

# OFA 2022-23 Annual Update Summary

Each year, as part of its planning process for the Annual Update to the Four Year Plans required by New York State, the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) and the OFA Advisory Board conduct public listening sessions to obtain comments on service needs for senior citizens and caregivers. Ordinarily, we would hold these listening sessions in person in the Fall to gather your input and questions, but physical safety during a pandemic continues to be of utmost importance. You can offer your input and questions in other ways, any time of year. Contact us at **845-486-2555**, in writing at **114 Delafield Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601** or by email at **ofa@dutchessny.gov**.

## Services Provided

A variety of services are provided by the Office for the Aging, both directly and through contracts with community-based organizations, with many services targeting Dutchess County's most vulnerable seniors. Services described in the OFA Annual Update are funded through a combination of Dutchess County funds, federal funds, state funds, client contributions and cost share. The table below covers the period from April 1, 2020 to March 30, 2021, which roughly corresponds to the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. OFA Senior Friendship Centers were closed to guests from March 2020 until June 2021, while continuing to operate as hubs for our expanded Home Delivered Meals program.

<i>Service</i>	<i>Units of Service</i>	<i>Clients Served (Unduplicated)</i>
Personal Care	23,091 hours	236
Social Adult Day Care	1,428 hours	5
Case Management	7,622 hours	762
Home Delivered Meals	192,304 meals	1323
Congregate Meals	4,548 meals	16
Nutrition Counseling	23 hours	14
Transportation	4,728 trips	38
Legal Services	752 hours	70
Nutrition Education	40,496 items	2,266
Information & Assistance	30,617 calls	1,784
Outreach	277 contacts	41
In Home Contact & Support	2,218 hours	111
Health Promotion	349 individuals	26
Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)	3,112 months	311
Other Services (Public Information, Energy Services, Overnight Respite, Grandparent Respite, Farmers Market Coupon Booklets)	4,376	N/A

# OFA 2022-23 Annual Update Summary

## Client Profiles

Services provided by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging are targeted to those who are most vulnerable. The chart below depicts the demographics of OFA clients receiving non-Medicaid community based long term care, between April 2020 and March 2021.

<i>Target Group</i>	<i>% in clients served</i>
Low Income	44.3%
Age 75+	40.3%
Age 85+	16.5%
Frail/Disabled	32.1%
Living Alone	52.4%
Minority	13.9%

## Impact on the Lives of Seniors and Caregivers

Ongoing OFA outcome and client satisfaction research has found that services offered have a significant impact in helping seniors remain independent in the community, and in relieving caregiver stress and burden. Clients continue to express a high degree of satisfaction with services provided. Successful independent aging is a key goal for all Dutchess County seniors – and future seniors.

## 2020-21 Initiatives and Accomplishments

Among OFA's accomplishments during the period from April 2020 to March 2021 were the following, roughly corresponding with the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- With the great increase in seniors who found themselves effectively homebound due to 2020 pandemic restrictions, the number of meals distributed by the OFA Home Delivered Meals (HDM) program nearly tripled from its pre-pandemic numbers. Current HDM deliveries continue to run ahead of pre-pandemic numbers.
- Eligibility for the 2020-21 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) was likewise extended, with assistance and emergency benefits extended through the end of August 2021. Its previous scheduled closure had been April 2021.
- OFA's Intake and NY Connects units made over 1,600 referrals to OFA programs, along with over 8,100 contacts with clients, caregivers, professionals and others to offer information, application assistance, and referrals to programs within Dutchess County.
- Began offering remote as well as traditional in-person versions of OFA presentations on successful aging, scam prevention, OFA services and more.

## 2022-23 Planned Activities

The COVID pandemic continues to drive changes in the way older adults obtain information. Dutchess County seniors increasingly use technology to connect to news and information, health and wellness resources, and social supports, and OFA has responded accordingly. One primary OFA initiative for 2022-23 will be to continue providing more information regarding OFA programs and services remotely through technology. The purchase of tablets, laptops, mobile devices, and monitors, allowing OFA to interact with seniors remotely, is being funded by a \$14,000 grant from the Field Hall Foundation.