



**Vermont  
Association of  
Area Agencies  
on Aging**

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Winooski, VT 05404  
  
(802) 578-7094  
[www.Vermont4A.org](http://www.Vermont4A.org)

**Member Agencies:**  
Age Well  
Central Vermont Council on Aging  
Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging  
Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging  
Senior Solutions

## Vermont Statistics from Meals on Wheels of America, 2017

VERMONT OAA NUTRITION PROGRAMS	
PROGRAM PROFILE	
<b>TOTAL SENIORS SERVED BY MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAMS</b>	<b>15,372</b>
Home-Delivered	4,715
Congregate	10,657
<b>TOTAL MEALS SERVED BY MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAMS</b>	<b>1,170,781</b>
Home-Delivered	785,086
Congregate	385,695
<b>TOTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$6,391,197</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES COVERED BY FEDERAL OAA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$2,459,815</b>

- ✓ Area Agencies on Aging struggle to pay for the meals that we are providing. For example, the Central Vermont Council on Aging pays \$3.54 for a meal but the ACTUAL cost is likely to be three times that cost.
- ✓ Senior Centers have to do bake sales, raffles, other fund raisers to make up the difference in this cost. Senior Center Directors, cooks and staff are paid minimally with generally no benefits. Drivers are often volunteers and can often be a person's life-line for safety and wellbeing checks, not just for the delivery of the person's meal.
- ✓ The demand for home delivered meals increases every year with no additional funds.

**Vermont covers the cost of meals for Medicaid residents in nursing facilities but refuses to cover nutritional supports for Medicaid recipients who choose to receive long-term care in home and community-based settings. H.434 will require the Secretary of Human Services to apply for an amendment to Vermont's Global Commitment waiver to allow home-delivered meals to be treated as a reimbursable covered service. We ask the legislature to pass H.434 to support the needs of older Vermonters who are aging in place.**



## V4A 2018 Legislative Agenda

**The Vermont Association of the Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) is working to help more Vermonters age in place.** We ask the legislature to support this goal by acting on the following issues.

### **Invest in the Health of Older Vermonters to Create a More Sustainable Future**

Without addressing the physical, mental, social, emotional and financial needs of older Vermonters, we will see an explosion in the health care costs for these individuals in the most expensive settings. Simultaneously, Federal and state funding for programs that immeasurably improve older Vermonters' health outcomes and lower health care expenditures have steadily lost ground. These programs include Meals-on-Wheels and service care coordination, health insurance counseling, and options counseling for long-term care supports within the community. We ask you to support the following proposed legislation.

- **H.284 An act relating to increasing Medicaid rates for home and community-based service providers**

H.284 will adequately reimburse community-based providers who help older Vermonters age in place. This bill will require annual inflationary increases to reimbursement rates for home and community-based service providers in line with institutional providers. If we can strengthen and sustain our home and community-based care networks we will see better outcomes, and all Vermonters will benefit.

- **H.434 An act relating to home-delivered meals as a reimbursable covered service**

Vermont covers the cost of meals for Medicaid residents in nursing facilities but refuses to cover nutritional supports for Medicaid recipients who choose to receive long-term care in home and community-based settings. This bill will require the Secretary of Human Services to apply for an amendment to Vermont's Global Commitment waiver to allow home-delivered meals to be treated as a reimbursable covered service. We ask the legislature to pass H.434 to support the needs of older Vermonters who are aging in place.

### **Protect Programs that are Essential to Older Vermonters.**

We ask the legislature to do everything in its power to mitigate the negative impacts from the potential loss of funding to essential programs that support older Vermonters. At a time when we see increasing reliance on home and community-based programs, we must make sure that reduced funding does not threaten the viability of these programs.

### **Commit to a Viable and Shared Vision of Health Care Reform**

Vermont must strengthen the supports and services provided by the Area Agencies on Aging, Home Health Agencies, Adult Day programs and Community Mental Health Agencies, and fully integrate them into the health care system. Health care reform will not succeed if Vermont appropriates reimbursement increases for institutional providers while starving the community-based delivery system. The legislature should look at ways to provide more affordable housing options for older Vermonters, increase transportation access, and invest in family caregiver support as part of health care reform.



## Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging

### Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging

Service Area: Caledonia, Essex & Orleans Counties

(802) 748-5182

[www.nekcouncil.org](http://www.nekcouncil.org)

481 Summer Street, Suite 101

St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Meg Burmeister, Executive Director (Secretary of V4A)

[mburmeister@nekcouncil.org](mailto:mburmeister@nekcouncil.org)

### Age Well

Service Area: Addison, Chittenden, Franklin & Grand Isle Counties (Except for towns of Granville and Hancock)

(802) 865-0360

[www.agewellvt.org](http://www.agewellvt.org)

76 Pearl Street, Suite 201

Essex Junction, VT 05452

John Michael Hall (Mike), Executive Director (Vice President of V4A)

[jmh@agewellvt.org](mailto:jmh@agewellvt.org)

### Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Service Area: Bennington & Rutland Counties (Except for towns of Pittsfield, Winhall, Readsboro, Searsburg)

[www.svcoa.org](http://www.svcoa.org)

Rutland office:

143 Maple Street

Rutland, VT 05701

(802) 786-5990

Dana McMahon

[dcmahon@svcoa.net](mailto:dcmahon@svcoa.net)

Bennington office:

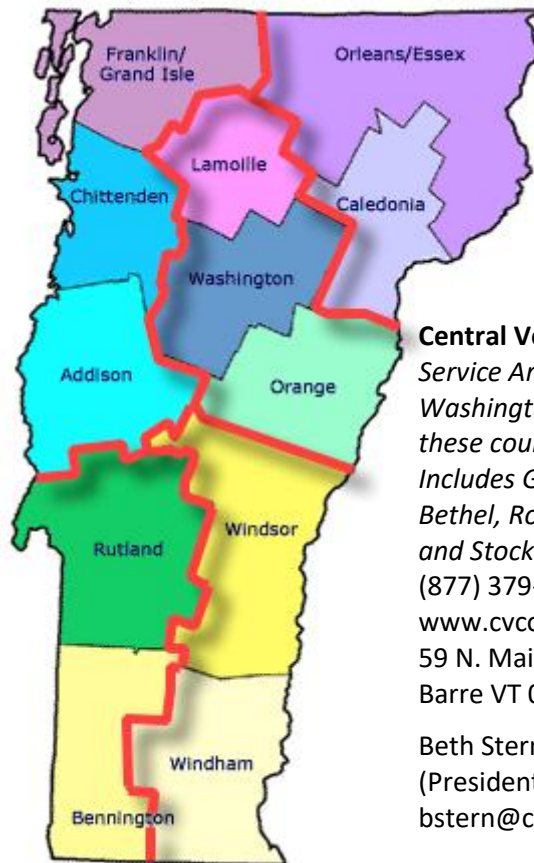
160 Benmont Avenue, Suite 90

Bennington, VT 05201

(802) 442-5436

Jennifer Plouffe

[Jplouffe@svcoa.net](mailto:Jplouffe@svcoa.net)



### Central Vermont Council on Aging

Service Area: Lamoille, Orange, & Washington Counties (For all towns in these counties except Thetford.

Includes Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Bethel, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon and Stockbridge)

(877) 379-2600

[www.cvcoa.org](http://www.cvcoa.org)

59 N. Main Street, Suite 200

Barre VT 05641-4121

Beth Stern, Executive Director

(President of V4A)

[bstern@cvcoa.org](mailto:bstern@cvcoa.org)

### Senior Solutions (Council on Aging for Southeastern VT)

Service Area: Windham & Windsor Counties (Except for towns of Bethel, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge. Includes towns of Searsburg, Readsboro, Thetford and Winhall)

(802) 885-2655

[www.seniorsolutionsvt.org](http://www.seniorsolutionsvt.org)

8 Pleasant Street

Springfield, VT 05156

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