

# Aging Times

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL OLDER ADULT RESOURCES



123 Wyoming Ave. - 4th Fl.  
Scranton, PA 18503



570-963-6740



AAA@LackawannaCounty.org



LackawannaAging.org



Lackawanna County Area  
Agency on Aging



Sara McDonald, Director



**Lackawanna**  
County  
Department of Human Services  
AREA AGENCY ON AGING



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HELLO!

## Advocacy Day at the Capitol



On March 26th, the Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Inc. (P4A) led a powerful coalition of nearly 80 advocates and leaders from 27 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) at the Pennsylvania State Capitol to demand lawmakers include crucial funding for AAAs in the upcoming state budget.

Older adults and AAA leadership met with over 200 lawmakers and their staff to share a personal plea as to why funding for AAAs is so critical. For many older adults, AAAs mean access to a hot meal, caregiver support, preventive health services, in-home care, transportation, legal assistance, and a sense of community that provides socialization.

LCAA Director Sara McDonald, along with Community Outreach Administrator Lauren Chapin, Protective Services Supervisor Lindsey Stevens, and Care Management Programs Administrator Jennifer Zarcone met with local legislators or their staff to advocate for an increase in funding for aging services.

Thank you to Rep. Kyle Donahue, Rep. Kyle Mullins, Senator Rosemary Brown, Senator Marty Flynn, Rep. Jim Haddock, and Rep. Bridget M Kosierowski, and their staff, for taking the time to meet with us and for your continued support of community's older adults.

We shared stories from older adults that we currently serve, like you'll see in this edition from Rhonda, who spoke about how their lives have been positively impacted by our services and what would happen if those services were disrupted.

# Advocacy Day at the Capitol



## LACKAWANNA COUNTY OLDER ADULT SERVICES ANALYSIS

### SUPERVISING AAA: LACKAWANNA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have served the Commonwealth's 67 counties by providing information about resources and service providers, assessing needs for service, making referrals to case managers, and linking to services. AAAs provide a coordinated network of care in implementing statewide initiatives, which are designed to help older Pennsylvanians maintain their independence and give them assistance, when needed, in articulating their concerns and changing needs.



**62,571**

60+ Population Proj. (2025)  
Lackawanna County  
\*Based on PA State Data Center  
for the Center of Rural PA



### AAA DATA REPORT (2023-2024)

**1,247**

Receiving In-Home Services  
\*Enrolled

**131**

Caregiver Support Program  
\*Enrolled

**49**

Grandparent Support Program  
\*Enrolled

**1,500**

Level of Care Assessments  
\*FEDs

### SENIOR CENTERS

**1,088**  
# Consumers

**16,017**  
# Consumers Visits

### CONGREGATE MEALS

**21,206**  
# Meals Served

**838**  
# Consumers Served

### IN-HOME MEALS

**1,652**  
# Consumers

**164,426**  
Meals Served

### PROTECTIVE SERVICES

**1,012**  
Reports Received  
(2022-23)



## In Their Own Words

**Rhonda W.**

Where do I even begin to express my heartfelt gratitude for the transformative impact that the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, Telespond Senior Services, and United Neighborhood Associations have had on our family's life? From the moment my mom was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and dementia in 2020, our lives were forever changed. As I navigated the challenges of caregiving while teaching full-time, I was determined to ensure my mom received the best possible care. Thanks to the unwavering support of these organizations, we've found a sense of hope and renewal. Through their programs, such as Fridays in the Park and the Senior Community Centers, we've discovered a community that truly cares.

The Telespond Senior Services Adult Day Program, which my mother attends through the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging's Options Program, in particular, has been a game-changer. Since enrolling my mom, we've witnessed a remarkable transformation. She's now happy, engaged, and looks forward to her daily visits. The impact on our family has been profound, providing us as caregivers with a much-needed break and enabling us to recharge.

We're forever grateful for these organizations and their tireless dedication to empowering families like ours. As we continue on this journey, we're filled with a sense of optimism, knowing that we're not alone and that there are resources available to support us every step of the way.

We can never thank them enough for all they have done and continue to do for our family, we are truly blessed.



Rhonda's mom at Telespond!





## Lackawanna County Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) 2025

If you are age 60 or older by 12/31/2025, a Lackawanna County Resident, and meet the income eligibility guidelines listed below, you are eligible for the Senior FMNP vouchers.

The 2025 household income eligibility is:

**1 person** - \$28,953; **2 people** - \$39,128; **3 people** - \$49,303;  
**4 people** - \$59,478; **5 people** - \$69,365; **6 people** - \$79,828

Each eligible senior may receive five/\$5 checks for a total one-time benefit of \$25 during the program year. People who reside in a nursing home, personal care home, domiciliary home, or convent are not eligible.

**Distribution will begin in June 2025 and will be in person only. Please bring a valid PA ID with you to the distribution. Mailed applications will not be processed.**

If an eligible senior cannot attend a distribution event in person, a proxy can act in their place, with a completed proxy form. Proxy forms are available to print at [LackawannaAging.org](http://LackawannaAging.org) or can be mailed upon request. A person may be a proxy for up to four (4) people.

**Incomplete proxy forms will not be accepted at the distribution sites.**

## 2025 Distribution Schedule

**WHILE  
SUPPLIES  
LAST\***

Date	Time	Location	Address
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Merli Sarnoski Park	286 Sandy Banks Rd, Mayfield, PA 18433
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Throop Senior Community Center	500 Sanderson St. Throop, PA 18512
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Mid Valley Senior Community Center	310 Church St. Jessup, PA 18434
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	North Pocono Senior Community Center	6 John J Michaels Dr, Covington Township, PA 18424
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Taylor Senior Community Center	700 South Main St. Taylor, PA 18517
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Hillside Senior Community Center	1151 Winola Rd. Clarks Summit, PA 18411
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Scranton Senior Community Center	1004 Jackson St. Scranton, PA 18504
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Fallbrook Senior Community Center	185 Fallbrook St. Carbondale, PA 18407
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Dunmore Senior Community Center	1414 Monroe Ave. Dunmore, PA 18509
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 12 pm	Scranton Jewish Community Center	601 Jefferson Ave. Scranton, PA 18510
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	10 am – 1 pm	South Scranton Farmer's Market	526 Cedar Ave. Scranton, PA 18505
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11 am – 2 pm	Scranton Co-Op Farmer's Market	900 Barring Ave. Scranton, PA 18508

**\*Distribution will end before designated time if allotted voucher supply is exhausted\***



PENNSYLVANIA  
SCRANTON AMERICAN WATER

Dollar Energy grants to assist with water and sewer bills by appointment. Call 570-558-9116 for an appointment.

#### Items needed for an appointment:

- Water bill
- shut off notice (if you have one)
- ID for all household members
- Proof of income for all household members for the last 30-day period
- Proof of expenses for all household members for last 30-day period
- Proof of payments made to PAAW 90 days prior to your appointment.



500 S. Washington Ave., Scranton, PA 18505 | epascranton@use.salvationarmy.org

**Tuesdays in JULY**

2025

8TH: MERLI SARNOSKI

15TH: COVINGTON TWP.

22ND: MCDADE

29TH: AYLESWORTH

**A R T  
IN THE  
P A R K**

10 AM - 12 PM

Free to  
the public



Calling all caregivers!

You're invited to attend

## Caregiver's Resource Fair

**Thursday, May 29, 5-7 p.m.**

The Wright Center for Community Health Scranton  
Auditorium, 501 S. Washington Ave.

#### Need help for a loved one coping with Alzheimer's or dementia?

Learn about resources available throughout the region, including Lackawanna County's Area Agency on Aging, Scranton Counseling Center, LIFE Geisinger, Lackawanna Pro Bono Inc., Interim Health Care, United Neighborhood Centers, Indraloka, and more. Guest speakers will include a legal expert and a local caregiver.

Email Nicole Flynn at [flynnn@TheWrightCenter.org](mailto:flynnn@TheWrightCenter.org) for more information.

570.230.0019  
TheWrightCenter.org



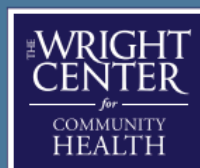
THE WRIGHT  
CENTER  
for  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH



## The WRIGHT Age-Friendly Health System

Our Geriatric Services program improves the health and well-being of older adults by examining the whole person, not just their medical condition. Board-certified geriatricians address *What Matters* most to our patients, as well as their *Medication, Mood, and Mobility*.

#### Program highlights include:



- Personalized Care Plan
- Your Own Geriatric Care Manager
- Specially Trained Geriatricians
- Elder Life Program
- Caregivers Support Program

570.230.0019 | TheWrightCenter.org |



# Age Friendly Lackawanna Website

A place created with older adults in mind. We're here to make it easier for older adults, caregivers, families and friends to find the information they need in Lackawanna County. Whether you're looking to stay active, get support, or just connect with your community, we're your go-to guide. Think of us as a friendly neighbor who always knows who to call and where to go. Our goal is to help you feel informed, empowered & supported by connecting you directly with the people and organizations who can help, making your search simple and stress-free.

[agefriendlylackawanna.com](http://agefriendlylackawanna.com)



United Way of  
Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike



## Join us for a FREE age friendly LACKAWANNA COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Join us for a fun-filled day of food, music, dancing, activities, and social connections! This special event is designed to bring together older adults in our community for an afternoon of joy, laughter, and new friendships!

### WHEN:

May 9th from 11am-2pm

### WHERE:

Nay Aug Park, Scranton (Across from Everhart)

### GETTING THERE:

- Transportation available with COLTS shared ride for 65+
- Call COLTS 570-963-6795 before April 30th to register/reserve a ride
- Free parking available in lot across from the old swimming pools

### ENJOY:

- Delicious food & refreshments
- Live music & dancing
- Engaging activities & games
- Helpful resources for older adults
- Hear from Lackawanna County Reps and AARP Pennsylvania
- Free admission to the Everhart Museum & Free Tours of Brooks Mine



For more info, contact Mike Castellano at [mcastellano@uwlc.net](mailto:mcastellano@uwlc.net) or 570.343.1267 x311



Follow us on Facebook  
at Lackawanna County  
Area Agency on Aging  
for the latest  
news, events,  
and information



## Lackawanna County Pro Bono Services

Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc. (LPB) is a non-profit organization that arranges for the donation of professional legal services by attorneys in civil matters in Lackawanna County for financially disadvantaged individuals and families to promote equal justice under the law.

The American Bar Association has estimated that 80% of America's poor are unable to obtain representation when they have serious civil legal problems. Although government funded legal aid programs work hard to serve the indigent, insufficient funding means that these programs have far too few attorneys to meet the huge need. Conflicts of interest and regulatory restrictions force them to deny services to many people who are experiencing a legal crisis. LPB steps in to fill the void.

To obtain help, clients must reside in households whose gross incomes do not exceed 125 per cent of the federal poverty guidelines or, in limited situations, up to 187.5 per cent of the federal poverty guidelines. In addition, their household assets must not exceed certain limits. Services are primarily for Lackawanna County residents and only for cases within Lackawanna County.

LPB handles a broad spectrum of civil cases, including: landlord-tenant; debtor-creditor problems; mortgage foreclosures; unemployment compensation; termination of social security or SSI benefits; uninsured tort defense; family law (for example, custody/visitation, protection from abuse and child support), and other serious civil matters

LPB does NOT accept criminal cases, fee-generating cases (for example, a case in which you are suing someone for money), cases for which another agency or the court will provide a free lawyer, or cases that are not in Lackawanna County.

Through a partnership with Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, Lackawanna County residents age 60 and older can apply for help through Lackawanna Pro Bono's Elder Law Clinic (ELC). The ELC provides brief advice in civil legal matters and the opportunity to complete end-of-life planning documents such as simple Wills, Medical and Financial Powers of Attorney and Living Wills. Depending on the circumstances, in-person, phone and virtual appointments may be available.

To apply for services, call LPB at 570-961-2714 to complete an application via phone Monday through Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM.



## The Pennsylvania Department of Aging Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Our Mission is to "advocate for those who can't, support those who can, ensure all long-term care consumers live with dignity and respect."

### What is an OMBUDSMAN?

Ombudsman is a Swedish word, which means "citizen representative." Pennsylvania Ombudsmen are trained individuals who advocate resolving complaints on behalf of people who receive long-term care services.

### What do Ombudsman Do?

Provide information to residents and family about rights, procedures and additional resources within the facility or community. Investigate concerns and work to resolve issues that may involve a resident in a long-term care facility. Offers consumer education programs and carries out trainings for facility staff. Assists in the development of residents and family councils.

### Who uses an Ombudsman?

Residents or potential residents of long-term care facilities, as well as individuals receiving services from community and adult day care. Long-term care residents' friends and family, long-term care, administrators and agencies, members of community groups and government agencies and citizens who want to improve long-term care.

### When should an Ombudsman be sought to help resolve issues?

When issues arise regarding rights or quality of care or treatment from a long-term care facility. When concerns involve transfer, discharges, discontinuance, or changes in services occur. The Ombudsman will investigate concerns and explore ways to come to a solution. Ombudsman are resident directed.

The Ombudsman program is provided through The Office of Serving Seniors Inc. by Staff Ombudsman Linda Korgeski and Theresa Dubas

For additional information contact SERVING SENIORS, INC., Linda Korgeski at [lkorgeski@servingseiniorsnepa.org](mailto:lkorgeski@servingseiniorsnepa.org) 570-344-7190 or 570-892-8045





# Advocacy Center Artwork

A big shout out to the participants of the Dunmore Senior Community Center's oil painting class, who donated paintings for the Older Adult Advocacy Center at Telespond.



Thank you to participants at the Mid Valley Senior Community Center, and painting instructor Cathy Arvonio, who created a beautiful mural for the Older Adult Advocacy Center at Telespond.



## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all the volunteers who share their time assisting our community's older adults every day! We recognize the incredible work that you do and appreciate all of your time and effort spent making a difference!



LACKAWANNA COUNTY AREA  
AGENCY ON AGING PRESENTS

# ***Fridays in the Park***

**County  
Residents 60+ Free!**

**Join us for a beautiful  
Friday in the Park!**

***Crafts • Entertainment • Bingo  
Lunch • Nutrition Education  
Local Resources & more!***



**McDade Park**  
6/6 • 8/1 • 8/29

**Aylesworth Park**  
6/13 • 7/11 • 8/8

**Covington Park**  
6/20 • 7/18 • 8/15

**Merli-Sarnoski Park**  
6/27 • 7/25 • 8/22



**10 AM - 1 PM**

**RSVP**

**570-963-6710** ext. 1450

Reservations are limited to 50 people  
and will be taken a month at a time.

***Transportation Available***  
with COLTS Shared Ride for 65+ | 570-963-6795



**Lackawanna  
County**  
Department of Human Services  
AREA AGENCY ON AGING