ABSTRACT
Annual Plan of Service for the Year 2016 - 2020

The goal of the Greene County Department of Human Services is to ensure a network of supportive services to assist the County's senior residents maintain their dignity and independence.

The Department of Human Services is entering the planning phase of its Four Year Plan of Services for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2020. The Four Year Plan projects service needs for the future and sets appropriate goals to ensure that the needs of Greene County's older residents will continue to be addressed effectively and efficiently.

Overview

The Department of Human Services provides a network of distinct services designed to meet the needs of the more than 9,800 older residents of Greene County. These services are offered through a combination of subcontracted programs and direct services provided by the Department staff and volunteers. The Department operates from six locations situated throughout the county. They are Acra, Athens, Catskill (2), Coxsackie and Jewett.

The Department of Human Services consists of 38 full time, part time and per diem employees and over 200 active volunteers that provide services from five senior service centers and the Department's main office. A fleet of 7 vehicles is utilized for transportation of seniors, food and staff.

The Department of Human Services' main office is in Catskill. We provide information and assistance, legal services, caregiver support, energy assistance, entitlement and health insurance counseling, transportation and the operation of volunteer programs. An additional supportive service coordinated through the main office is transportation to medical appointments. Long term care services such as case management, homemaker/personal care services, home delivered meals; respite services, and personal emergency response systems provide necessary support to homebound older persons. Over 100 seniors per day enjoy a noon-time dinner at the 5 Senior Service Centers at which various social, health, recreational and educational activities are scheduled each month. Over 225 meals are prepared and delivered daily to the homes of homebound from these 5 locations

Over 1,400 senior citizens received one or more services from the Department of Human Services in 2015. In addition to the services provided to seniors, the Department targets services to the caregivers of seniors, i.e. family and friends who are caring for an older person. The Department also educates and assists people under 60 with information about long term care. This program is called NY Connects. NY Connects was given an infusion of funds, known as the NY Connects Expansion or Balancing Incentive Program (BIP). This expanded program creates a No Wrong Door approach to services for seniors and the disabled.

The Department's revenues are received from a variety of sources including federal and state grants, fund-raising and client contributions. There is no fee for any of our services if you are

age 60 or older and no older person is denied a service due to inability or unwillingness to pay. The only exception is for homemaking and personal care services for individuals who based on their income level are required to share in the cost of the care.

The only service changes that are planned for 2016 - 2020 are in transportation and the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The County is entering into an agreement with Ulster-Greene ARC to take over the current "County bus system". This change will expand the public bus service from 1 day a week to 5 days a week, depending on location. A few changes will take place that may affect seniors. These would be in the routes, times and bus fee collection methods for those seniors wishing to make a donation for their ride. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program has been regionalized as of October 1, 2015. Contact information for this program will be available at our main office on October 1, 2015.

Aside from this abstract, copies of the 2014 annual report have been made available for your perusal. The reports have also been posted on the county website's front page. Go to www.greenegov.com for an on line copy or to view any county department's report.