

Lakewood Division of Aging

CDBG Applicant Narrative

1. Mission

The City of Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Aging (DOA), was established by ordinance in 1973 to deliver a continuum of responsive services to the City's older residents. The Division's core programs are designed with a singular goal: to empower older adults to remain safely in their homes and engaged in their community, while maintaining a quality of life that is both meaningful and fulfilling.

2. Geographic Service Area

The Division of Aging serves the City of Lakewood 44107 postal zip code.

3. Target Population(s)

The Division of Aging serves all residents aged 60 and over based on the mandates of the Older American Act. The Target population of this program is Lakewood residents aged 62 and older and disabled adults who meet eligibility requirements.

4. Programs & Services

The Division of Aging (DOA), part of the City of Lakewood's Department of Human Services, is dedicated to enriching the lives of the City's older adults. With the opening of the new Cove Community Center, the DOA is enhancing its service delivery model to better meet the evolving needs of Lakewood's aging population.

By balancing health, safety, and social engagement, the DOA offers a comprehensive range of programs designed to address the diverse needs of older residents:

- Nutrition Services: Congregate Meals, Home Delivered Meals, and the Senior Farmers Market Program
- Transportation Services: General transportation, grocery shopping trips, and non-emergency medical transportation
- Senior Supportive Services: Comprehensive, person-centered support to help seniors navigate resources and remain independent
- Field Trips: Facilitated outings that encourage social interaction and community engagement
- Senior Center Activities and Programs: A mix of in-person and virtual offerings that promote connection and wellness
- Volunteer Program: Opportunities for residents, including seniors, to give back and stay engaged with the community

The DOA remains focused on addressing key challenges faced by older adults, including isolation, financial hardship, and health concerns. In close collaboration with community partners, the Division works to improve the well-being and quality of life of Lakewood's senior residents. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to support aging in place and ensure that all seniors have access to the resources they need to thrive.

5. Number & Demographic Profile of Clients Served (FY24)

1960 unduplicated seniors were served in FY24. Out of the 1960 seniors served:

- 307 lived with incomes at 100 percent of poverty or below
- 231 live with incomes between 100 and 150 percent of poverty
- 1399 are 75 years of age or older
- 1138 live alone, often DOA is their only support mechanism

6. Qualifications to Implement Proposed Project

Founded in 1973 in response to the Older Americans Act, the City of Lakewood's Division of Aging (DOA) has spent five decades serving the City's older residents. Grounded in the principles of the Act, the DOA remains deeply committed to supporting aging in place—an approach we believe is essential to maintaining quality of life and community connection. By addressing the specific needs of older adults and applying best practices in the field, we have developed programs that make a meaningful impact in the lives of Lakewood's seniors.

The Division's work is primarily funded through a combination of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and City of Lakewood General Fund dollars. This foundational support is complemented by competitive grant awards from key regional and philanthropic partners, including the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services, the Lakewood Foundation, and the Healthy Lakewood Foundation. The breadth and consistency of this support reflects both the credibility of the DOA and the demonstrated effectiveness of our service model.

Our team is composed of highly skilled and dedicated professionals, each contributing to our shared mission of service to older adults. The team includes two Licensed Social Workers (LSWs), each with a strong background in aging and family caregiving, and is led by a Senior Services Manager (MA, LSW) with extensive experience in geriatric care. All DOA social workers adhere to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Standards of Practice, ensuring ethical, competent, and client-centered care. Their role is to effectively link seniors and caregivers with the programs, resources, and supports that address both immediate needs and long-term goals.

The delivery of Senior Supportive Services is guided by three core pillars: problem identification, resource navigation, and ongoing support. Through close collaboration with local government agencies and community-based organizations, the DOA ensures that services remain responsive and up to date. Technology plays a key role in improving both service outcomes and operational efficiency. We continue to evaluate and refine our resources to ensure they reflect the changing needs of our senior population and empower residents to maintain their independence and dignity throughout the aging process.

7. Experience Administering Government Contracts & Complying with Federal Regulatory Requirements

The Department of Human Services and its Divisions have a longstanding history of managing and delivering services through government contracts. The Division of Aging (DOA) has consistently secured and administered funding through the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III, supporting a range of critical services such as transportation, congregate meals, and home-delivered meals. In 2025, these Title III funds total approximately \$114,100. The DOA has maintained full compliance with federal regulations associated with these programs since their inception in 1973. In addition to federal funding, the DOA also administers resources from the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services through the Community Social Services Program (CSSP). In 2025, DOA is responsible for managing approximately \$53,651 in CSSP funds, which support transportation and other supportive services for older adults in Lakewood. This continued management of multiple funding streams reflects the Division's capacity, fiscal responsibility, and commitment to delivering high-quality services aligned with both local and federal priorities.

8. FY25 Divisional Budget

- i. Total FY25 Divisional Budget \$1,384,174
- ii. FY25 Budgeted Operating Expenses

Expenditure Category	Amount	% Total Budget
Salaries & Fringe Benefits	\$1,028,749	83%
Operating Costs	\$105,425	8%
Capital Costs		
Indirect Costs		
Other: <i>Medical Transportation</i>	\$125,000	9%
Total	\$1,384,174	100%

iii. FY25 Budgeted Revenue Sources (Top 4)

#	Source	Amount	% Total Budget
1	General Fund	\$1,187,009	86%
2	Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging	\$114,100	8%
3	Community Social Services Program	\$53,651	4%
4	HUD	\$29,414	2%
Total		\$1,384,174	100%

9. Does Your Division Maintain the Following Documents?

- i. Personnel Manual/Grievance Procedures Yes ☒ No ☐
- ii. Affirmative Action Policy Yes ☒ No ☐

10. Does Your Division Have the Capacity to Serve Non-English-Speakers? Yes ☒ No ☐

11. Do Your Facilities Comply with ADA Accessibility Requirements? Yes ☒ No ☐