

Careers IN AGING — Month —

Week Four Focus: Home and Community-Based Services

Exploring an Aging-Related Career in... Home and Community-Based Services (including Senior Living and Aging Network)

Overview of career path: As we age, we benefit from a wide variety of services and supports that help us maintain a high quality of life and remain in our communities. Services might include congregate or home-delivered meals, senior centers, home health services, transportation, and senior living communities. Local Area Agencies on Aging are a key provider of home and community-based services. A career in this field enables you to lay the foundation for helping older people to thrive and continue to contribute to their families, and communities.

Passion: People working in home and community services use a wide variety of skills to help older adults, but all have the satisfaction of meeting important community needs. Some people in this field will enjoy direct contact with older adults; others will gain satisfaction from advocacy and management of vital community services and resources.

Purpose: People in the field of home and community supports and services are organizing, providing, managing, and advocating for services that allow older adults to age in place or in a residential community. Working in this field gives you a chance to be a key part of your local community.

Possibilities: While some jobs in this field are dependent on government or grant funding, the need for these services is growing, and the private sector is increasingly involved in providing these services. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for Social and Human Service Assistants and for Social and Community Service Managers will grow faster than average over the next 10 years (<https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/human-services/careers-working-with-elderly/>).

Examples of Careers/Job Positions:

- A **case worker** at an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) will often meet with older adults in their home and help connect them with local services.
- A **senior center director** will take a strategic overview of the wellbeing of their clients and coordinate a committed team to advance programs and services involving the local community, including churches, schools, and businesses.
- An **activity coordinator** in a senior center or senior living residence will work with clients to create meaningful and engaging activities that are relevant to the community and enhance the lives of those attending.
- **Health care personnel** with varying levels of certification are integral to providing care to people at home and in residential settings. As well, **nutritionists, social workers, and occupational and physical therapists** are in demand.

For more information:

A variety of resources exist with additional information. Below are a few to explore.

[Profile about the work of a local Area Agency on Aging](#) (Youtube)

[Overview about senior centers from the National Council on Aging](#)
[Careers in Senior Living](#)