

Contact any Area Agency on Aging staff member to discuss how we can benefit you.

**ADVOCACY. ACTION.
ANSWERS ON AGING.**

**AREA
AGENCY
ON AGING**

Tina Miller

Area Agency on Aging Director
Ph: 828.485.4212
E-mail: tina.miller@wpcog.org

Sarah Evitt

Aging Program Manager
Ph: 828.485.4216
E-mail: sarah.evitt@wpcog.org

Mary Mitchell

Family Caregiver Support Program Administrator
Ph: 828.485.4256
E-mail: mary.mitchell@wpcog.org

Christina Franklin

Project CARE Specialist
Ph: 828.485.4267
E-mail: christina.franklin@wpcog.org

Michael Layza

Regional Ombudsman
Ph: 828.485.4213
E-mail: michael.layza@wpcog.org

Michele Francois

Regional Ombudsman
Ph: 828.485.4271
E-mail: michele.francois@wpcog.org

The Area Agency on Aging is a service of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, a regional planning organization which serves 28 local governments in a four-county area of western North Carolina. Members include Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties and the 24 cities and towns within those counties.

Physical Address:

1880 Second Ave NW | Hickory NC 28601

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 9026 | Hickory, NC 28603

Ph: 828.322.9191

Fax: 828.322.5991

www.wpcog.org

Serving Four Counties:

Alexander | Burke | Caldwell | Catawba



**Western Piedmont
Council of Governments**

Area Agency on Aging



WWW.WPCOGAAA.ORG

**Local Leader in Aging & Community Living...
Helping Older Adults & Their Caregivers**



The Area Agency on Aging is an organization working within a federal mandate to inform, advocate, and plan for community services on behalf of older adults. The Area Agency on Aging is part of the National Network set in place by the Older Americans Act of 1965.

It is the mission of the Western Piedmont Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging to be responsive to the changing needs of older people, persons with disabilities, and their families through a community based system of supports and services. To listen carefully, respect individual choice, promote independence and assist younger citizens in planning for their later years.

The Area Agency on Aging staff works with advisory committees in each county to study the needs of older adults and plan for services to meet those needs. The service goal is to enable older adults age 60 and better to live independently in their own homes. Eligibility is based on need for the service, not on income. There may be a waiting list for some services.

- Adult Day Care, Adult Day Health
- Congregate Meals
- Home-Delivered Meals
- Respite for Family Caregivers
- In-Home Aide
- Transportation
- Senior Center Operations
- Legal Services
- Information and Options Counseling
- Housing and Home Improvement

Area Agency on Aging Services

- Administer federal, state and local funds to agencies serving older adults.
- Serve as a primary resource for information and assistance.
- Advocate for the needs of caregivers and older adults with media partners, legislators and the Senior Tar Heel Legislature.
- Lead regional planning efforts to develop programs and resources to meet the increased needs of the growing number of older adults in our service area.
- Provide education, training events, and presentations on aging topics for older adults, caregivers and professionals.
- The Ombudsman Program advocates for the rights of residents living in nursing homes and adult care homes and advocates against Elder Abuse.
- The Family Caregiver Support Program connects caregivers with community resources for education, support, and respite.
- Health Promotion Programs provides education for healthier life outcomes.
- The "Resource Directory for Older Adults" is a guide book published by our agency that is available to older adults, caregivers and service providers.
- Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) provides support for caregivers of those with Alzheimer's or dementia.