



Seniors & Poverty

In President Lyndon B. Johnson's speech on March 16, 1964, in which he announced the war on poverty, the president promised that "through a new Community Action program we intend to strike at poverty at its source—in the streets of our cities and on the farms of our countryside among the very young and the impoverished old."

Through wars and recessions, natural disasters and plant shutdowns, Community Action has been quietly feeding our communities, caring for our elderly, teaching our children, preventing homelessness and educating and counseling adults.

Community Action helps millions of low-income people and families move out of poverty and achieve economic stability through a variety of targeted programs such as Area Agency on Aging, weatherization, job training and placement, financial education, housing and energy assistance and more.

The Greater Erie Community Action Committee, better known as GECAC, is Erie County's Community Action Agency. It was created to change people's lives, improve our community and make it a better place to live. We care about the entire county—and are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other as they move from poverty to self-sufficiency. Whether you are working at minimum wage, a senior living on a fixed income or a wage earner suddenly out of work, Community Action is here to help you meet your emergency needs and start you on the road to self-sufficiency.

CONTACT US

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Community Action
Committee (GECAC)
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Area Agency on Aging

Funding Provided by

- Pennsylvania Department of Aging
 - City of Erie
- Corporation for National Community Service
 - County of Erie
- Donations from Individuals, Corporations & Foundations
 - Housing Authority of the City of Erie
 - United States Department of Agriculture

FACTS

- 1 in 6 people in Erie County is 65+
- 7,779 people in Erie County are 85+
- 1 in 9 seniors 65+ in Erie County live below the poverty level
- Nearly 25% of seniors 65+ in Erie County are still working
- Only 5% of seniors 65+ are in nursing homes
- 1 in 10 seniors are victims of elder abuse
- 45% of women age 75+ live alone
- 360 seniors required Protective Services last year
- GECAC delivers/ serves 11,600 meals to seniors each month
- 2,024 seniors attend GECAC Senior Centers
- There are 426 Retired and Senior Volunteers in Erie County
- 60 seniors serve as Foster Grandparents
- Last year, more than 4,000 people received Comprehensive Assessments to determine their long term care needs
- 390 requests for Ombudsman assistance with long-term care facility concerns

Rev. 09/2019

GECAC AREA AGENCY on AGING



AGE WELL, LIVE LONG!

Your Area Agency On Aging Since 1974!

In 1974, through the Older Americans Act, Congress established a nationwide network of organizations called the Area Agencies on Aging to serve every senior, in every town throughout America. Your local GECAC Area Agency on Aging was designated as one of those 600 organizations created. Because of these organizations, millions of older Americans have lived more secure, healthier and meaningful lives.

Our mission is to advocate, educate and provide resources for seniors and their caregivers in partnership with the community. Throughout the years, the needs and concerns of older adults and their caregivers have changed, but our mission hasn't faltered.

Today, there are more than 50 million older Americans 65+, with many more on the immediate horizon. As the Area Agency on Aging that serves Erie County, our responsibilities are growing every day. The needs of the oldest old for supportive services are greater than ever, and we must be prepared for the impact of the sizeable baby boomers and how their needs will affect service demands.

The outlook for aging is both exciting and challenging. GECAC Area Agency on Aging will lead Erie County into a future where its older residents can remain independent and involved in the community. GECAC Area Agency on Aging is your first step toward independence, dignity, health and wellbeing.





Information and Assistance

Information and Referral

Serves as an entry point for Area Agency on Aging services.

Senior Advocate

Assists seniors in obtaining services and benefits.

PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources

A network of agencies that provide information for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Health Insurance Counseling

APPRISE counselors answer questions about Medicare & Medicaid.



Protecting the Elderly

Older Adult Protective Services

Investigate abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

Long Term Care Ombudsman

Investigates complaints in long-term care facilities.

Legal Services

Legal assistance for older adults.



REPORT ELDER ABUSE

DAY: 814-459-4581 x400

EVENING: 814-451-1520



Senior Centers/ Meal Sites

Senior Centers offer hot meals and recreational, educational, and social activities.

Free transportation 65+ through the LIFT.

Corry Senior Center
25 South First Avenue 814-664-2477

Erie West Senior Center
1210 West 8th Street 814-451-5634

North East Senior Center
50 East Main Street 814-725-5195

Northwestern Senior Center
9 Academy Street 814-756-5373

R. Benjamin Wiley Central City Senior Activity Center
823 Peach Street 814-451-5633

Tri-Boro Senior Center
7555 Main Street 814-474-2211

Union City Senior Center
27 Johnson Street 814-438-2146

Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

Provides vouchers for fruits and vegetables from farmers' markets in Erie County.



Eligibility Determinations

The Area Agency on Aging provides a comprehensive assessment of need on adults who are seeking in-home services or long term care placement.



Senior Employment & Volunteer Opportunities

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Helps seniors 55+ to volunteer in the community.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

Provides paid community service for low income seniors age 55+ leading to unemployment.

Foster Grandparent Program

Provides low income seniors age 55+ with a modest stipend for serving in a classroom.

APPRISE

Counselors answer questions about Medicare & Medicaid.

Volunteer Ombudsman

Advocate for residents in long-term care facilities.



Help Staying Home

Nursing Home Transition

Helps nursing home residents return to the community.

GECAC Meals on Wheels

Delivers a nutritious meal to seniors.

Home PLUS

Aging services on-site to residents at Schmid Towers and Friendship Apartments.

MEDICAID Waiver

In-home services to frail, medically-comprised seniors age 60+.

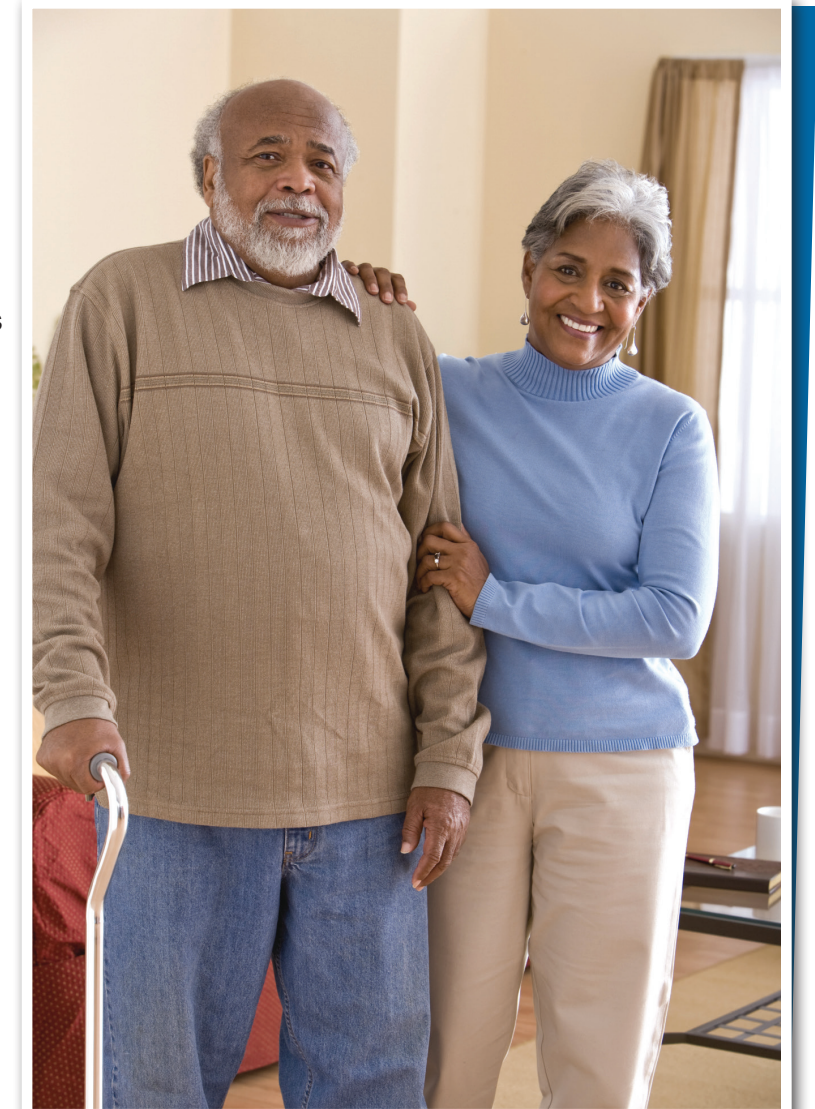
Domiciliary Care

Provides living arrangements for adults 18+ unable to live independently.

OPTIONS

Assesses the needs of seniors and develops and implements a plan of care to meet those needs.

GECAC Meals on Wheels delivers a nutritious meal; a warm smile and a safety check that helps keep seniors healthy, safe and living independently in their own homes each year. Meals are delivered by a dedicated army of volunteers.



Care Giving

Family Caregiver Support

For people caring for elderly parents, spouses, children or relatives that live at home.

Historical Evolution of Programs for GECAC Area Agency on Aging

