
SECTION 1

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose

Legal Base

Allowable Services

Service Descriptions

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

Establishing an efficient and effective service delivery system is critical to North Carolina meeting the needs of a rapidly growing older adult population. Older adults, family caregivers as well as local service providers often face a very complex and fragmented system of services resulting, in part, from differing eligibility criteria, service definitions and service activities depending upon the source of funding. The Home and Community Care Block Grant was designed to begin addressing this complexity by consolidating, under a single set of policies, procedures and service requirements, several existing funding sources targeted to older adults. The block grant is also designed to improve the planning, management and coordination of in-home and community based services for older adults by providing counties increased flexibility with regard to the planning and delivery of aging services to meet the unique service needs of older adults in their communities while also ensuring that the requirements of the Older Americans Act are met.

Services allowable under the Home and Community Care Block Grant are intended to provide in-home and community based services in support of older adults and their unpaid primary caregivers. The Home and Community Care Block Grant allows for the provision of a broad range of services designed to improve the quality of life for older adults by:

- supporting frail older adults in their preference to be cared for at home
- improving/maintaining the physical and mental health status of older adults
- enabling older adults to maintain/regain independent functioning
- assisting older adults and persons acting on behalf of older adults with accessing needed services and information
- providing relief to caregivers of older adults so they may continue their caregiving responsibilities
- providing community service opportunities for older adults

II. LEGAL BASE

The following is a summary of key state and federal legislation affecting the administration of the Home and Community Care Block Grant.

North Carolina General Statute 143B-181.1(a)(11)

This statute specifies that the Division of Aging shall administer a Home and Community Care Block Grant for older adults, effective July 1, 1992.

Older Americans Act of 1965 as Amended: 42 U.S.C. 3001; {Public Law 100-175}

This Act provides for the development and enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems of services, opportunities, and protection for older adults to assist older adults in leading independent, meaningful, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible.

North Carolina General Statute 143B-181.1(c)

This statute gives the Division of Aging authority to establish policies and procedures for programs administered by the Division.

North Carolina General Statute 143B-181.1(a)(10)

This statute requires the Division of Aging to charge fees for in-home and community based services funded by the Division of Aging unless prohibited by federal law, effective January 1, 1992.

III. ALLOWABLE SERVICES

The following 18 services may be provided with Home and Community Care Block Grant funds. All services must be provided in accordance with service standards issued by the Division of Aging. Also indicated below is the Volume of the Service Standard Manual in which the service standard is contained. The Area Agency on Aging will provide each county with a set of service standards for Home and Community Care Block Grant services included in the county Funding Plan. Area Agencies on Aging will also provide each community service provider with a copy of the service standard(s) for the service(s) they have been designated to provide. Additional copies of service standards are available from the Area Agency on Aging. (A listing of Area Agencies on Aging is included as Appendix 1)

Volume I

Congregate Nutrition
Home Delivered Meals

Volume II

Adult Day Care
Adult Day Health Care

(Standards contained in this Volume reflect certification standards as established by the North Carolina Social Services Commission, as well as specific requirements pertaining to the Home and Community Care Block Grant.)

Volume III

Care Management
Skilled Home (Health) Care
Housing and Home Improvement
Information and Case Assistance
In-Home Aide (levels I-IV)
Senior Companion
Transportation

Volume IV

Group Respite
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
Health Screening
Institutional Respite Care
Mental Health Counseling
Senior Center Operations
Volunteer Program Development

IV. SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS

A. Adult Day Care

Provides an organized program of services during the day in a community group setting for the purpose of supporting the personal independence of older adults and promoting their social, physical, and emotional well-being. Services must include a variety of program activities designed to meet the individual needs and interests of the participants, and referral to and assistance in using community resources. Also included are medical examinations required for individual participants for admission to day care services and thereafter when not otherwise available without cost, and food and food services to provide a nutritional meal and snacks as appropriate. Transportation to and from the service facility may also be provided or arranged when needed and not otherwise available within the geographical area specified by the Adult Day Care Program. Services must be provided in a home or center certified to meet State Standards for Adult Day Care programs.

B. Adult Day Health Care

Provides an organized program of services during the day in a community group setting for the purpose of supporting older adults' personal independence, and promoting social, physical, and emotional well-being. Services must include health care services and a variety of program activities designed to meet the individual needs and interests of the participants, and referral to and assistance in using appropriate community resources. Also included are food and food services to provide a nutritional meal and snacks as appropriate to the program. Transportation to and from the service facility is provided or arranged for when needed and not otherwise available within the geographical area specified by the Adult Day Health Program.

C. Care Management

Provides professional assistance for older adults with complex care needs and/or their families in accessing, arranging and coordinating the package of services needed to enable the older adult to remain at home.

D. Congregate Nutrition

The provision of a meal in a group setting that provides 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Dietary Allowance.

E. Group Respite

The provision of respite care in a safe setting where caregivers can take care receivers who do not require personal (hands-on) care to get a break from their caregiving responsibilities. The program operates on a scheduled basis for a period of less than 6 hours a day. This service provides caregivers and care receivers with social opportunities, activities, information about community resources, and/or other services. Group respite services are sometimes called “Caregiver’s Day Out”.

F. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Provision of allowable services which promote the health and wellness of eligible older adults.

G. Health Screening

General medical testing, screening and referral for the purpose of promoting the early detection and prevention of health problems in older adults.

H. Home Delivered Meals

The provision of a home delivered meal that provides 1/3 of the Recommended Daily Dietary Allowance to a home-bound older adult.

I. Skilled Home (Health) Care

Skilled health care prescribed by a physician which is provided in the home of an older adult in need of medical care. Allowable services include: skilled nursing; physical, occupational, and/or speech therapy; medical social services and nutrition care.

J. Housing and Home Improvement

A service which assists older adults with obtaining or retaining adequate housing and basic furnishings. Types of assistance provided may include: providing information regarding housing/housing with services options available; methods of financing alternative housing/housing with services options; helping to improve landlord-tenant relations; identifying substandard housing; securing correction of housing code violations; assisting with finding and relocating to alternative housing; and providing labor and/or materials for minor renovations and/or repair of dwellings to remedy conditions which create a risk to the personal health and safety of older adults.

K. Information and Case Assistance

A service which assists older adults, their families and others acting on behalf of older adults, in their efforts to acquire information about programs and services and to assist older persons with obtaining appropriate services to meet their needs.

L. In-Home Aide

The provision of paraprofessional services which assist functionally impaired older adults and/or their families with essential home management, personal care and/or supervision necessary to enable the older adult to remain at home as long as possible.

M. Institutional Respite Care

The temporary placement of an older adult who requires constant care and/or supervision out of his/her home to provide their unpaid, primary caregiver relief from caregiving responsibilities.

N. Mental Health Counseling

A service which incorporates care consultation, evaluation, and outpatient treatment to older adults who are experiencing mental health problems.

O. Senior Companion

A part-time stipended volunteer opportunity for low-income persons 60 years of age or older who are interested in community service. Senior Companions provide support, task assistance and/or companionship to adults with exceptional needs (i.e. developmental disabilities, functional impairments, or persons who have other special needs for companionship).

P. Senior Center Operations

Operation of a multipurpose senior center includes the provision of a broad spectrum of services and activities for older adults. The primary objectives of a multipurpose senior center are: the centralized provision of services which address the special needs of older adults; opportunities for older adults to become more involved in the community; and the prevention of loneliness and premature institutionalization by promoting personal independence and wellness.

Q. Transportation

A service which provides travel to and/or from community resources such as medical appointments and nutrition sites or other designated areas for older adults needing access to services and activities necessary for daily living.

R. Volunteer Program Development

The development and operation of a systematic program for volunteer participation. The service is intended to involve volunteers of all ages in providing services to older adults while also providing community service opportunities for older adults.