

**AGENCY BUDGET LINE-ITEM DETAIL**  
**GOVERNOR'S FY27 RECOMMENDED BUDGET**

The Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) provides high-quality services and programming to older adults and individuals with disabilities across the state, focusing on five core service areas: employment, education, independent living, accessibility, and advocacy.

This document includes agency budgeted line items, their associated program names, recommended FY27 funding, and program descriptions, broken into their three state funding sources (General Fund, Insurance Fund, and Workers' Compensation Fund).

**GENERAL FUND**

**Educational Aid for Children - Blind or Visually Impaired: \$5,036,360**

Provides braille instruction, mobility instruction, adaptive technology devices and training, braille and large print textbooks, and independent living training to children, as well as professional development training and technical assistance to school districts.

953 children received services, 93 children took part in skills for life and extracurricular programs.

**Employment Opportunities – Blind & Disabled: \$416,974**

This program offers long-term support (job coaching) for individuals with significant disabilities to maintain employment.

Over the last year, 134 Individuals benefitted from Employment Opportunities Program.

**Vocational Rehabilitation: \$8,677,931**

The two Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs provide an array of services that help individuals with disabilities obtain, maintain or advance in employment. The programs also provide pre-employment transition services to over 3,000 students with disabilities. During the last year, 10,227 Connecticut residents engaged in various aspects of the VR program and 1,017 secured competitive, integrated employment. Average hourly wages for those

who achieved employment were \$31.89 for the VR-General Program, and \$27.73 under the VR program for the Blind.

### **Supplementary Relief and Services: \$44,847**

The Department provides independent living support and services through the Adult Services Program, in which social workers, rehabilitation teachers, and orientation and mobility teachers provide counseling and referral services for individuals who are blind or have visual impairments, and provide rehabilitation training, adaptive equipment, benefit services, and community inclusion activities to increase independence in personal and home management. The program also coordinates volunteer services to produce books and materials into Braille and to assist individuals with activities of daily living.

In SFY25, 469 independent living services were provided to 226 adults who are blind (under age 55), and 2,775 independent living services were provided to 932 Older adult clients (age 55 and over).

### **Special Training for the DeafBlind: \$264,045**

Funding for support service providers (SSP) to increase community inclusion services for individuals who are DeafBlind. Community inclusion services enable people with disabilities to connect with their peers without disabilities, as well as the community at large, with the goal of reducing social isolation and promoting social interaction by increasing participation in recreation, communication, socialization, and enrichment activities, both in person and through virtual options.

Thirty-three clients received DeafBlind Community Inclusion grant services.

### **Connecticut Radio Information Service: \$70,194**

Provides 24/7 audio access to newspapers, magazines, and children's content for individuals who are blind or have other print disabilities.

### **Independent Living Centers: \$1,025,528**

Provides comprehensive independent living services to people with significant disabilities through contracts with Connecticut's five community-based Centers for Independent Living. In FFY 2025:

- **Information and Referral:** 548 individuals received information and referral services, helping stabilize housing, preserve benefits, and prevent crises before escalation.

- **Independent Living Skills Training:** 246 individuals received individualized skills training, building the capacity necessary to sustain housing and employment,
- **Peer Counseling:** 331 individuals strengthened confidence, reduced isolation, and reinforced long-term self-determination through lived-experience mentorship,
- **Advocacy Services:** 642 individuals received advocacy-related support, including eviction prevention, reasonable accommodations, and service access disputes.
- **Housing and Community Living Supports:** 1,031 individuals received services related to housing, including transition from institutional settings or nursing homes into community-based living.
- **Assistive Technology and Mobility Services:** 778 individuals received were assisted in accessing assistive technology, increasing mobility or improving access to transportation.

### **Programs for Senior Citizens: \$5,644,165\***

\*This includes \$608,000 in legislatively directed funds awarded to Meriden Senior Center, Middletown Senior Center, Orange Senior Center, Woodbridge Senior Center, and Stamford Senior Center, as well as Kuhn Employment Opportunities<sup>1</sup>, previously found under the Other Expenses budget line.

- **Elderly Health Promotion:** Supports high-quality, evidence-based health promotion programs and the implementation of best practices for encouraging healthy aging among older adults, with funding to Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) administering the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.
- **Statewide Respite Care Program:** Provides support to unpaid informal caregivers and the individuals with dementia for whom they provide care. 724 caregivers and 503 care recipients received respite services in SFY2025.
- **Alzheimer's Aide Program:** Provides targeted financial support to Adult Day Centers to enhance services for individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).
- **AAA Administration:** Administrative funds that support AAA functions.
- **AAA Older Americans Act (OAA) Match:** Contributes toward state match required by OAA for supportive services, home-delivered and congregate meals, and evidence-based health promotion programs.

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<sup>1</sup> As Kuhn Employment Opportunities is not a Program for Senior Citizens, this adjustment was meant to remain in Other Expenses.

- **Congregate Housing Support Federal Match:** HUD grant program in Eastern and Western regions that provides case management and supportive services for “frail” individuals age 62+ and those under 62 with disabilities living in rural congregate housing settings.
- **CHOICES (State):** Connecticut’s State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Area Agency on Aging Staff and volunteers provide Medicare counseling, advocacy, and outreach services to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers. 12,162 hours of counseling services were provided to 18,934 counseling contacts (based on FFY) overall in CHOICES.
- **CHOICES (Center for Medicare Advocacy):** Provides Medicare counseling, advocacy, legal advice and outreach services to CT residents.
- **AAA Service Navigators:** Guides residents aged 60 and older and residents 18 to 59 with disabilities through long-term services and support systems, helping them overcome challenges in accessing supportive services through application assistance, benefits counseling, case consultation and options counseling. 1,118 individuals were provided navigation services by 10 service navigators, two per Area Agency on Aging.

### **Elderly Nutrition: \$5,111,074\***

\*This includes \$120,000 in legislatively directed funds awarded to Middletown Senior Center for Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals for Middletown and Cromwell.

Serves nutritionally balanced home-delivered and congregate meals, provides other nutrition services, and offers opportunities for socialization to individuals aged 60 and older and their spouses. Funding is provided to the state’s five AAAs, which is then passed through to twelve community providers.

1.9 million congregate and home-delivered meals were provided to over 19,000 residents in FFY 2025

### **Communication Advocacy Network: \$180,000**

Communication Advocacy Network, Inc. provides statewide services to Connecticut’s DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing adult residents with visual impairments and older Deaf residents who rely on different forms of Sign Language to successfully negotiate access to essential living services throughout the year and maintain their health and independent living status self-sufficiently.

## **INSURANCE FUND**

### **Fall Prevention: \$382,660**

To help reduce falls in older adults, ADS leads *Falls Free CT*, a falls prevention coalition in partnership with the Department of Public Health (DPH) which supports training for municipalities and professionals, and entities instituting programs like *Steps to Safety*. The program also provides falls prevention programming to older adults across the state through contracts totaling \$250,000, including a memorandum of agreement with DPH, Connecticut Community Care for *Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance*, Farmington Valley Health District for falls prevention, Monitor My Health for falls prevention innovations.

## **WORKER'S COMPENSATION FUND**

### **Rehabilitative Services: \$595,631**

The Worker's Rehabilitation Program provides rehabilitation services for individuals injured on the job who are eligible for workers' compensation. Services are intended to help individuals return to gainful employment and include evaluation, aptitude testing, vocational counseling, job seeking skills training, on-the-job or formal training and placement services.

During SFY25, the Workers' Rehabilitation Services program assisted 999 individuals, including 269 who were found eligible over the year. A total of 191 clients achieved an employment outcome.