



FY 2027 Area Plan on Aging Public Information Document Hearing

**Friday, April 24, 2026
2:00 – 3:30 pm**

**Monday, April 27, 2026
10:00 – 11:30 am**

Purpose of Public Information Document (PID) and Public Hearing

- Public Information Document or PID
 - This is the summary of our Area Plan on Aging – our plan to the state for service design, delivery, and distributing funding for the coming year.
 - Our slides reference pages of the PID
- FY 2027 = October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027
- We want to hear your thoughts on our plan
 - Share thoughts today or with online comments.

Scan for the FY 2027 AgeOptions Public Information Document



PID Page 4



AGEOPTIONS.
AREA PLAN ON AGING
PUBLIC HEARINGS

AgeOptions will share its proposed FY2027 Area Plan on Aging Public Information Document. The document outlines how state and federal funding will be used to serve and support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in suburban Cook County. Your contribution can help influence how services are provided at local, state, and national levels!

We Want to Hear from You!

- LEARN about services
- SHARE your ideas
- HELP us improve

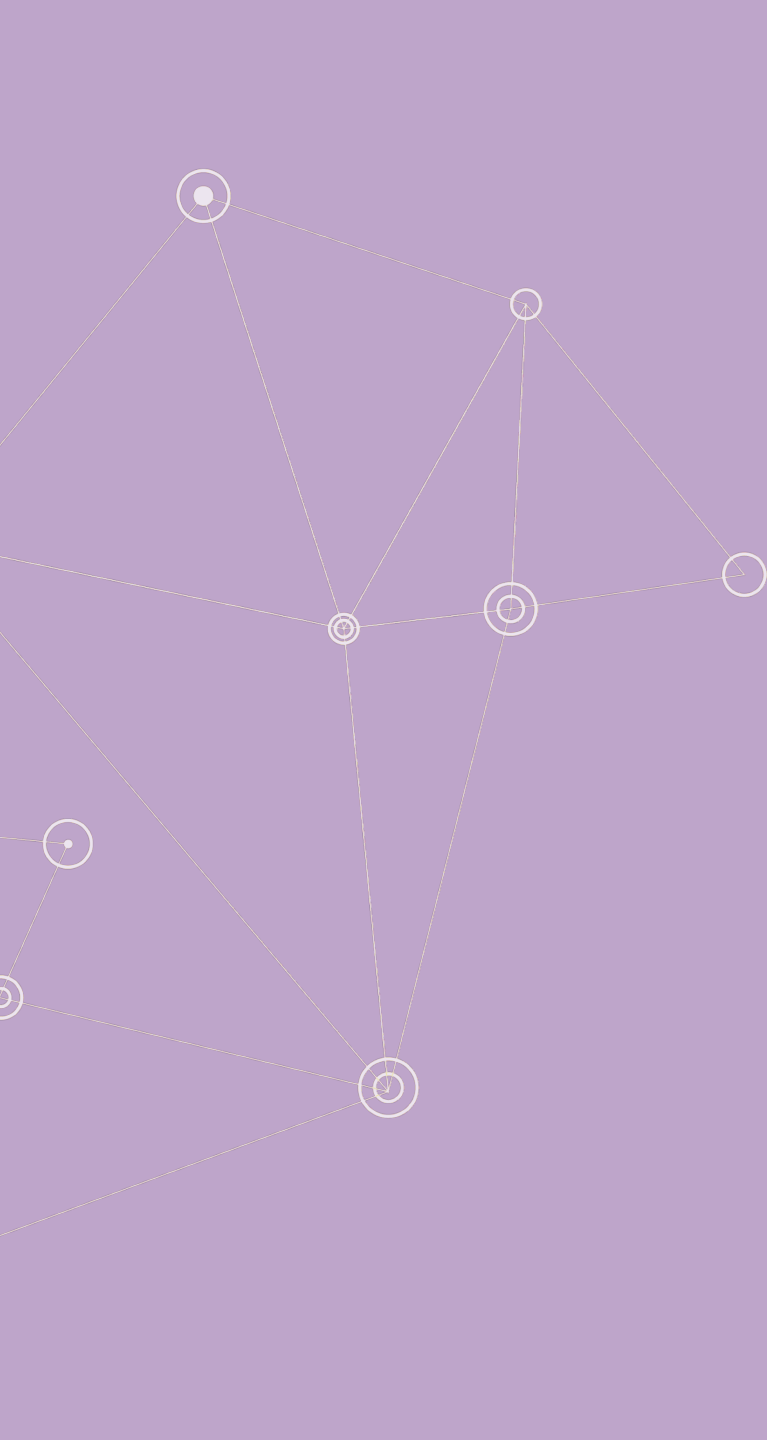
[Learn More](#) 

Friday, April 24, 2026, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
AgeOptions FY2027 Public Hearing #1 (Virtual)
Register Via Zoom at:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85194734231>



Monday, April 27, 2026, 10:00 am - 11:30 am
AgeOptions FY2027 Public Hearing #2 (Virtual)
Register Via Zoom at:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85194734231>

Visit <https://connect.ageoptions.org/public-information-document-for-fy2027> to read the FY2027 Area Plan Public Information Document or submit written comments. Written comments are accepted until April 29, 2026.
AgeOptions is the agency designated by the Illinois Department on Aging to plan, coordinate, advocate, and fund services for people aged 60 and over in suburban Cook County.



Who Is AgeOptions?
What do we do?
Who do we serve?



AgeOptions is Guided By...

Our Vision:

People thriving as they age

Our Values:

Commitment

Integrity

Connectedness



Our Mission:

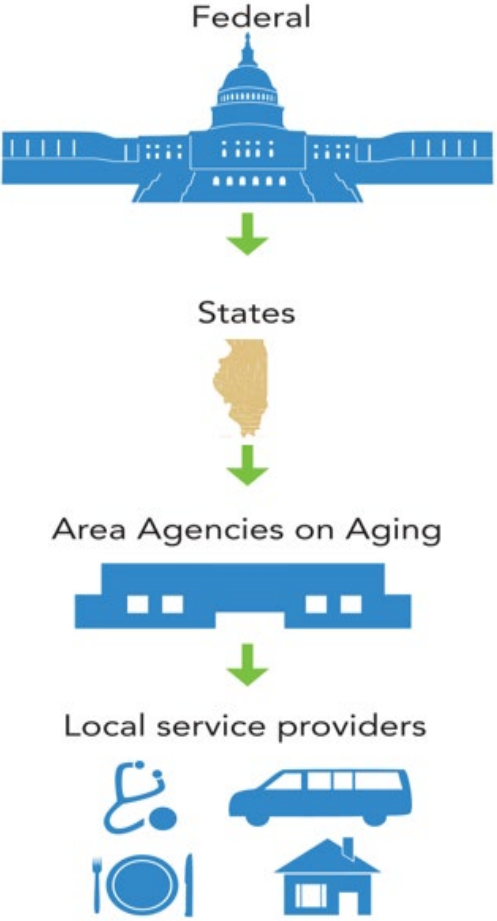
AgeOptions innovates, partners, and advocates to improve systems and services in order to strengthen communities so people thrive as they age.

Our Diversity:

The diversity of our organization and communities is a rich asset that strengthens our mission and guides our decisions and direction.



AgeOptions is Part of a National Aging Network



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Formerly Administration on Community Living

State Units on Aging

Illinois Department on Aging

Area Agencies on Aging

618 in USA, 13 in Illinois

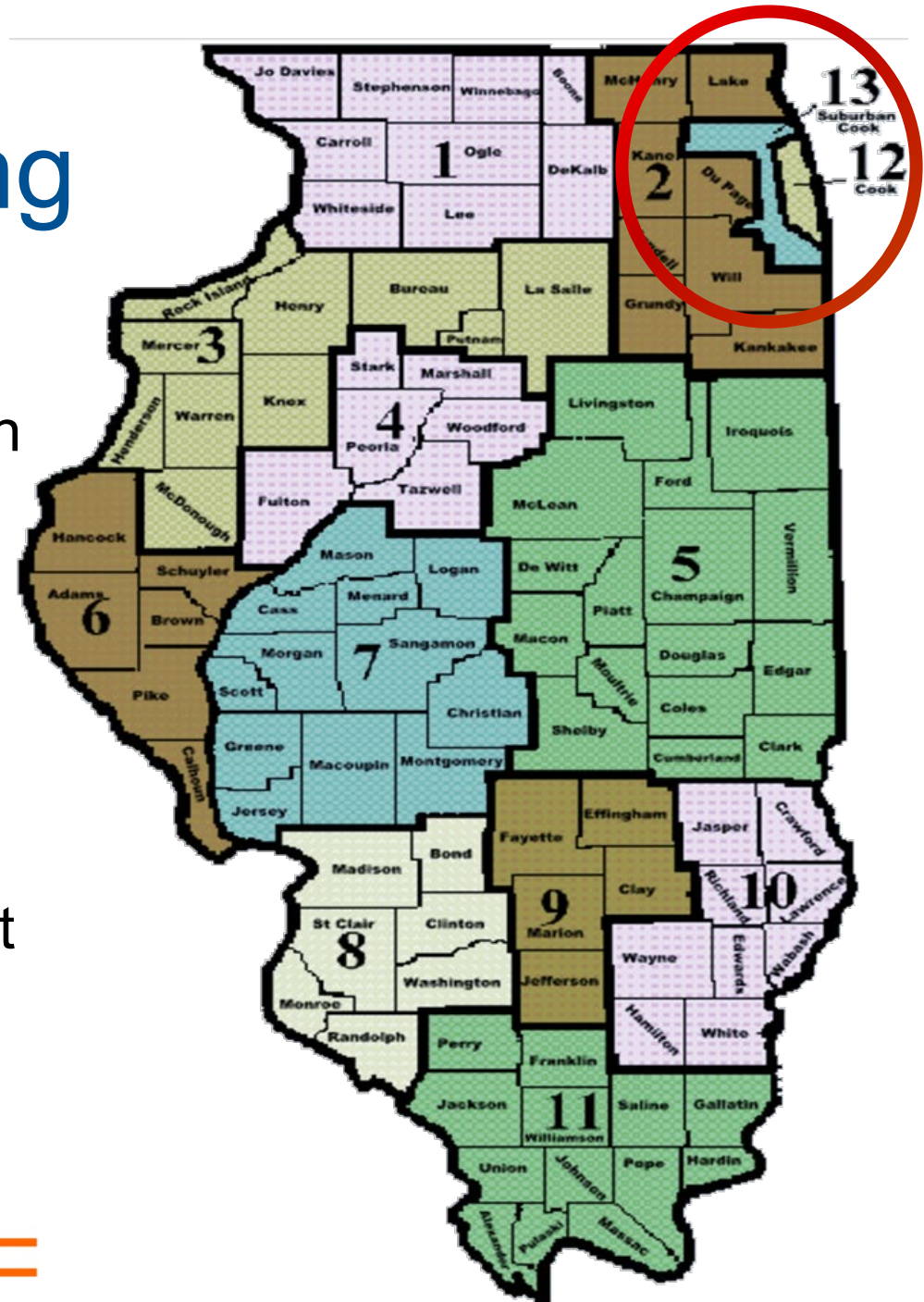
Local Service Providers

provide direct service to consumers



Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in Illinois

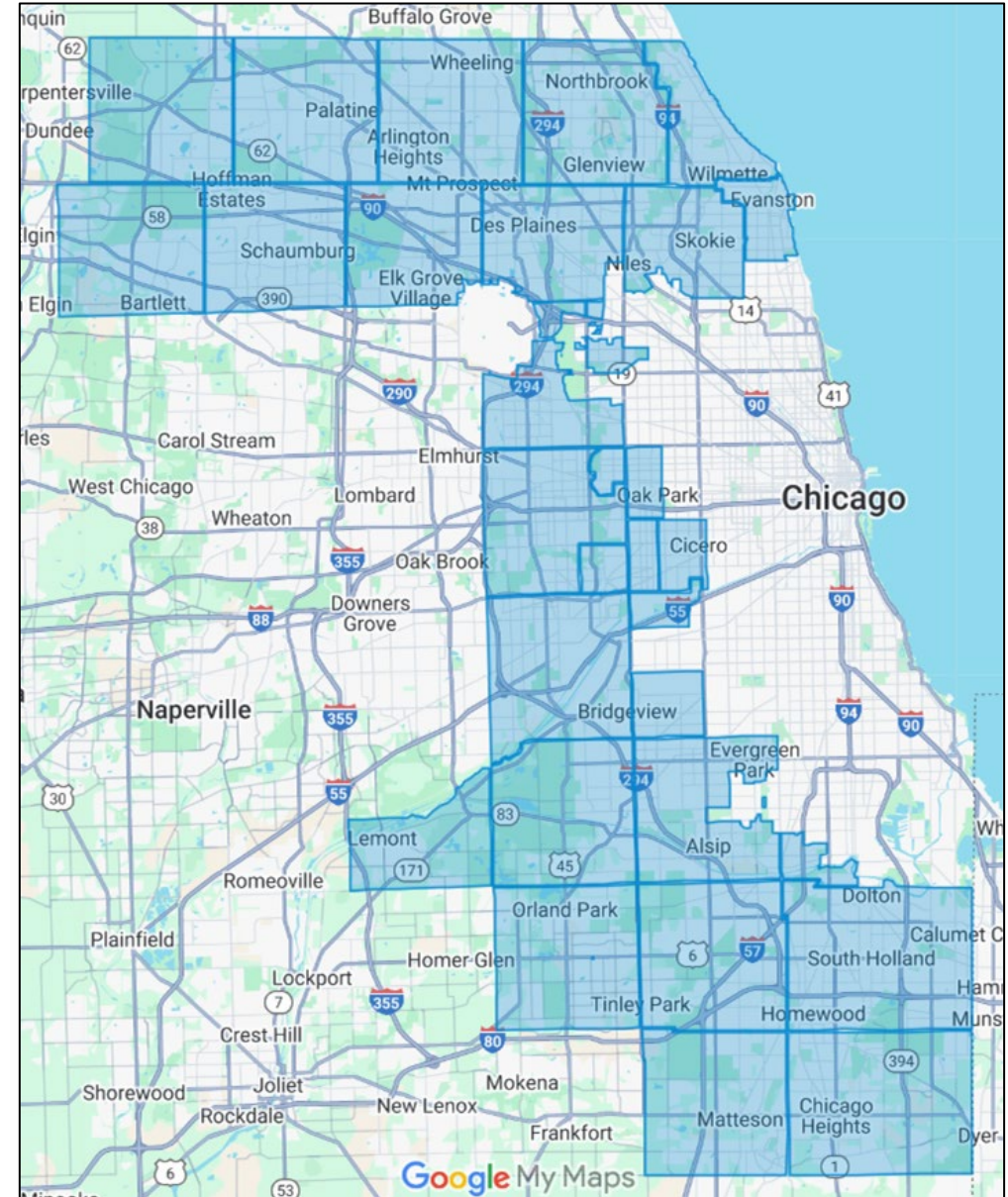
- There are 13 Area Agencies on Aging in Illinois. AgeOptions covers PSA 13 in suburban Cook County
- Each Area Agency on Aging is independent with its own Board of Directors and Advisory Council
- In Illinois, all Area Agencies on Aging are non-profit/non-governmental except for the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services





Who We Serve

- Services are available to all people **over the age of 60** and family caregivers of all ages but we prioritize service for **low income, minority, and limited English-Speaking** individuals.
- Last year, AgeOptions and our community partners made a difference in the lives of **196,778** individuals.



What We Do at AgeOptions



Planning

- Community assessment
- Program development



Coordination

- Collaborate with community partners
- Guide services alongside our *Advisory Council*



Advocacy

- Champion older adults & caregivers
- Influence legislation at all levels



Program Development

- Innovate programs
- Address cultural diversity
- Respond to community needs



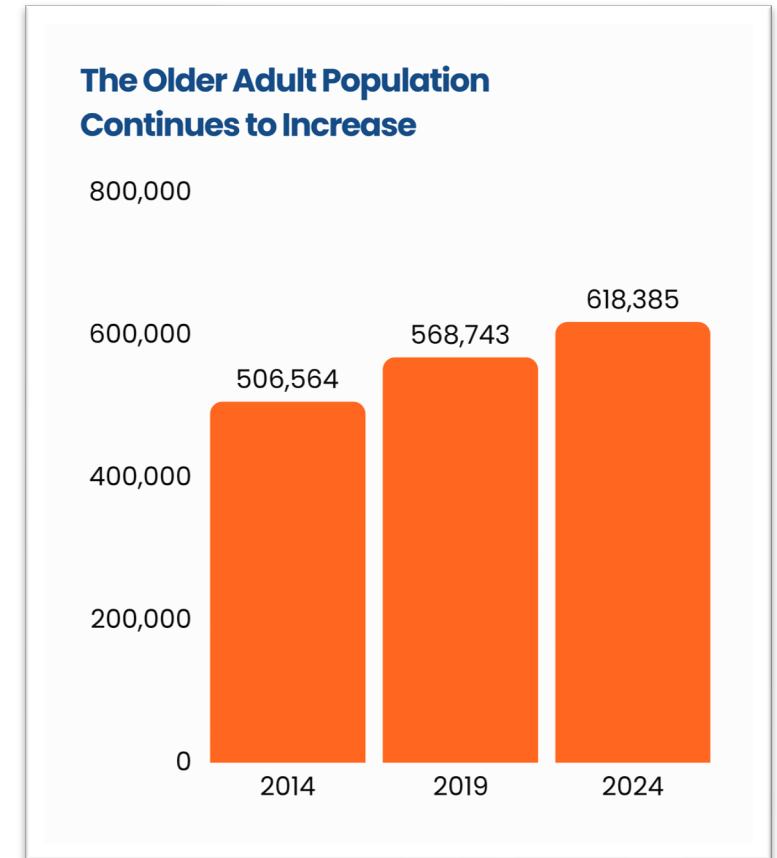
Distribute Funds

- Administer funding
- Support 100+ service providers
- Ensure equitable access



Suburban Cook County Demographics

- **618,385** older adults (age 60+) in suburban Cook County.
- Older adults make up **25%** of the total suburban Cook County population, up from 20% in 2014.
- **16** states have smaller older adult populations than suburban Cook County.



Source: American Community Survey 2020-2024 5-year estimates



Suburban Cook County is Diverse

- **1 in 3** older adults is a member of a **racially or ethnically diverse** community.
- **1 in 4** older adults speak a **language other than English** at home.
- **1 in 4** older adults **live alone**.

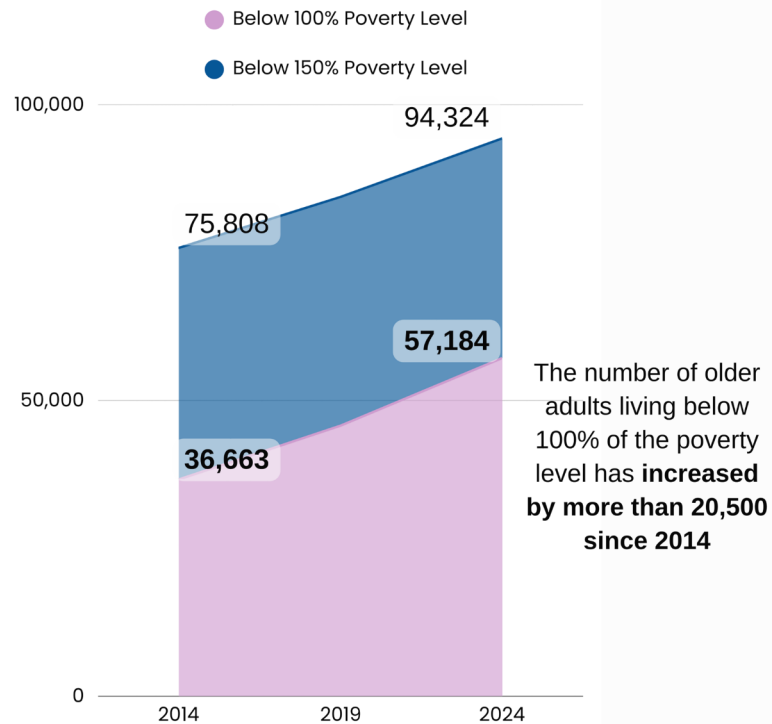


Source: American Community Survey 2020-2024 5-year estimates



Older Adults Face High Costs

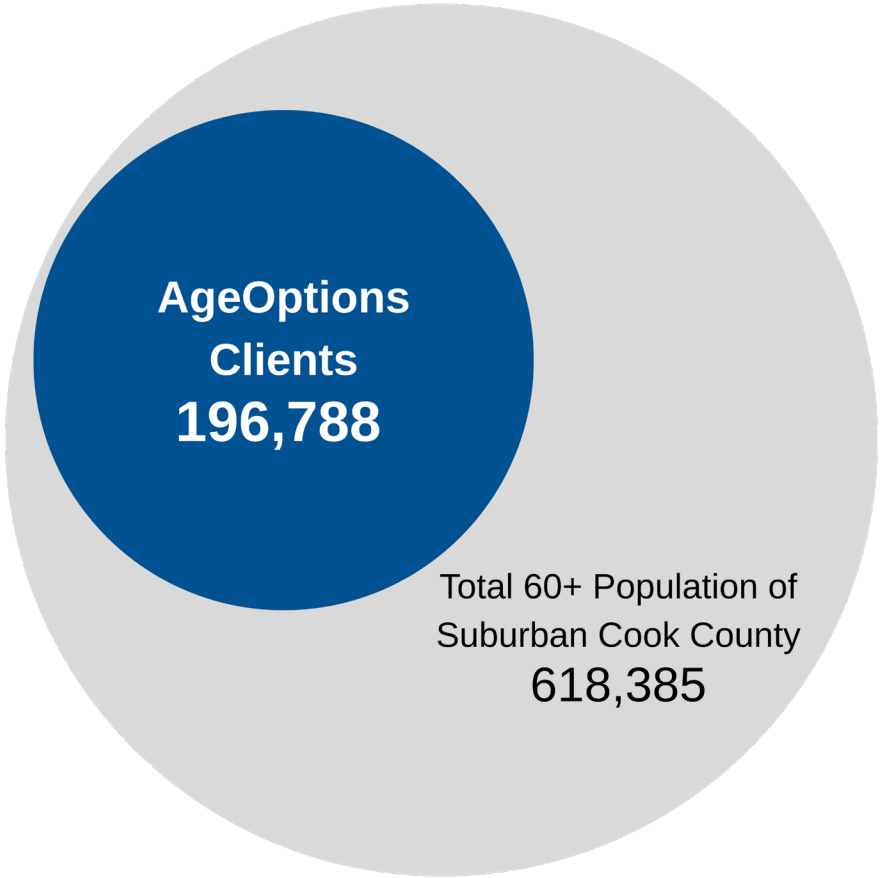
The number of older adults living below poverty levels continues to rise rapidly



- **Housing Costs Remain High – causing older adults to be "cost-burdened"**
 - **55% of older adults who rent and**
 - **30% of older adults who own their home** spend more than 30% of their household income on housing
 - Cost burdened creates risks affecting health, safety, and long-term independence
- **Number of People in Poverty increased by 56% from 2014-2024**



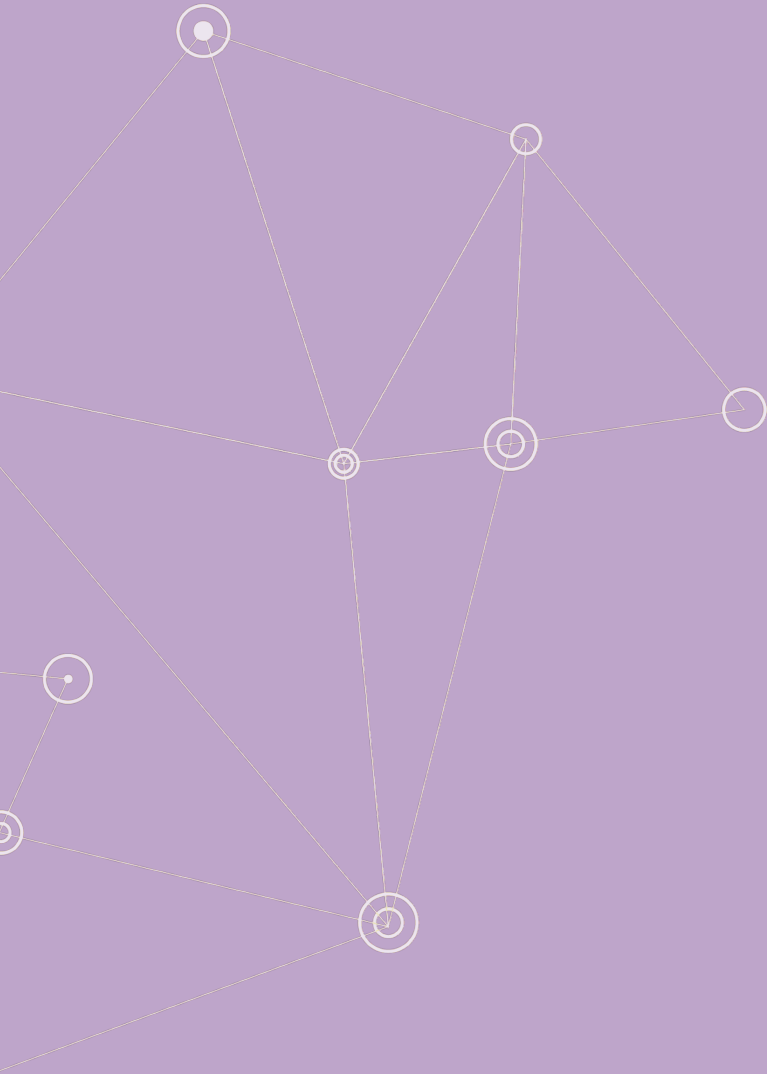
FY24 Service Numbers at a Glance



32% of the total population of older adults in Cook County are receiving services from the AgeOptions network.



How do we develop the Area Plan?



5-Step Planning Process

Step 1:
Assess
Needs of the
Priority
Population in
Suburban
Cook County

Step 2:
Evaluate the
Existing
Service
System

Step 3:
Determine
Availability of
Resources and
Alternative
Approaches
Available to
Meet Needs

Step 4:
Establish
Priorities

Step 5:
Plan
Modification
and
Refinement



Statewide and Local Area Plan Initiatives

For each Area Plan cycle, the Illinois Department on Aging (IDOA) and area agencies develop “Statewide Initiatives,” which are part of each area agency on aging’s strategic priorities.

For Fiscal Year 25-27, AgeOptions has three Statewide Initiatives:



1 Increased Visibility of Aging Network

To increase visibility and awareness of services, AgeOptions is:

- Added to our standards that each grantee should increase the visibility of the services they are funded to provide.
- ADRN agencies are required to outpost at community locations, including municipality or township offices, congregate meal sites, and local public libraries, at least once a year.
- Celebrating May as Older Americans Month on social media and with an advocacy day.



2 Quality Assurance

To drive continuous quality assurance, AgeOptions is:

- Integrating Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Care via trainings.
- Regularly monitoring the productivity and spending of our funded partners.
- Adding evaluation and impact questions for services.



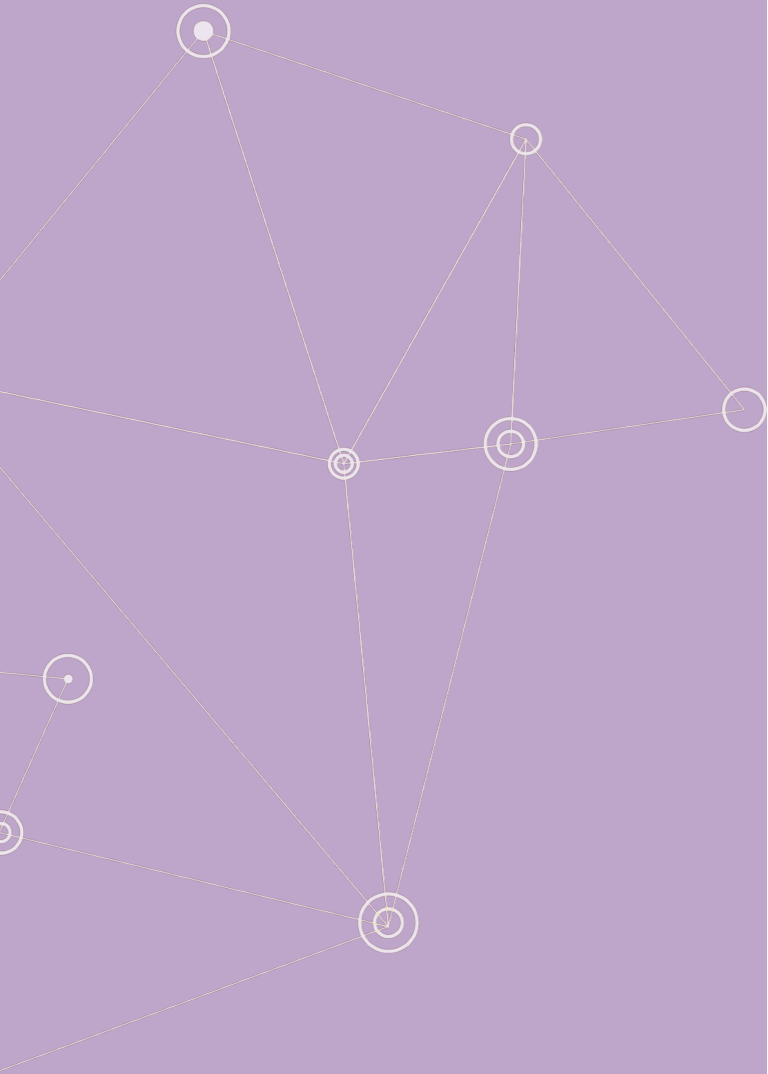
3 Public Awareness Campaign for Informal Caregivers

To increase public awareness of caregiver needs, AgeOptions:

- Implemented of a public outreach and engagement campaign.
- Assesses individual caregiver needs and makes personalized referrals to resources through TCARE (Tailored Care Assessment and Referral).
- Promotes the regionwide availability of Trualta, an interactive eLearning platform for caregivers.



Services that AgeOptions Funds



Through 100+ funded partners, AgeOptions provides:

Title III-B Supportive Services

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Chore/
Housekeeping
- Culturally and Linguistically Accessible Services
- Home Repair and Housing Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Senior Centers
- Transportation
- Library CARES Program

Title III-C Nutrition Programs

- Congregate Meals
- Home Delivered Meals
- Shelf Stable Meals
- Meal Kit Boxes
- Senior Farmer's Market Coupons

Title III-D Health Promotion

- Countywide Health Promotion Coordinator

Title III-E Caregiver Services

- Caregiver Resource Centers
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Memory Cafes

Elder Rights

- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Adult Protective Services



Addition to PID

- We list Supportive Service Programs on pages 30-31 of the PID.
- The PID is missing the Chore/Housekeeping description which is:

Chore/Housekeeping: Assistance keeping an older person's home clean and functional.



Additional AgeOptions Programs



Preventing Medicare Fraud

Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC)

Dementia Friendly Communities

Illinois Family Caregiver Coalition (IFCC)

Kott Gerontology Scholars Program

Allies in Aging



Contact AgeOptions for More Info

To learn more about and connect with programs and services in your local community, contact:



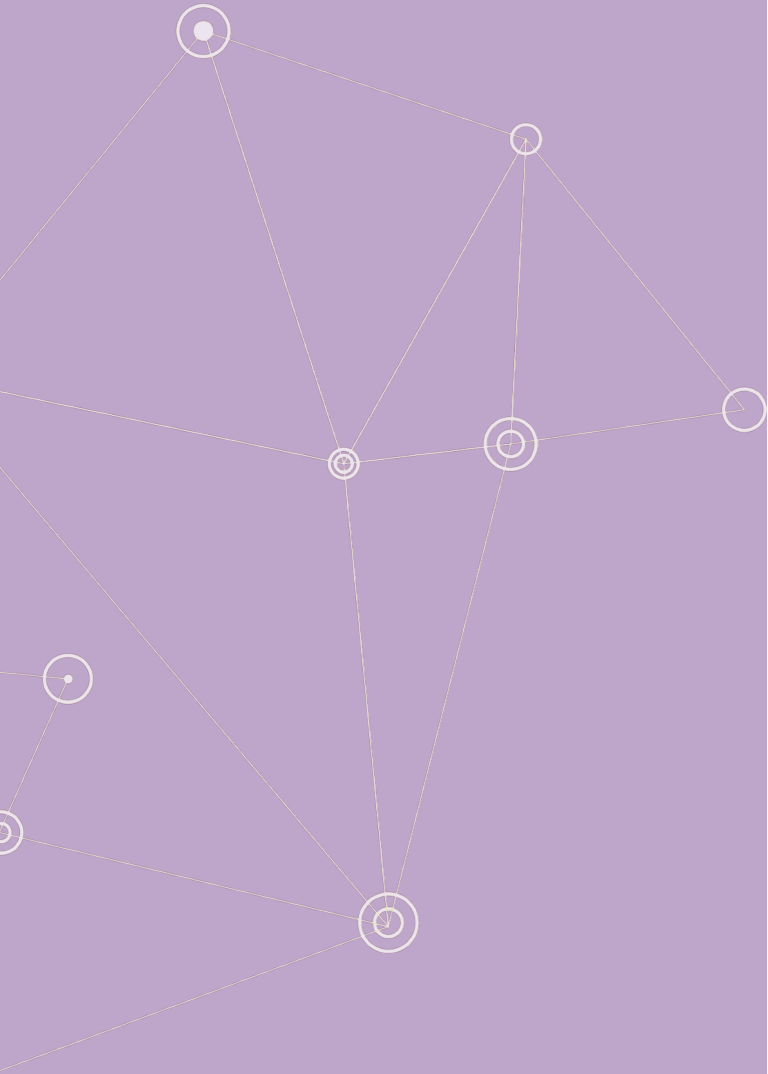
708.383.0258

information@ageoptions.org

AgeOptions.org



Funding and Allocations in FY27



Reduced Funding for FY27

- FY 2027 carryover funds expected to be significantly lower, ~\$2 million or 18% less than previous years
- Older Americans Act (OAA) funding may remain flat; flat funding effectively means a decrease due to inflation
- We are still advocating for additional home delivered meal funds – which if successful - would add approximately \$2m for meals in suburban Cook County



Anticipated Increased Needs

- Inflation is increasing financial pressure on older adults;
- The Aging Network is seeing more older adults with higher levels of needs;
- Potential SNAP/Medicaid changes may further increase demand

Impact:

- Less funding available while demand and need for services continue to grow



Our Funding Approach for FY 27

- Effective October 1, 2026
- Driven by anticipated funding reductions



Nutrition (3c) Changes – Effective 10/1/26

- "To-go" meals at Congregate sites will be phased out beginning this summer to support the connection benefits of congregate dining and reduce social isolation
- **Meal kit changes** *to serve more older adults with limited resources:*
 - Meals reduced from 21 → 14 meals per week
 - Delivery schedule changing from weekly to biweekly



Other Anticipated Impacts for Nutrition (3C)

- AgeOptions anticipates new waitlists for Nutrition services due to reduced funding.
- We will work with Nutrition providers to develop waitlist management and prioritization tools



Supportive Services (3B) – Funding Approach

Allocation process:

1. FY27 Funding first distributed by townships using a **population-based formula**
2. For each township, AgeOptions will calculate current grantee's percent share of the funding in each township
3. This FY26 % share, will be applied to the FY27 funding for each township.



How AgeOptions Distributes Funding: Population based Funding Formula

- Population-based formula to determine available funding for each township.

Factor	Weight
60+	30%
60+ 100% of poverty	35%
60+ Racially/Ethnically Diverse	15%
75+	10%
60+ living alone	10%
TOTAL	100%



Supportive Services Changes (3B)

- **Options Counseling** will no longer be funded due to historic low use and to allow ADRNs to focus more on helping people access benefits and services
- **Chore housekeeping** will be capped at 50% of FY 26 funding levels
- Rationale:
 - We will still exceed federal in-home service requirements
 - AgeOptions is the only Illinois AAA funding Chore services
 - The Community Care Program is available for low-income older adults
- For FY27, AgeOptions will work with multi-service grantees to adjust their FY 27 service mix proposals.



SHAP and MIPPA Funding to ADRNs

- SHAP and MIPPA funding will **not** be included in this distribution process, as ADRNs are the sole agencies eligible to receive these funds.
- ADRNs will receive funding based on their funding formula share for the townships they serve.



Rationale (3B)

- Ending Options Counseling and reducing chore housekeeping allows AgeOptions to prioritize services that help older adults access benefits/services and reduce social isolation



Additional 3B reductions

- No new funding for Uniper, the current contract period will be extended to allow existing users to continue receiving services through approximately 12/31/26
- Elimination of Legal Risk Detector
- Rationale – to prioritize AgeOptions funding to our funded partners





How We Will Administer Changes (Increases or Decreases) in Funding

- The following are scenarios we present in the PID of what AgeOptions would do if we happen to get more funding or less funding in FY27.



How We Will Administer Changes In Funding: **Nutrition**

Increases in Funding

- Reduce waitlists
- Fund applicants approved but not funded in the Nutrition RFP
- Permit requests to expand existing services
- Program innovations or demonstration funding

Decreases in Funding

- Reduce funds to programs not meeting productivity levels
- Reduce meals in order: 2nd HDM, weekend HDM, meal kits, congregate meals, weekday HDM, Special Diet Medical HDM.



How We Will Administer Changes In Funding: **Supportive Services, Health Promotion, Caregiver**

Increases in Funding

- Proportional increases to grantees
- Permit requests to expand existing services or unit rates
- RFP for increased funds
- Fund applicants approved but not funded due to insufficient funds
- Demonstration funding

Decreases in Funding

- Reduce grantee award levels – either reduce funding to each area on a straight percentage basis or reduce or eliminate services that are deemed not to be effectively delivered upon such a reduction of funds.



How We Will Administer Changes In Funding: **APS and LTC Ombudsman**

Increases in Funding

- May carry the funding into the next fiscal year
- May provide proportional increases to grantees

Decreases in Funding

- Apply proportional decreases to grantees



AgeOptions Administration and Direct Service Funding

- IDOA sets admin at 10% of federal funding. AgeOptions admin will increase or decrease in proportion to increases or cuts.
- AgeOptions direct services – we kept at FY25 levels (we did not take a proportional increase) EXCEPT for 3d which we decreased



AgeOptions 2026 State Legislative Priorities

Increase State Funding For HDMs



\$10M increase to maintain services to address the high need for meals and offset the inflationary costs for food, gas, and labor.

Support Unpaid Family Caregivers



\$700K increase in Illinois Family Caregiver Act funding to \$6M to support unpaid family caregivers.

Educate Older Adult On Scams



Better coordination of existing resources can help Area Agencies on Aging educate and increase awareness of scams to reduce financial exploitation.

Sustain Programming To Combat Social Isolation



Level funding to support programs to alleviate isolation among older people.

Sustain Funding For Alzheimer's Disease and Relation Disorders



Level funding to “fill the gaps” in services and fund evidence-based training for caregivers

We Want to Hear From You!

- AgeOptions seeks your feedback and thoughts.
- Written comments are welcome via online form or email: Eric.Cho@ageoptions.org
 - No later than **April 29th**.
- All comments heard today or received in writing will be presented to our Advisory Council and used for any amendments to our Plan.



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Thank you for joining us!



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