

Description of Services

AARP Electronic Income Tax Aid

Free seasonal electronic income tax filing service for seniors from February 1, through April 15. (Appointments required)

Advocacy

- Action on behalf of older person(s) to secure needed services and benefits.
- Engaging in cooperation with other providers to facilitate access to and use of all existing services. Developing community based services to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of older persons.

Continuing Education (Computer Technology/GED/ Foreign Language/Sign Language)

Enabling older persons to receive lifelong learning opportunities, such as technology assistance, computer classes, GED classes, sign language classes, foreign languages classes, etc., which enhance their developmental skills.

Crisis Intervention

Seasonal funding for assistance with food, shelter, and utilities for income eligible elderly households.

Food Stamp, Medicaid, Medicare Part D Enrollment Center

As a certified enrollment center, we offer on-site assistance for eligible persons needing to complete Medicaid, Medicare Part D, and Food Stamp applications or to address questions or problems.

Friendly Visiting

Enhancing social interaction by visiting a senior in his/her home in order to comfort or help the senior (includes letter writing, reading, interpreting, and or translating business and personal correspondence)

Health and Wellness

Activities designed to provide preventative health screenings for seniors which improve overall health, mental, and social well-being, therefore reducing the need for our community's public health and medical services. These activities include physical fitness classes such as chair exercises, dance classes, Zumba classes, Yoga, and Oxyrise classes. Health services include flu, tetanus, and pneumonia shots; blood pressure monitoring, vision and hearing screenings, etc. are also provided.

Horticultural Therapy

Horticultural activities include planting and rooting/nurturing plants, horticultural informative speakers, and local field trips. (Handicapped accessible greenhouse)

Information Referral or Assistance

- 1) Provides on-site information and solutions for seniors
- 2) Provides individuals with information and linkage to community service providers
- 3) To the maximum extent, establish adequate follow-up procedures

Intergenerational Activities

Interaction of the elderly and the young which provides opportunities to develop meaningful contact and exchange of creativity, laughter, and wisdom from one another to dispell stereotypes.

Legal Assistance

Legal advice, education, and counseling provided by an attorney or other person under the supervision of an attorney. (Pro bono / reduced fee)

Material Aid/Goods

Aid in the form of goods, such as: the distribution of USDA commodities, food, clothing, fans, heaters, are made on behalf of the indigent. (See - Crisis Intervention - Payments for food vouchers/meals, rent, and utilities.)

Medical Loan Closet

All types of medical equipment are loaned to seniors in the community having a temporary need for: wheel chairs, portable commodes, canes, shower chairs, walkers, etc.

Needs/Assessment Screening

Gathering information about a client to determine need and/or eligibility for supportive services such as: material aid, financial aid, transit, food, and socialization, etc. Information may include re-evaluation of senior's health status, financial status, activities of daily living status, abuse, or neglect, etc.

Nutrition Education

A program to promote better health by providing accurate and culturally sensitive nutrition, physical fitness, or health (as it relates to nutrition) information and instruction to participants or participants' caregivers in a group or individual setting overseen by a LSU dietitian.

Noon Meal-Congregate Meal Site

- 1) Nutritionally balanced noon meals for persons 60 and over are served five times a week. A meal is provided in a congregate or group setting. (Transit available)
- 2) Monthly special event luncheons (Luau, Mexican Fiesta, Jitterbug, etc.)

On-site Food Pantry

On-site food pantry provides demand-responsive boxes of food which help eliminate hunger among the elderly, "Food for Seniors" and "USDA Commodities"

Outreach

Initial seek and search activities to identify isolated and hard to reach individuals in order to assist them in gaining access or linkage to needed services. A Needs Assessment with these individuals is initiated by WOSC for the purpose of identifying potential clients and to encourage their use of existing WOSC services and benefits.

Personal Emergency Response System

Emergency telephone units are leased to senior citizens monthly, for immediate 911 assistance should the need arise. These units are provided through Acadian OnCall. (Seniors enrolled at WOSC receive a monthly discount)

Recreation

Enabling older persons to enjoy using their leisure time constructively. Activities include individual and group social activities and pursuits such as; arts, crafts, dancing, hobbies, table games, Senior Olympics, music, field trips, drama, etc.

Senior Community Service Employment Site

WOSC site assists older persons with subsidized employment training opportunities and helps them to obtain unsubsidized employment. This service includes assessment of skills and abilities, upgrading of job seeking skills, employability training, and follow-up activities.

Telephone Reassurance

Scheduled phone calls made to homebound or ill seniors upon request. These services are meant to check on the health, safety, and well-being of the senior. This interaction with the senior by telephone reduces social isolation and provides support to ensure health, safety, and the return to an active lifestyle.

Transportation

- 1) Vital non-emergency transportation for older persons to and from the Senior Center and other vital destinations for goods and services.
- 2) Escort Service – limited (volunteer or relative may accompany a frail senior during transit)
- 3) Charter transit to lifesaving dialysis, cancer treatments, or physical therapy. (limited)

Volunteer, Development, Opportunities and Service

Activities related to the recruitment, training, and placement of competent volunteers. (Volunteer opportunities include: clerical, needy family food distribution assistance, social events, social event assistance, transit escorts, computer coaches, tutors, etc.) (***)Volunteers will receive a *Volunteer Handbook, a Volunteer Contract, a Confidentiality Agreement, and Conflict of Interest Forms.*)