

Alabama Department of Senior Services



State Agency Mission

The mission of the Alabama Department of Senior Services is to promote the independence and dignity of those we serve through a comprehensive and coordinated system of quality services.

Populations Served

- Older Adults**
- Adults with Physical Disabilities**
- Adults with Developmental Disabilities
- Individuals with Traumatic and/or Acquired Brain Injuries
- Individuals with Behavioral Health Conditions
- Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Organizational Structure

The department director is appointed by the Governor and oversees a staff of 48 FTE.

Local Network

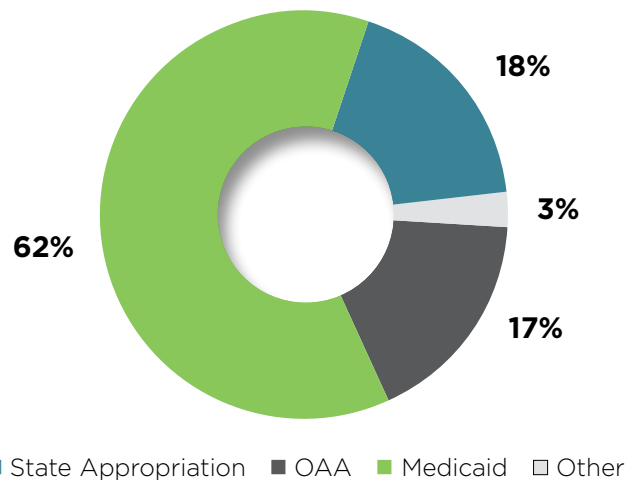
- 13** Area Agencies on Aging
- 3** Independent Living Centers

Top Five Agency Policy Priorities

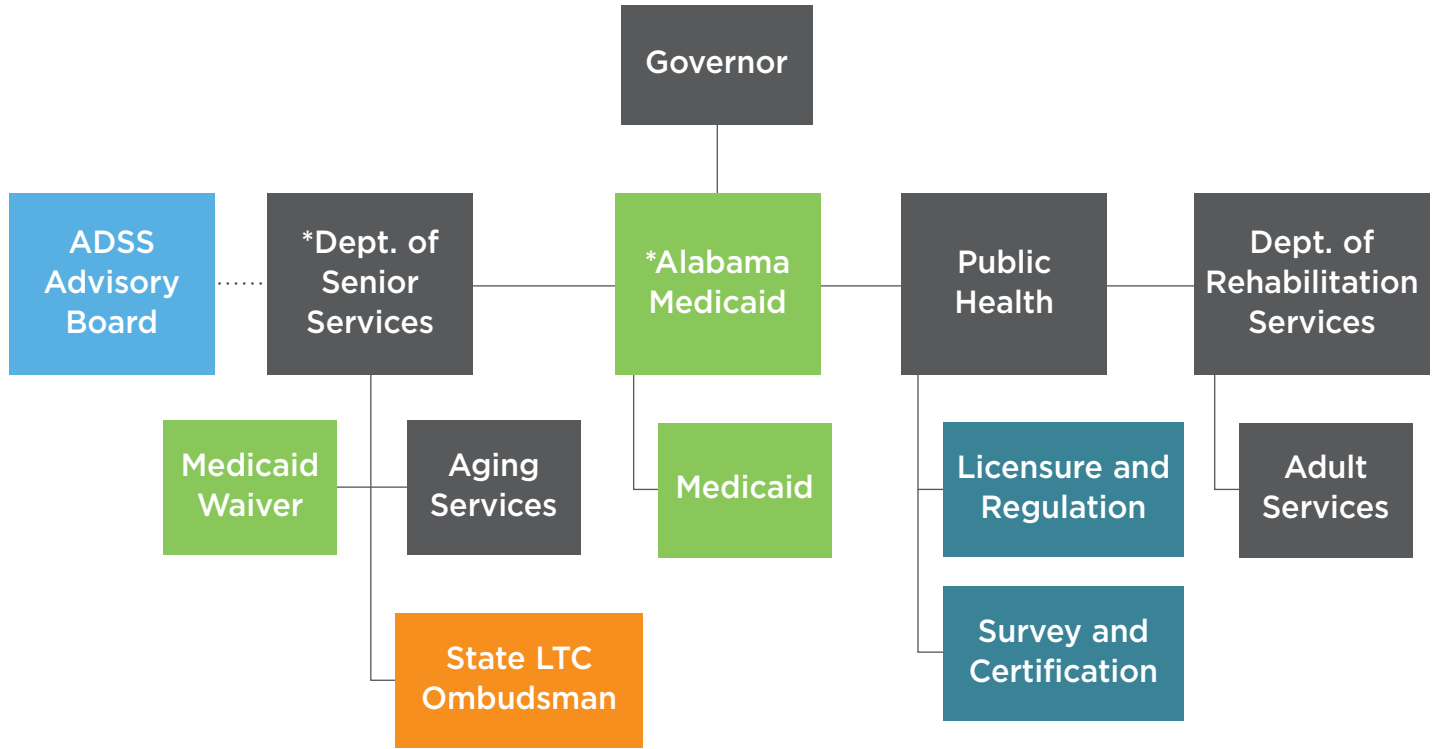
1. EVV Implementation
2. Mitigating Social Isolation
3. Lack of Affordable Housing
4. Supporting Caregivers
5. Shortage of Nurses for Skilled Services

Agency Funding Sources

Total FY2020 Budget \$155,892,081



Alabama Department of Senior Services



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aging or Physical Disability Services and Agency or Division with Multiple Functions ■ Medicaid Services ■ Long-term Care Ombudsman ■ Provider Regulation and Oversight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advisory Board Denotes an advisory board or a contractual/indirect reporting relationship. * Denotes Cabinet-level Agency |
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Responsibilities of Alabama's Department of Senior Services

Aging & Adult Services	
Set statewide aging policy	✓
Set statewide disability policy	
Administer Older Americans Act (all programs except SCSEP)	✓
Administer Senior Community Service Employment Program	✓
Administer a state-funded aging & disability program	✓
Manage state Aging & Disability Resource Center network	✓
Administer the State Health Insurance Assistance Program	✓
Provide Adult Protective Services (18+)	
Provide Elder Protective Services <i>only</i> (60-65+)	
Operate state-owned institutional facilities	
Oversee guardianship program	
Serve as state guardian	
Oversee Centers for Independent Living	✓
Administer State Vocational Rehabilitation Program	
Administer State Assistive Technology Program	
Manage No Wrong Door system	

Medicaid Services	
Administer Medicaid State Plan Services	✓
Administer Medicaid HCBS waiver(s)	✓
Administer PACE program	
Perform Medicaid functional eligibility determinations	✓
Perform Medicaid financial eligibility determinations	
Provide case management services to Medicaid recipients	✓
Administer PASRR	
Regulate and administer managed long-term services and supports	
Provide quality assurance for managed long-term services and supports	
Provide quality assurance for Medicaid HCBS	✓

Responsibilities for Provider Management	
Regulate institutional providers	
License institutional providers	
Regulate HCBS providers	
License HCBS providers	
Certify Assisted Living providers	

Key State Initiative

The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), through the thirteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), began purchasing and delivering robotic companion pets to socially isolated senior citizens and persons with disabilities throughout the state since evidence shows that loneliness can have a negative impact on mental and physical health. The interactive pets were made available to help combat social isolation by improving overall mood and quality of life. The pets are meant to be an alternative to traditional pet therapy and can help give a reprieve to caretakers who are stressed about caring for a loved one during the COVID-19 crisis, especially those who are living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Researchers say robotic companion pets can be a good alternative for people with dementia who fear animals or live in a home or healthcare facility that does not accept animals. Robotic companion pets have been used in various countries since 2003 and have previously shown positive results similar to those of real animals, according to a 2016 study published in the "Journal of Alzheimer's Disease," which looked to assess the effectiveness of robotic pet therapy in treating dementia-related symptoms such as anxiety and depression. Alabama's AAA's are completing the Dejong Gierveld Loneliness Scale at delivery of the pet, then at 3, 6, and 12-month intervals after delivery of the pet, as measuring loneliness will help to demonstrate the positive impact the robotic companion pets are having on people who need desperately need comfort and companionship.

