

**Administration on Aging  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

**Aging and Disability Resource Center Initiative**

**SHARED VISION**

AoA and CMS share a vision for the Resource Center program. The vision is to have Resource Centers in every community across the country serving as highly **visible and trusted** places where people can turn for information on the full range of long term support options and a single point of entry to public long term support programs and benefits. The Centers will be a resource for both public and private-pay individuals. They will serve elderly persons, younger individuals with disabilities, family caregivers, as well as persons planning for future long term support needs. The Centers will also be a resource for health and long term support professionals and others who provide services to the elderly and to people with disabilities.

AoA and CMS believe Resource Centers are a key component of an effectively managed, consumer-driven system of long term support. A single, coordinated system of information and access for all persons seeking long term support will minimize confusion, enhance individual choice and support informed decision-making. It will improve the ability of state and local governments to manage resources and to monitor program quality through centralized data collection and evaluation. Resource Centers will enable policy makers and program administrators to more effectively respond to individual needs, address system problems, and limit the unnecessary use of high-cost services, including nursing home services.

Key elements of the ADRC grant program:

- At least one Resource Center will be operational by the end of the first year providing information and assistance for elderly consumers at a minimum and by the end of the first quarter of the second year, will be serving at least one additional target group of people with disabilities.
- Resource Center programs will provide access to all long-term care supports through intake assessment, eligibility screening, and programmatic and financial eligibility determinations that are integrated or so closely coordinated that the process is seamless to the consumer.
- In addition to assisting individuals in need of publicly supported programs, the Resource Center program will explicitly target private-pay individuals to assist them to make informed decisions about their care options.
- Resource Centers will include a management information system that supports the functions of the program including tracking client intake, needs assessment, care plans, utilization and costs.
- Resource Centers will create formal linkages between and among the major pathways to long-term care, including nursing home pre-admission screening, hospital discharge planning, and the various community agencies and organizations that serve Resource Center target populations.