



The Aging Network and Care Transitions: Preparing Your Organization



AOA



Toolkit Overview

Developed for States, Area Agencies on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Tribal Organizations, and other local service providers within the National Aging Network, the Administration on Aging Care Transitions Toolkit is targeted to organizations that are interested in learning more about how to prepare their organization for a role in care transitions programs. Whether your organization has historically developed partnerships with health care providers or programs that span the continuum of care such as Community Living, Money Follows the Person, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, or others, the tools and resources here can assist in formalizing your efforts for future funding and program opportunities.

This toolkit includes lessons learned from States that received funding from the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Program, ADRC Evidence-Based Care Transitions Program, Person-Centered Hospital Discharge Model, Community Living Program (CLP), and the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) Program.¹

Overview of the Aging Network

The National Aging Network (the Aging Network) was created in 1965 with the passage of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and is one of the Nation's largest provider

¹ Aging and Disability Resource Center Program. http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/ADRC/index.aspx

ADRC Evidence-Based Care Transitions Program. http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/ADRC_CareTransitions/index.aspx

Community Living and Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services Programs. http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/NHD/index.aspx

networks of home and community based care for older persons and their caregivers. The Administration on Aging (AoA), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is a lead partner of the Aging Network, which consists of 56 State Units on Aging, 629 Area Agencies on Aging, 246 Tribal and Native organizations, 20,000 service providers, and thousands of volunteers.

Resource

- [The Aging Network: Structure and Programs \(PDF\)](#)

The Aging Network is critically important to improving transitions across care settings. Many people served by the Aging Network are considered high-risk for multiple hospital readmissions and the accompanying health complications. Providing access to Older Americans Act (OAA) core services, decision support, and care coordination across the continuum of care are all central to the mission of the Aging Network to maximize independence for at-risk individuals. As the national landscape of long-term services and supports transforms, the Aging Network can capitalize on existing infrastructure to mobilize its efforts and embrace the business, organizational, and cultural changes that will bridge the gaps between medical and long-term services and supports.

Toolkit Contents

Chapter One: Getting Started

Chapter Two: Taking Time to Plan

Chapter Three: Developing Effective Partnerships with Health Care Providers

Chapter Four: Measuring for Success

Chapter Five: Building Organizational Capacity

Chapter Six: Implementation and Day-to-Day Operations