

Celebrate!

By Kathy Bennett, Director



Right now, as I’m writing this article, I have the song “Celebrate” by Kool & The Gang from 1980 in my head. “Celebrate good times...come on! It’s a celebration!” And the reason that song is in my head is because despite everything that’s happened in the past year, we still have things to celebrate!

We have finished up the 2021 Senior Games and wow, what a great event it was this year! Despite the ongoing concerns of too much social interaction, the team that pulled together the games did a great job of coordinating both outdoor and virtual activities. Some of the virtual activities were so popular, we are going to have to do them again next year! And the number of seniors who participated is also something to celebrate! We had over 275 people participate, some for the first time – and we had our very first intergenerational event of Orienteering. So for all the people that planned the event, for all the seniors who participated, and

for all the great sponsors – let’s celebrate!

The other reason to celebrate is that, for at least now, we can gather together once again. So many of you got the vaccine and are safely able to interact more in the world again. Many of the 13 senior centers in the county are opening again – if not full time, at least part time. Old friends are getting to see each other in person again and renewing friendships and having fun. And because it’s the summer season, we get to be outside more and have the opportunities to gather safely. Again, let’s celebrate!

I know there are still many stressors that we are all experiencing, and there may be possible future problems with COVID again, but at least for now, take a deep breath, and find a moment to celebrate!



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LEGAL CORNER

Eviction Basics

Rhonda Sherrod, Staff Attorney
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Facing an eviction is one of the more stressful issues a senior can face. An understanding of the laws surrounding eviction in Pennsylvania can be helpful should you or someone you know be facing eviction.

The first thing to understand about eviction is that an owner cannot legally evict a tenant absent a court hearing. It is illegal to lock a tenant out or keep a tenant's property or withhold essential utilities such as electric or water in an attempt to force a tenant to move.

Pennsylvania law provides that a tenant can be evicted if rent is not paid, if the tenant doesn't live up to their end of the lease agreement or if the end of the lease term is completed and the owner wants you to move. Under Pennsylvania law, if an owner is evicting a tenant solely based on the fact that the end of term has come and the owner does not wish to renew the lease, that is reason enough all by itself to allow for an eviction. Eviction actions based on a tenant's race, religion, age, disability or need for a support animal are illegal in Pennsylvania.

A tenant's lease is the binding legal contract for a rental property between the owner of a property and the tenant. The lease entitles the tenant to receive exclusive possession of the rental unit and the owner to receive rent. A lease can be either verbal or written. A written lease should specify the date on which the lease begins and the date on which the lease ends. This is the lease term. A tenant has the right to possession of the unit from the day the lease begins to the day that the lease ends.

When an owner wants a tenant to move, the notice an owner gives a tenant is called a "Notice to Quit" or a "Notice to Vacate". A notice to quit or vacate is basically a letter demanding the tenant move out within a specified time. Under Pennsylvania law the amount of time a notice to quit or vacate must provide depends on the length of the lease and the reason for the eviction. For failure to pay rent an owner must give at least ten days notice before filing for an eviction. For any reason other than failure to pay rent, an owner must give at least fifteen days if the lease term is for one year or less or thirty days if the lease is for more than one year. *However*, it is important to always read your lease as the agreement in the lease can override these rules and allow for shorter, longer or no notice at all!

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania provides legal advice and representation in eviction matters for Bucks County seniors. If you receive a notice to quit or vacate, contact Legal Aid's telephone helpline at 877-429-5994 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am – 1pm.

Heat Alert!

Nearly everyone enjoys summertime, but it is important for older adults to remember the health risks posed by extremely hot weather. Please take the following precautions to avoid injury like dehydration, heat stroke or heat exhaustion:



- Drink cool beverages, but avoid alcohol and caffeine
- If your doctor limits your fluid intake, ask them how much you should drink when the weather is hot
- Take a cool shower, bath or sponge bath
- Wear lightweight, light colored clothing
- If possible, stay in an air-conditioned environment, especially during the hottest part of the day. If your home is not air-conditioned, visit a shopping mall, public library or senior center to cool off
- Avoid strenuous activity

Please check on older friends and neighbors during hot weather. This simple act of kindness can save a life. For additional information about hot weather safety or a **needed fan**, please contact the Area Agency on Aging at 267-880-5700, or your health department office.



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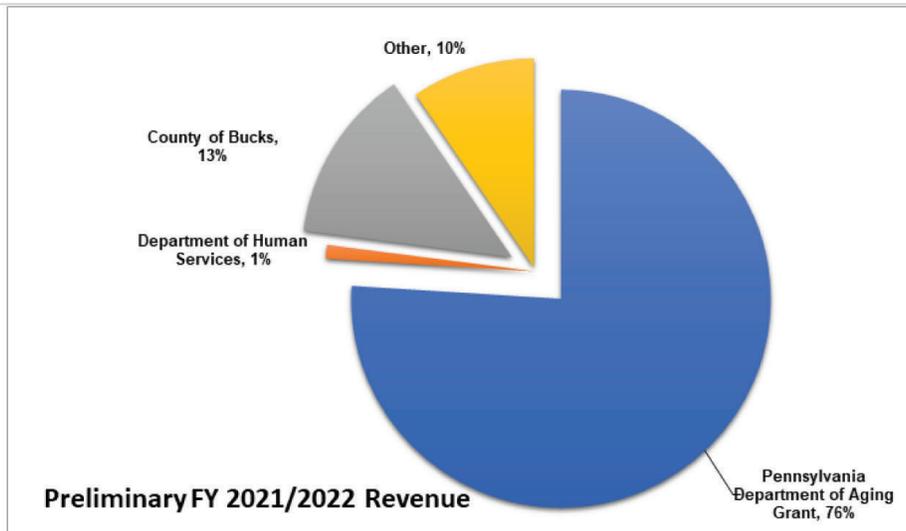
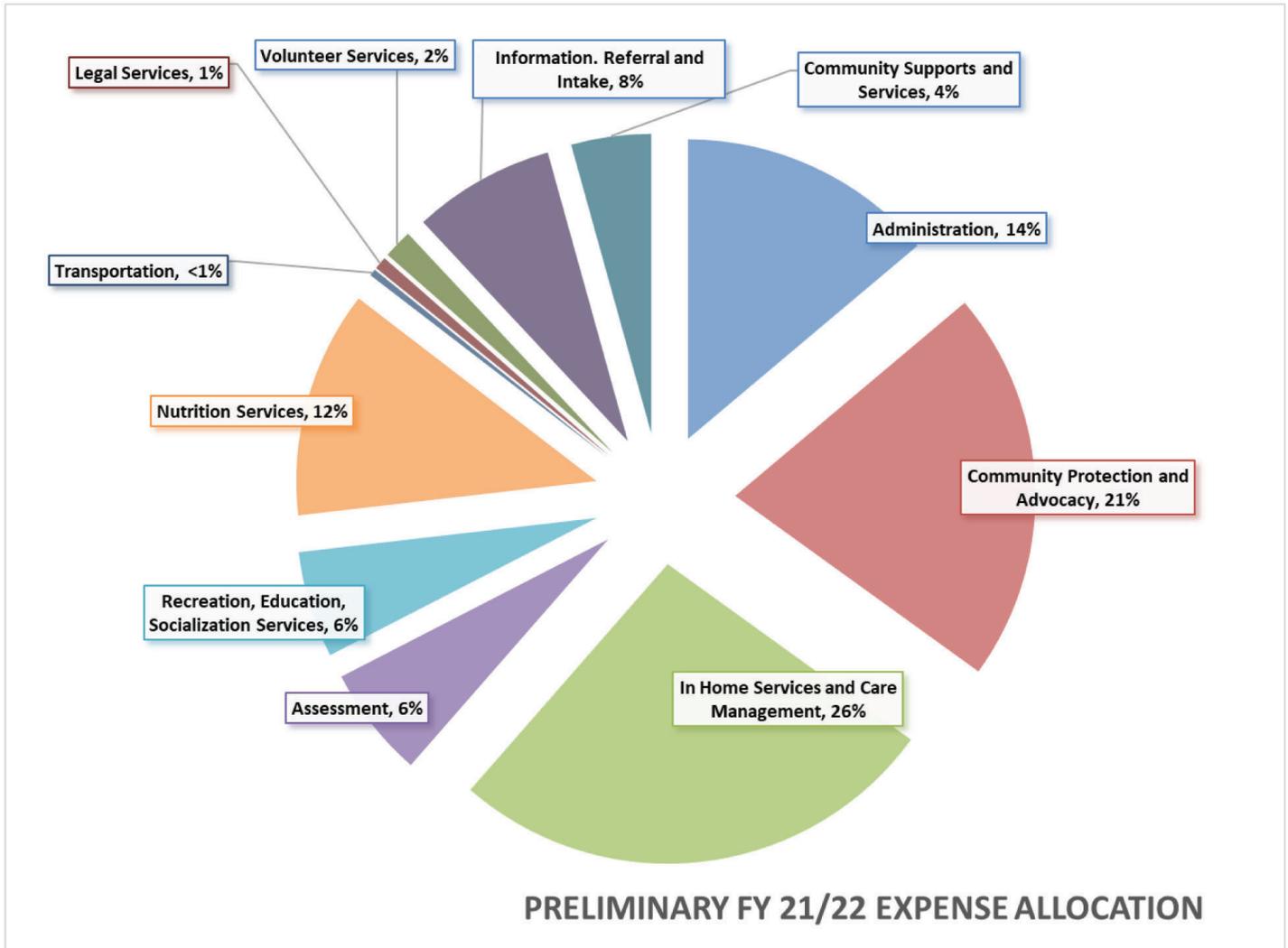
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AAA Budget Presented For Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Area Agency on Aging presented its proposed budget for State fiscal year 2021-2022 on May 17. The budget addresses changes and continued growth in the number of seniors in need of the Agency's services and supports through June 30, 2022. Below is a summary of expenditures for the fiscal year.



Help for Low-Income Seniors: The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Once again, the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging is partnering with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to offer the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) to Bucks County residents age 60 or older who meet the income requirement. ("Income" means income before taxes.)

The program provides four \$6-vouchers (\$24.00) to each eligible individual. (A qualifying couple can receive \$48.00). Vouchers can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets. An official list is available at our office or consumers are advised to ask their market of interest if they accept SFMNP vouchers. You can also find a list at www.pafmnp.org.

Vouchers must be requested by completing the written application that appears on the following page. The application is also available by contacting the Agency at 267-880-5700 or on the web at www.buckscounty.gov/HumanServices/AAA.



<p>Save Money on Medicare Expenses Call today: 267-880-5700</p>	 <p>APPRISE</p>	<p><i>Free, unbiased counseling Discount & subsidy screening Application assistance</i></p> <p><i>Presented by the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging</i></p>
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Honoring APPRISE Volunteers

THANK YOU to the Volunteers who continued to work remotely throughout the pandemic. Your commitment and flexibility ensured that all Bucks County Medicare beneficiaries and community agencies who requested assistance from APPRISE received the help needed! These Volunteers include:

Cindy Randazzo	Ginny Watkins	Jim Waters	Scott Kuhn
Eileen Levi	Joanne Power	Michelle Olsen	Frank Cook
Lisa Moscherosch	Irene Boyle	Sue Falotico	Lorraine Williams
Kathy Kabrhel	Mike Hill	Steve Kahn	Amy Stein
Liz Fritsch	Rose D'Alisa	Kathy Campbell	Elaine Muntzer
Michele Pashley			

MANY THANKS also to those continued with the program despite the inability to shadow or counsel remotely. These Volunteers include:

Austin Strauss	Adrienne Royden	Howard Barkan
Anne Slifer	Terry Hinterberger	Mitch Tanase
Teresa Russo	Carole Ostrowski	Pat Dunn
Steve Sullivan	Janet Schulman	Josephine Lackey-Northam

EXTREME GRATEFULNESS to the following retired APPRISE Volunteers who have touched countless lives in a very positive manner and demonstrated very strong commitments to the APPRISE Program, Medicare Beneficiaries, Representatives, Community Members/Agencies and Fellow Volunteers:

Carole Ostrowski: 13 years	Dennis Leon: 10 Years
Raymond Ostrowski: 12 years	Mitch Tanase: 8 years
Jim Waters: 11 Years	Wayne Schweigert: 8 years

WISHING THEM ALL THE BEST 😊

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM
2021 Application Form

To qualify you must be 60 or older (or turn 60 by 12/31/2021) and meet the household income guidelines.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I certify that the information I have provided below for my eligibility determination is correct, to the best of my knowledge. This certification form is being submitted in connection with the receipt of Federal assistance. Program officials may verify information on this form. I understand that intentionally making a false or misleading statement or intentionally misrepresenting, concealing, or withholding facts may result in paying the State agency, in cash, the value of the food benefits improperly issued to me and may subject me to civil or criminal prosecution under State and Federal law.

Standards for eligibility and participation in the SFMNP are the same for everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

I understand that I may appeal any decision made by the local agency regarding my eligibility for the SFMNP.

By signing this, I acknowledge that my total household income is within the Income guidelines: \$23,828 for 1 person in the household; or \$32,227 for 2 people in the household and that I am 60 years old or older (or will turn 60 by December 31, 2021).

1st Participant Name (print): _____ **Birth Date** _____
(Person checks are for)

(Signature)

2nd Participant Name (print): _____ **Birth Date** _____
(Person checks are for)

(Signature)

Address (print): _____

Telephone Number: _____ **County you live in**

Please circle the most appropriate identifier for each:

Ethnicity:	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	
Race:	American Indian or Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Asian White	Black or African American

If more responses are received than funding allows you will be notified by mail.

Please **mail** or **email** your completed form before **September 15, 2021** to:

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

55 East Court St., 3rd FL

Doylestown, PA 18901

AAAVouchers@buckscounty.org • Fax: 215-348-7827

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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Bucks County Senior Games, Congratulations to All our Winners!

A list of medal winners will be available on the buckscounty.gov website under Area Agency on Aging, as well as the Senior Games facebook page



RETIREMENT NEWS!



Carol Keyser

When Carol came to work for the county in 1985 she initially worked at MH/MR and then transferred to Area Agency on Aging in 1988. She worked in various roles as a Care Manager and most recently worked in our Information and Referral department, helping people obtain community-based services and took reports of need for our Protective Services department. She also connected individuals to helpful resources and represented the agency at community health fairs. Carol was a cheerful and thoughtful individual and though we are sad to see her leave, after all these years, we are very happy she can now enjoy a well-deserved retirement!



Joyce Zuzack

Joyce is a Public Health Nurse with the Bucks County Health Dept who was assigned to the AAA in 1999. She assisted AAA care managers with assessments of clients who had difficult medical or mobility issues. She also performed medical reviews of nursing facility pre-admission assessments. Additionally, Joyce worked closely with Protective Service investigations of older adults in their homes and nursing facilities. After a six-year transfer back to the Health Dept, Joyce re-joined AAA in 2019. “I am honored to have worked alongside the dedicated care managers and staff of AAA. I hope I was able to play a role in helping some of our neediest clients regain a level of safety, comfort and dignity.” In retirement, Joyce is looking forward to camping, hiking and bicycling with her husband Dave. We wish her all the best in retirement!



Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
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Doylestown, PA 18901

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Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

55 E. Court St., Floor 3, Doylestown, PA 18901

Phone: 267-880-5700 Fax: 215-348-7827 E-mail: aging@buckscounty.org

Elder Abuse Hotline: 1-800-243-3767, available 24 hours a day

Website: www.buckscounty.gov

Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday

The Area Agency on Aging offers more than 20 programs to help older adults and their families in Bucks County. Services include:

- Information and Assistance
- Care Management
- Assessment & Care Planning
- In-Home Services
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Community Presentations
- Adult Day Service
- Employment Assistance
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Transportation
- Caregiver Support
- Outreach
- Senior Centers
- Ombudsman Services
- Protective Services
- Nutritional Services
- Legal Services

Toll-Free Numbers (when calling from within Bucks County)

Lower and Upper Bucks

1-888-942-8257

Central Bucks

267-880-5700



Please visit our Facebook page at
Bucks County Area Agency on
Aging@bcaging.