



## Ways to Partner with the Aging Network

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**Maximize.** It's a nonprofit buzzword for good reason. Every wise steward maximizes funding and resources, but how many of us do the same with our relationships? Start by taking a second look at your region's Area Agency on Aging to make sure that you're getting the most out of this unique community ally.

Area Agencies on Aging are members of the nation's Aging Network – a structure that includes the U.S. Administration on Aging, State Units on Aging, selected tribal and native Hawaiian organizations, and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). AAAs sub-contract with local government, nonprofit, and/or for-profit organizations to provide services and information to older adults and their families.

Building strong ties with the AAA in your region can help you tighten your strategy, double your connections, and grow your organization in surprising new ways.

### **Tighten your strategy.**

Every four years, each AAA produces an Area Plan on Aging – a comprehensive report that includes regional demographic trends, needs analysis based on public hearings and research, challenges, descriptions of available aging services, and goals for the future. Ask the AAA for a copy of the document and use it as a resource for your strategic planning.

### **Double your connections.**

Have you ever served a community member with a ride, a meal, or companionship and wondered how to pull together the missing pieces of the puzzle? Your AAA can assess the person's needs, recommend free or low-cost services and information that will help him or her successfully age in place, and identify ways to make services as affordable as possible. Think of the AAA and its providers as part of your group's care team.

### **Grow your organization.**

The AAA can help you increase your appeal to supporters and potential partners. Foundations, businesses, and government entities prefer to fund organizations that 1) use data to apply limited resources to the most pressing community needs, 2) understand precisely how they fit into the area's broader service system, and 3) coordinate with others accordingly. To ramp up coordination efforts, ask the AAA about coalitions, advisory groups, and new initiatives in your area. The AAA is your bridge to many exciting community-wide partnerships that will benefit your organization and the people you serve.

### **Aging Network Links**

To explore the national, state, and local levels of the aging network, visit these federal websites and their links:

- U.S. Administration on Aging: The National Aging Network  
[http://www.aoa.gov/AoA\\_programs/OAA/Aging\\_Network/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoA_programs/OAA/Aging_Network/Index.aspx)
- Eldercare Locator  
<http://www.eldercare.gov>

This information is provided by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network as part of the organization's Training and Technical Assistance outreach for members and is designed to provide program directors with resources on core areas of program management. For additional information, contact the *National Volunteer Caregiving Network* at 512.582.2197 or by e-mail at [info@nvcnetwork.org](mailto:info@nvcnetwork.org).