The Riverside County Office on Aging is one of 33 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in California and operates with an annual budget of approximately $13 million in federal, state, and local funds. The Department relies heavily on funding from the Older Americans Act (OAA), to provide our core services, such as nutrition and coordinated care.

In recent years, Older American Act programs have required increased resources to maintain current programs due to population growth and the costs of providing services; however state and federal funding has remained stagnant. Despite these challenges, the Department has exercised sound fiscal management and has been able to mitigate any direct impact on the core services through a number of cost-saving measures, which keeps our programs and services from being severely impacted. As we move into FY 2016/17, the Office on Aging will continue to operate conservatively, allocating all available resources into our programs and services.

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Director’s Message — Anna L. Martinez

I am honored to be the new Director of the Office on Aging. My first six months have been marked by many accomplishments. In February 2016, the Office on Aging’s Leadership Team participated in an organizational strategic planning process. Together, we developed a new Mission Statement and set goals for the Department that will help us improve our operations, increase efficiencies and communication, and integrate new technology into our work.

We also set several six-month objectives as the first phase in the 3 year Strategic Plan. As of June 30, 2016, 99% of the objectives have been completed and we are well on our way to accomplishing the goals we set. New objectives have been developed for the next six months.

The Office on Aging also developed a new Area Plan for 2016-2020 (highlighted on pg.4), which identifies the many opportunities and challenges regarding the growing older adult population in Riverside County. The Area plan sets goals that will take advantage of the opportunities and mitigates many of the challenges. Our focus over the next four years will be on collaboration and coordination of community based services, a campaign for health and wellness, independence and person centered care, and developing innovative partnerships that bring new ideas, programs, and services to older adults, persons with disabilities and their caregivers.

I am excited about what is to come and look forward to working with community partners, fellow advocates, service providers, constituents, and staff in support of the Office on Aging’s mission: “The Riverside County Office on Aging serves to promote and support a life of dignity, well-being and independence for older adults and persons with disabilities.”

Fiscal Update — Rachelle Román, Deputy Director

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Office on Aging Funding for Fiscal Year 2015-16

- County Funding: $1,402,624 (10%)
- State Funding: $1,863,144 (14%)
- Federal Funding: $8,870,673 (66%)
- Donations & Other Local Funding: $1,396,477 (10%)
OFFICE ON AGING’S CARE COORDINATION PROGRAMS

Mike Knight, Deputy Director

The Office on Aging provides over 24 different programs and services, either directly or through contracted providers, which allow older adults to remain independent and living in their homes and communities. All Office on Aging programs and services are free to those who meet the minimum qualifications for each program.

The Office on Aging’s Care Coordination Programs offer frail and vulnerable older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers an alternative to more costly institutional and nursing home care by offering options for care in the home. Trained social workers and public health nurses conduct in-home evaluations and provide links to needed services including homemaker (assorted housecleaning duties, cooking, etc), personal care (bathing, eating, medication management, etc), emergency aid (utility bills, home repairs, durable equipment, such as wheelchairs, etc), respite, training, and support groups for caregivers. Care coordination programs also assist older adults with care transitions from hospital to home and help to reduce the rate of costly readmissions.

Specific programs include:

- **Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP):** MSSP is a Medi-Cal waiver long term case management program for eligible adults over age 65 who have complex medical and psychosocial needs who require specialized services in order to postpone or eliminate the need for institutional care. MSSP is an integral part of the statewide Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) and the Riverside County pilot and is involved in state and county implementation planning.

- **CareLink and Healthy IDEAS Programs:** CareLink and Healthy IDEAS provide case management services for older adults and disabled persons over the age of 18 who still live at home. Both programs were selected for innovation awards by the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (c4a) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) in FY 2015/2016.

- **Access:** Access is a short-term case management program for adults over age 60, regardless of income.

- **Family Caregiver Support Programs (FCSP):** FCSP programs provide support and resources to caregivers. To qualify for services, the care recipient must be over age 60 and the caregiver must be over age 18. Services include: care management, education, counseling, care assistance, respite services, in-home assistance and supplemental services.

- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Program:** GRG is a unique program that provides assessment, case management and links to services for grandparents over 55 who are (formally or informally) raising their grandchildren up to age 18. Through a grant with First 5 Riverside, the GRG Program offers subsidized respite childcare for children 0-5 years of age.

**Featured Program!**

The Care Pathways program provides training and 12 weekly support groups for caregivers who are caring for an older adult. The program is funded by a partnership with the Riverside University Health System–Behavioral Health through the Mental Health Services Act.

In 2015, this innovative program was nationally recognized by the Harvard Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation and designated as a “Bright Idea” program!

“Bright Ideas” is an initiative that recognizes creative and promising government programs and partnerships. The initiative is offered through the Innovations in Government Program, a program of the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School.
Gary Kelley has been a volunteer serving on the Riverside County Advisory Council on Aging since 2007 and is currently serving his second term as Chair.

Mr. Kelley has an important role as the eyes, ears, and voice for older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers, including grandparents raising grandchildren. Gary has taken on the responsibility of raising issues, recommending changes and advocating for older adults throughout Riverside County.

The Office on Aging would like to thank Gary Kelley for his hours of commitment and service to the older adults of Riverside County!

Office on Aging Volunteer Coordinator Jared Katchmar; OoA Director Anna L. Martinez; and OoA Volunteer of the Year Gary Kelley

2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

Gary Kelley, Advisory Council on Aging Chair

The Coachella Valley's RSVP program (formerly the Retired Senior Volunteer Program) is expanding and building capacity in the desert region. The program currently has over 700 active volunteers, who logged over 100,000 hours in fiscal year 2015/16, and more volunteers signing up each month. The program operates from the Office on Aging's La Quinta satellite office, and coordinates volunteer activities at over 45 sites throughout the Coachella Valley.

RSVP volunteers work with food banks, home delivered meal providers, elementary schools, environmental and community service organizations of all kinds, public service organizations, animal shelters, and many others. The total RSVP contribution of time, energy and knowledge equates to more than $2,300,000 in savings for those cities and organizations that host them.

For more information or to volunteer in the Coachella Valley, contact Jared Katchmar at 760-771-0501.
RIVERSIDE COUNTY 2016-2020 AREA PLAN ON AGING

The Changing Face of Aging

Every four (4) years, the Office on Aging, is required to develop and submit an “Area Plan” to the State of California. To that end, the Office on Aging developed the **2016-2020 Area Plan on Aging for Riverside County**, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 24, 2016.

Developing the 2016-2020 Area Plan included analysis of:

- United States Census and other related demographic data, surveys and reports;
- Approximately 3,000 Community Assessment Surveys conducted by Office on Aging from June 2014 to January 2016;
- Stakeholder comments from focus groups and public hearings; and
- Program data and research information related to demographic projections and policy trends.

Nationally, Boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) began turning age 60 in 2006. The advance of this generation into older adulthood equates to 330 people turning 60 every hour until December 31, 2024.

Riverside County will experience a 200% increase in persons over the age of 60. The fastest growing sub-cohort proportionately are those over the age of 75, which is projected to grow between 240% (age 75-84 years) and 443% (over 85 years) by 2060.

This unprecedented growth in the older adult population will require many significant changes in policies and programs to meet the needs of this population.

Collaboration Corner

The **NEW Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Collaborative**

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) is launching a new venture in FY 2106/17; the GRG Collaborative. Evolved from the GRG Task Force, which was formed in 1998 to study the needs of GRG families, identify gaps in the County’s service system, and to create a coordinated approach to improve service delivery and access, the new GRG Collaborative will be made up of regional groups in Riverside, the desert, and Southwest County.

A new Steering Committee made up of key decision makers will be able to approve suggestions from the regional groups about how to improve and integrate County services and develop implementation processes to improve services for the GRG population.

The GRG Regional Collaborative meetings will begin in August and recruitment is ongoing.

If you are a grandparent raising a grandchild and/or would like to participate in a regional collaborative, please contact Stephen Geist at 951-867-3800, 1-800-510-2020, or sgeist@co.riverside.ca.us.

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