevada, participants next rely on Aging and Disability Resource Centers and hospital social workers. In Northern Nevada, participants rely next on the Internet and an Attorney.

Question 2: Has there been a time when you or someone you know wasn't able to find needed help or services?

Answers: Lack of awareness of available services was a concern at every site throughout the state. At many of the sites, case management was a concern. Home Health was cited as an unmet need at all sites, generally referring to anything from homemaking services to assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) to Registered Nurses and Physical therapy needs. People are concerned about a lack of providers.

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Question 3: What worries you or other seniors you know the most about being able to sustain independence? What assistance or services would most help you to stay independent?

Answers: Across the state, the most requested services to maintain independent living are: homemaker and home maintenance; home and vehicle modifications; and transportation to obtain food, groceries and prescriptions. Additionally, participants in all areas of the state cited home health care as a need to keep them safe in their homes.

Question 4: What has been your experience with transportation services?

Answers: The participant responses were so varied that drawing trends regarding transportation problems was not possible, except to say that adequate transportation remains the greatest need throughout Nevada, both in town and long distance. It is particularly difficult in health care situations for people in rural areas being transported to urban care centers, or people living on the outskirts of town getting transportation to the senior center or other providers.

Question 5: What types of health promotion, disease prevention programming would you use, if it were offered at a convenient site? Which of these might interest you and what other kinds of programming do you suggest? What sites might you go to for health promotion and disease prevention programming?

Answers: There was enthusiasm throughout the state for health services, health promotion and disease prevention activities, especially in Southern and Northern Nevada. Participants most often cited their senior center as the place they would go to for health promotion programs.

Question 6: Do you or older adults you know ever talk or worry about abuse, neglect or financial exploitation? From what you hear, how prevalent is senior abuse, neglect and financial exploitation in your community? What kinds and under what circumstances? What needs to happen to reduce or prevent these kinds of problems? Where would you turn for help if you were aware of such a problem or experienced it yourself?

Answers: Participants were most concerned about scams perpetrated over the phone or by computer. They also named exploitation as the second most frequent form of abuse. Mostly, they did not think elder abuse was a problem in their communities. It was noted that more education is needed about elder abuse, what it is, where to report, and some way to reduce the stigma.

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Question 7: From what you know and see, what can you tell us about the adequacy of nutrition and food for seniors? Do you know of seniors who are hungry and unable to have enough food? What are some examples of such situations?

Answers: Generally, participants noted it is fairly easy to access food. Communities typically had multiple food sites, including the senior centers and food banks. There was some concern about the management of the sites, as younger people were able to stand in line longer, so they were first in line and got more choices. The cited as the most difficult barriers for older people to access food are stigma for seeking food services, high cost of living and food, and resources are available but they cannot get to them. Participants at all sites said home delivered meals are going very well, with the community being able to help identify seniors in need.

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ILG WAITLIST INFORMATION AS OF MAY 2, 2016

- 46 Agencies Responded.
- 12 Agencies indicated they had a current waitlists (below sorted by Money Needed to Resolve)

AGENCY	GRANT NUMBER	Service	# on Waitlist	Avg Time on WL	Money needed to Resolve
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley	03-033-10-LX-16	Transportation	577	478	\$ 577,000.00
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley	03-033-27-LX-16	Volunteer Care	577	478	\$ 577,000.00
Jewish Federation of Las Vegas	03-064-02-LX-16	Homemaker	107	150	\$ 126,632.00
Dignity Health - St. Rose /HH of Henderson	03-067-10-LX-16	Transportation	175	180	\$ 79,760.00
James Seastrand HH of NLV	03-030-55-LX-16	Food Pantry	160	278	\$ 57,000.00
Seniors in Service	18-019-16-UL-16	Senior Companion Program	Y	60	\$ 52,988.00
MT Grant General Hospital	12-001-02-BC-16	Homemaker	19	324	\$ 29,610.00
Dignity Health - St. Rose /HH of Henderson	03-067-27-BX-16	Volunteer Care & Assistance	175	180	\$ 15,346.00
Senior Citizens of Humboldt County (Pleasant SC)	08-000-02-BC-16	Homemaker	13	180	\$ 7,020.00
More to Life Adult Day Health Center	16-037-05-LX-16	Adult Day Care	5	60	\$ 6,000.00
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley	18-033-43-LX-16	Voucher Services	121	180	\$ 121.00
Clark County Public Guardian	03-015-21-LX-16	Representative Payee Service	45	319	

PROGRAMS FUNDED FOR SFY 2015 WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANTS BY COUNTY

County	Program	Service
Carson	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Jump Around Carson	Transportation
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	The Continuum	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
		Volunteer Care and Assistance
Churchill	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Churchill Area Regional Transportation	Transportation
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	The Continuum	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
		Respite Vouchers
Clark	Alzheimer's Association of Southern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Blind Center of Nevada	Transportation
	Blind Center of Nevada	Transportation Vouchers
	Boulder City Senior Center	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada	Case Management
	Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada	Medical Nutrition Therapy
	Helping Hands of Henderson	Transportation
	Helping Hands of Vegas Valley	Respite Vouchers
	Helping Hands of Vegas Valley	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Helping Hands of Vegas Valley	Transportation
	James Seastrand Helping Hands of NLV	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	James Seastrand Helping Hands of NLV	Food Pantry
	James Seastrand Helping Hands of NLV	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
	Jewish Federation of Las Vegas	Homemaker
	Jude 22 Senior Nutrition Program	Food Pantry
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Nevada Senior Services	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
	Overton Senior Center	Transportation
	RTC of Southern Nevada	Transportation
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Southern Nevada Transit Coalition	Transportation
	Southern NV Senior Law Program	Legal (Ward Representation)
The Urban League	Transportation	

Douglas	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Douglas County Senior Services	Transportation
	Douglas County Senior Services	Personal Emergency Response System
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	The Continuum	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
Elko	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Carlin Senior Center	Transportation
	Elko County	Transportation
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Alzheimer's Association of Southern NV	Respite Vouchers
Esmeralda	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Volunteer Care and Assistance
Eureka	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Volunteer Care and Assistance
Humboldt	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Senior Citizens of Humboldt County	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Volunteer Care and Assistance
Lander	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Battle Mountain Senior Center	Transportation
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Alzheimer's Association of Southern NV	Respite Vouchers
Lincoln	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
Lyon	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Lyon County Senior Services	Transportation

Mineral	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	The Continuum	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Mineral County Senior Services	Transportation
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
Nye	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	The Continuum	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
	Alzheimer's Association of Southern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Nevada Senior Services	Home Safety, Modification and Repair
	Pahrump Senior Center	Transportation
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
Pershing	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
Storey	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
Washoe	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
	Access to Healthcare Network	Volunteer Care and Assistance
	Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV	Respite Vouchers
	Nevada Legal Services	Legal Assistance
	Rural RSVP	Personal Emergency Response System
	Rural RSVP	Transportation
	Seniors in Service	Companion
	Seniors in Service	Respite
The Continuum	Adult Day Care	
The Continuum	Home Safety, Modification and Repair	
UNR Board of Regents	Volunteer Care and Assistance	
Washoe County Senior Center	Case Management	
Washoe Legal Services	Legal (Ward Representation)	

White Pine

Access to Healthcare Network
Alzheimer's Association of Northern NV
Nevada Legal Services
Rural RSVP
Rural RSVP
White Pine Social Services

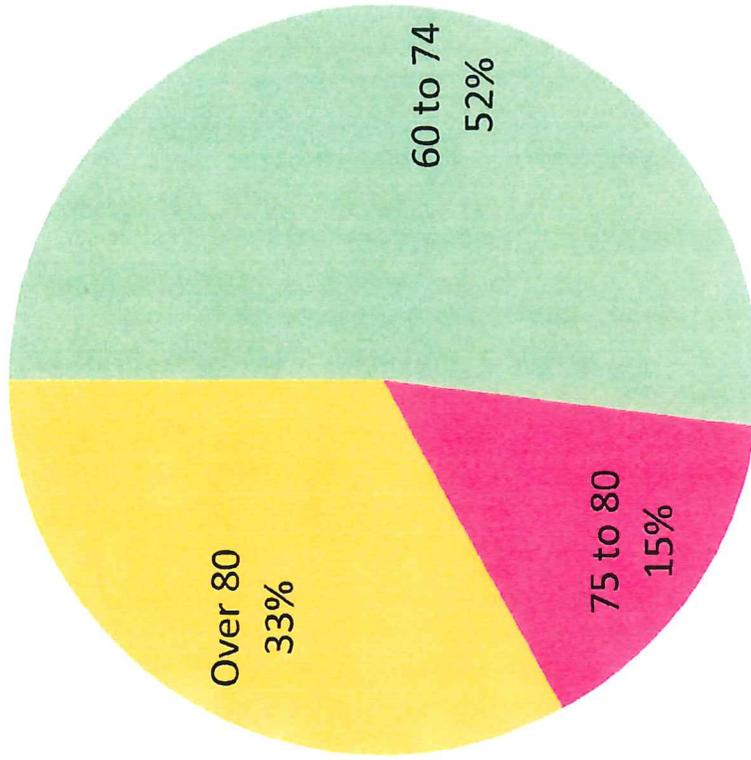
Volunteer Care and Assistance
Respite Vouchers
Legal Assistance
Personal Emergency Response System
Transportation
Transportation



Population Served by Independent Living Grants (ILG), those aged 60 and over, In 2012, 18% of Nevada Population was 60 and Over. This is projected to increase to about 24% of the population in 2030.

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ILG Recipients



As of 2014, 48% of ILG Recipients were over 75 years or over, while 33% were over 80. Nearly half of the ILG Recipients had a monthly income at or below the Federal Poverty Level. These are additional risk factors for institutional care.

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Percentage Growth from 2000 to 2010: US vs. Nevada



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