



FACT SHEET

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Council on Aging of West Florida is a local, independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that has served seniors and their families since 1972. Council on Aging of West Florida helps seniors in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties live healthy, safe and independent lives in their own familiar surroundings by providing community based in-home programs and services such as Meals on Wheels and Alzheimer's Respite Care.

FACTS

- Established - 1972
- Mission Statement – Leading the Community in Advocacy and Services for the Aging and Those Involved in Their Lives
- Core Values – Advocacy, Compassion, Excellence, Integrity, Respect and Vision
- Primary Goal – Help seniors in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties live healthy, safe and independent lives in their own familiar surroundings
- Primary Services –
 - Adult Day Health Care and Alzheimer's Respite Care
 - Case Management
 - Congregate Meals
 - Foster Grandparent Program
 - Meals-on-Wheels
 - Recreation Services
 - Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
 - Rural Services and Senior Centers
 - Senior Companion Program
 - Senior Solutions
- Total budget (2008) - \$4,847,091
- Funding – 47% Federal funding, 40% state funding, 10% local private support, 2% United Way funding, and 1% city/county funding.
- Current number served – Over 3,500 seniors and their families in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties
- Average care plan cost per client per year - \$1,850 compared to average nursing home cost per person per year - \$45,625
- Volunteers utilized – Over 1,000 volunteers serving over 120,000 hours annually

OTHER FACTS

- According to the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties have experienced population growth in recent years, although at different rates. Between 1990 and 2000, Escambia County's growth rate was about half the statewide average of 23.5% for the period while Santa Rosa County's growth rate was almost double the statewide average.
- Current statistics from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) show that of the 313,302 Escambia County residents, 19.1% (59,757) are 60 or older with 8,349 living below 125% of the poverty level and 14,247 living alone. Of those 65 or older, 10,846 are described as having more than one disability. Current DOEA statistics on Santa Rosa County show that 17.1% of the total population of 141,554 is 60 or older with 2,876 of those living below 125% of the poverty level. Of those 65 or older, 3,567 are described as having two or more disabilities.
- In terms of future growth, the U.S. Census Bureau projects the population of Escambia County to reach 320,000 by 2010 and 340,000 by 2015 and that of Santa Rosa County to reach 155,000 by 2010 and 175,000 by 2015. As for the senior population, the U. S. Census Bureau projected by 2006 that 14.8% of the 295,426 Escambia County residents and 11.8% of the 133,561 Santa Rosa County residents would be 65 or older.
- Without the community based in-home and services provided through the many programs of Council on Aging of West Florida, the majority of older citizens currently receiving services would not be able to remain functioning independently in their own homes. The resulting situation would create a greater emotional burden on families and larger financial burden on the taxpayers of this community.
- Annual local/state government functional expense savings - \$43,774.02 per year per person avoiding institutionalization (\$45,625-\$1,850.98), **If a modest 10% (249) of Council on Aging of West Florida consumers avoid nursing home confinement for one year, the annual savings to the community equates to \$10,899,730.98 (\$43,774.02 x 249).
- Without continued local support, Council on Aging of West Florida would likely **not** be able to provide the matching funds that enable the agency's current state and federal programs to operate.

Council on Aging of West Florida
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Leading the community in advocacy and services for the aging and those involved in their lives for over 35 years.

