

FACT SHEET 1.

EVOLUTION OF THE NETWORK ON AGING

- 1935** The Social Security Act becomes law. Includes Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Permanently Disabled, and Aid to Dependent Children.
- 1950** President Truman initiates the first National Conference on Aging.
- 1952** First federal dollars appropriated for Social Service Programs for older persons under Social Security Act.
- 1956** President Eisenhower creates a Federal Council on Aging.
- 1961** First White House Conference on Aging held in Washington, D.C.
- 1962** Legislation introduced to create within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, an agency equal in stature to the Department's other major agencies.
- 1963** Legislation introduced to establish an independent U.S. Commission on Aging.
- 1965** Older Americans Act is signed into law by President Johnson on July 15, 1965. It establishes the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and calls for creation of State Units on Aging.
- 1969** Older Americans Act Amendments provide grants for areawide model demonstration projects, as well as the Foster Grandparent and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs.
- 1971** Second White House Conference on Aging held in Washington, D.C.
- 1972** A new Title VII is created under the Older Americans Act authorizing funds for a national nutrition program for the elderly.
- 1973** Older Americans Act Comprehensive Services Amendments establish Area Agencies on Aging. These Amendments add a new Title V, which authorizes grants to local community agencies for multi-purpose senior centers and created the Community Service Employment grant program for low-income persons age 55 and older, administered by the Department of Labor.
- 1975** Amendments to the Older Americans Act require changes in the Title VII nutrition program primarily related to the availability of surplus commodities through the US Department of Agriculture.

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- 1977** Amendments to the Older Americans Act extend existing programs and establish four national priority services (transportation, home services, legal and other counseling services, and residential and repair and renovation programs).
- 1978** Comprehensive Older Americans Act Amendments consolidated the Title III Area Agency on Aging administration and social services, the Title VII nutrition services, and the Title V multi-purpose senior centers into a new Title III, and added a new Title VI for grants to Indian Tribal Organizations. The old Title V became the Community Service Employment grant program for low income persons age 55 and older under the 1978 amendments.

Today, the Older Americans Act continues to be reauthorized every three years. Revisions to the Act have included the addition of the caregivers program to Title III and other services as appropriate.