



Florida Association of
Aging Services Providers

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Florida Association of Aging Services Providers

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Message from the President

By Josh Newby, Council on Aging of West Florida, Inc.

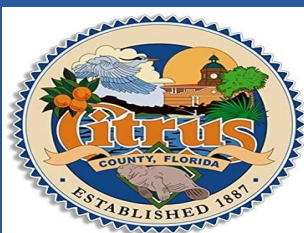


Part of me can't believe that the Florida Association of Aging Services Providers (FASP) has entrusted me with its leadership and strategic direction. Looking at past presidents: Darrell Drummond, Andrea Busada, and even my own predecessor John Clark, I am sincerely humbled to be counted among them, and I hope I make the network proud and move us forward in equal-parts wise and bold ways. The entire FASP board of directors is made up of friends and colleagues I constantly look to for inspiration, guidance and support. It is not an exaggeration to say that this network—much less I—would not be here were it not for them. So, thank you, genuinely.

Table of Contents

President's Message	1-2
2026 Legislative Budget	
Priorities	3-4
November is Alzheimer's	
Awareness Month	5
Senior Connections	
During the Holidays	6
Is Intergenerational	
Housing the Answer?	7
Defense is the Best	
Offense Against Scams	8
Supporting Caregivers	
When They Need it Most	9
World Kindness Day,	
November 13th	10
Tom Kammerdener,	
FASP Board Member	11
National Philanthropy	
Day, November 15th	12
Membership Rates	13
FL Aging Summit	
November 19th	14
Remembering Beverly	
Hougland	15
Thank You to Sponsors	16

This Issue's Sponsors





Several weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to meet in person with DOEA Sec. Michelle Branham and many of her wonderful staff. I think many of us providers are intimidated or at least timid about meeting with the Secretary—I know I was—but in all my interactions with her she has been lovely, relatable, and even in areas of disagreement, friendly. We discussed many things great and not so great: the strength and camaraderie of the network, the aligned mission we share of making seniors' lives better in a tangible way, but also late contracts, funding delays, software frustrations, the unit costing methodology, and legislative whiplash.

She said something that stuck with me, which was, "You and I can talk all day about the bureaucracy and the nuances of the handbook and service delivery, the UCM and on and on. But ultimately, none of that matters to the elder adult sitting at home, alone, disabled, hungry and dirty."

It's easy to get bogged down in the day-to-day details of what we do, easy to feel overwhelmed by monitoring or conflicting guidance or low rates, but we must remember why we're here. These senior adults very often have nothing. But they have us. They have our passion and our creativity and our resilience. And they deserve so much better than the status quo, they have earned so much more than the bare minimum I think we are often tempted to accept.

To that end, and in honor of the Secretary's perspective, I encourage us to be bold. As a good friend of mine and fellow FASP board member said recently, "We're not really doing our job if we're not pushing DOEA and Tallahassee as a whole and advocating for the very best for elder adults."

It is all too easy to just go along to get along. It is too easy to sugar-coat the truth on the ground. No one knows that truth better than you and me, no one experiences that truth more viscerally than the tens of thousands of seniors on the waiting list. It can be scary to push for more; there is a lot at stake in our businesses and our finances and our future. But personally, I did not get into this field because I was content with the way things were.

That's not why I work long hours. That's not why you pinch pennies and squeeze every last bit of value out of our reimbursement rates. If we're going to be in this, let's truly be in this. Seniors cannot advocate for themselves. It's our job to make Tallahassee do their job. Many, many elected officials and agency staff and cabinet leadership do of course, but they're not experts in the way you and I are. They're depending on us, just like the tens of thousands of seniors we serve every day.

I'm humbled to stand shoulder to shoulder with you, committed to the fight.

Josh Newby

Overview of 2026 Legislative Budget Priorities

The FASP Board should begin by adopting these legislative priorities in collaboration with F4A, the Florida Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the Florida Council on Aging. This timing is critical, as Governor DeSantis' Office of Budget and Policy is currently finalizing his budget.



Legislative Budget Priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session:

Priority 1: Increase Funding for Community Care for the Elderly Program (CCE): \$10,000,000

- Justification: Provides funding to serve 1,497 of the most-frail, most at-risk seniors on the DOEA waiting list who need assistance at home to avoid or delay the need for nursing home care. The CCE program provides essential in-home care services such as personal care, home-delivered meals, homemaker services, transportation, companion care, and respite care for caregivers to frail seniors who do not qualify for Medicaid.

Current Statewide Waiting List of Category 3/4/5: 39,806 seniors

Priority 2: Increase Funding for Alzheimer's Disease Initiative Program (ADI): \$6,000,000

- Justification: Provides funding to serve 412 seniors on the waiting list and to support caregivers providing such care. The ADI program provides essential respite, case management, and in-home services that support families, reduce caregiver burnout, and delay costly institutional care. By helping seniors remain independent and safe at home, ADI delivers both compassionate care and cost-effective solutions—making continued funding a vital investment in Florida's growing senior population.

Current Statewide Waiting List of Category 3/4/5: 11,006 seniors

Priority 3: Increase Funding for the Home Care for the Elderly Program (HCE): \$5,000,000

Justification: Provides funding to serve 1,349 seniors on the waiting list. The program serves seniors living at home with a caregiver who must meet Institutional Care Program eligibility standards and asset limitations, as well as be at risk of nursing home care. A basic monthly subsidy is provided to the adult caregiver for support and maintenance of the elder, including some medical costs. A special subsidy may be provided for personal care services and incontinence and nutritional supplies.

Current Statewide Waiting List of Category 3/4/5: 12,529 seniors

Continuation Funding for Local Service Programs (LSP):

LSP provides funding to expand long-term care alternatives that support non-Medicaid elders to maintain a favorable quality of life in their homes. LSP also targets unmet, specific community service needs, such as congregate or home-delivered meals in regions with high numbers of at-risk seniors.

What's Ahead:

- 2026 Legislative Session begins on January 13th
- We need all providers to make personal visits to their Legislators -- or invite them and their staff to holiday events and distribute our advocacy handouts to their offices and in person. Advocacy materials will be ready around Thanksgiving -- for providers to print off color copies. Call or email the FASP offices if you'd like for us to mail you hard copies when they are available. In the meantime, your FASP & FCOA staff will be sending printed copies to every Legislator's district office with a letter personally signed by Margaret Lynn Duggar, along with a hand-written message telling them how many voters aged 60 and older are in their district. Along with what percentage of their voters that represents. Plus, Tallahassee FASP & FCOA members will deliver hard copies of our advocacy piece directly to each Legislator's office at the Capitol at least once and possibly twice.



November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan officially designated November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. This was done to increase public understanding and awareness of the disease and its impact on millions of Americans and their families. At the time, less than 2 million Americans had Alzheimer's disease. According to the Alzheimer's Association, over 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease in 2025, and this number is projected to grow to nearly 13 million by 2050.



Alzheimer's Disease Quick Facts:

- It is the most common form of dementia.
- It is more common in women than in men.
- Older adults that are African American or Hispanic are more likely to have Alzheimer's disease or other dementias than Caucasians.
- Risk factors include age, family history of Alzheimer's, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and head injuries.
- It is the sixth-leading cause of death among Americans age 65 and older.
- The average life expectancy after diagnosis is four to eight years; however, some live as long as 20 years.
- Nearly 12 million Americans provide unpaid care for a friend or family member with dementia.

How to Get Involved:

- Wear teal or purple in November – Teal is the color the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) designated for Alzheimer's Awareness and purple is the official color of the Alzheimer's movement.
- Educate yourself and others – Learn about the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Share information with others to increase public awareness and understanding.
- Adopt brain-healthy habits – Help support brain health by maintaining habits such as a healthy diet, mental stimulation, quality sleep, exercise, and social connection.
- Fundraise – Organize or join a fundraiser. The Alzheimer's Association sponsors "Walk to End Alzheimer's" events locally.
- Volunteer – Find a volunteer opportunity directly with the Alzheimer's Association or contact a local volunteer center to find additional opportunities.
- Advocate – Support legislation that supports the improvement of caregiving resources and funding for Alzheimer's disease research.

Senior Socialization Activities and Connections During the Holidays

By Josephine Benson, Manager - Senior Services of Pasco County

The holiday season, while often filled with joy and celebration, can be a challenging time for many seniors. Feelings of loneliness, grief, and isolation tend to intensify during this period, especially for those who have lost loved ones or live far from family. However, with thoughtful planning and community support, seniors can experience warmth, connection, and a *renewed sense of belonging*.

One of the most impactful resources for combating holiday isolation is the local senior center. These centers serve as vibrant hubs of activity, offering a wide range of programs specifically designed to foster social engagement and emotional well-being. During the holidays, senior centers often host festive events such as holiday luncheons, themed dances, craft workshops, and musical performances. These gatherings not only celebrate the season but also create opportunities for seniors to meet new friends, share traditions, and feel part of a larger community.

Senior centers also provide structured volunteer opportunities, allowing older adults to give back in meaningful ways; whether through organizing toy drives, preparing meals for those in need, or mentoring younger generations. These acts of service can be deeply fulfilling and help seniors maintain a sense of purpose during the holidays.

For those who may be homebound or prefer quieter settings, senior centers frequently offer virtual programming. Online holiday card exchanges, Zoom-based storytelling sessions, and remote classes in art, music, or wellness ensure that seniors can stay connected from the comfort of their homes. Many centers also coordinate phone trees or buddy systems, where volunteers regularly check in with isolated members to offer companionship and support.

Neighborhood and home-based initiatives remain essential complements to these efforts. Decorating porches, organizing neighborhood strolls, exchanging care packages, and hosting intimate holiday meals with friends or neighbors can transform a quiet season into one filled with joy and togetherness. Senior centers often help facilitate these activities by providing supplies, coordinating volunteers, or connecting residents with local resources.

Emotional wellness is another critical focus during the holidays. Senior centers frequently offer grief counseling, support groups, and stress management workshops tailored to the unique challenges older adults face. These programs provide safe spaces for reflection, healing, and mutual encouragement.

By embracing the diverse offerings of senior centers, alongside community and home-based initiatives, seniors can cultivate lasting relationships and celebrate the season with warmth, dignity, and companionship. Ultimately, these strategies empower older adults to remain socially active, emotionally resilient, and joyfully engaged throughout the holidays and beyond.



Is Intergenerational Housing the Answer?

By Michelle Alford, Director - Citrus County Housing Services

There have been discussions regarding the affordable housing crisis for seniors, as well as discussions on possible solutions. One hot topic is Intergenerational Housing and how it could address the affordable housing gap.

What is Intergenerational Housing?

Intergenerational Housing is a living arrangement where multiple generations live in the same household or in a pre-planned housing community. One example can involve two or more adult generations of the same family living in the same household, such as a grandparent moving in with their adult children and grandchildren. Another example would be a community that specifically focuses on housing people of all ages, such as a housing development or apartment complex that is designed to encourage interaction. The intentions of these communities are to bring people of different age groups together on one property, often with shared spaces and that specifically focus on creating interaction across all age groups.

Intergenerational Housing is a solution that addresses issues like social isolation and increasing housing costs, by providing benefits such as shared expenses, built-in support, with a strong focus on creating relationships across generations.



Multigenerational Homes

Key Benefits:

Provides a Natural Support System – Allowing seniors to age in place with less financial burdens being imposed upon them. Sharing costs like utility and mortgage expenses can make daily living more affordable.

Benefits Both Seniors and Youth - Children benefit by having additional adults in their lives, while in turn seniors find happiness in living with children.

1. It combats social isolation for seniors, by creating a sense of companionship with a built-in support system
2. Encourages the exchange of skills, knowledge and experiences between different age groups which enhances the lives of all in the household.

Intergenerational Housing is a great answer to some of society's most pressing challenges, that satisfy housing needs on so many different levels. Though not without its own set of challenges, the growing interest in these types of arrangements suggests a collective desire for a future built on connection rather than separation.



Protecting the Senior Population: Defense Is the Best Offense Against Scams**

By Jennifer Martinez, Executive Director- Marion Senior Services

Florida's senior population is one of its greatest treasures but it also makes our state a prime target for scammers and fraudsters who prey on older adults' trust, generosity, and good nature. Each year, seniors across the state lose millions of dollars to phone scams, email fraud, and identity theft.

Here in Marion County, we know that ****defense is the best offense****. By staying informed, asking questions, and using the right resources, older adults can protect themselves — and their hard-earned savings — from those who try to take advantage.

At Marion Senior Services, we are committed to being part of that defense. Working in partnership with our State Attorney, Bill Gladson, and the Fifth Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office and local law enforcement, we developed the [Elder Fraud Resource Guide](#) — a comprehensive tool to help identify, prevent, and report scams targeting older adults.

The guide includes common red flags to watch for, steps to take if you suspect a scam, and contact information for trusted local and state resources. Whether it's a suspicious phone call, an email claiming you've won a prize, or a stranger asking for money, having the right information can make all the difference.

Together, we can create a safer community where our seniors live with confidence, dignity, and peace of mind.

Tips to Help Protect Yourself and Loved Ones:

Pause before responding. Scammers use pressure and emotion — take time to think before acting.

Verify, don't trust. Confirm any requests for money or information with a trusted friend, family member, or agency.

Never share personal information. Legitimate organizations won't ask for Social Security numbers, banking details, or passwords over the phone or by email.

Hang up or delete. It's okay to end a suspicious call or ignore a strange message.

Report it. Reporting scams helps protect others and strengthens our community's defenses.

The Florida Association of Aging Service Providers is proud to stand with our partners and our seniors — providing the education, tools, and support needed to stay safe. Together, we can make sure that those who built our communities continue to live in security and trust.

Check the [Elder Fraud Resource Guide](#) for more information.

The Heart of the Holidays — Supporting Caregivers When They Need It Most

By Jennifer Martinez, Executive Director - Marion Senior Services

The holidays can be a season of joy, warmth, and togetherness — but for caregivers, it can also be a season of exhaustion, worry, and emotional weight. Between managing holiday traditions, balancing family expectations, and caring for a loved one's daily needs, caregivers often find themselves running on empty.

Throughout our organizations, we have the privilege of standing beside these incredible humans — the sons, daughters, spouses, friends, and neighbors who give so much of themselves. Being of service to caregivers is more than just part of what we do; it's at the heart of who we are. We offer helping hands, listening ears, and open hearts so they can breathe a little easier, knowing they're not alone.

Every act of care we extend whether through respite support, a meal, transportation, or a simple moment of encouragement — reminds caregivers that they, too, deserve care and compassion. The holidays are a time to celebrate “them” as much as those they serve. Here are a few tips we can provide for their support.

5 Tips to Make the Holidays Easier for Caregivers:

1. **Simplify Traditions:** You don't need to do everything. Choose one or two meaningful traditions and let the rest go. Memories come from connection, not perfection.
2. **Ask for (and Accept) Help:** Allow friends, family, or service providers to lend a hand — whether it's preparing a meal, sitting with your loved one, or running an errand. Support is a gift, not a burden.
3. **Create Moments for Yourself:** Even ten quiet minutes with a cup of coffee, a walk outside, or a call with a friend can renew your energy and perspective.
4. **Communicate Your Needs:** Be honest about what you can and cannot do this season. Setting boundaries protects your well-being and strengthens your relationships.
5. **Remember You're Doing Enough:** Caregiving is love in action. It's not about grand gestures but about showing up — and that's more than enough.

As service providers, we are honored to walk beside caregivers, helping them find balance, comfort, and moments of peace during this special time of year. The holidays may not always be easy, but together, we can make them gentler — filled with grace, gratitude, and shared humanity.





November 13, 2025 - World Kindness Day: A Day of Kindness for Seniors

By Cindy Moody CFRE, Marion Senior Services

On World Kindness Day, we are reminded of the power of kindness and the difference each of us can make in the lives of others. At Marion Senior Services, our mission is rooted in compassion and a commitment to serving the disabled, disadvantaged, and isolated seniors in our community. Every meal delivered, every ride given, and every caring interaction is more than just a service—it is a life-line of connection and dignity.

Far too many of our seniors face challenges that most of us take for granted. Limited mobility, chronic health conditions, and financial strain often make even simple daily activities difficult. For many, these struggles are compounded by isolation. Loneliness can be as detrimental to health as physical illness, and without support, seniors may suffer quietly in the shadows of our neighborhoods.

That is why the role of neighbors, friends, and family is so vital. Philanthropy is not just about donating money or resources—it is also about giving of our time, attention, and care. We encourage everyone to take a moment to check in on the seniors in your life. A simple phone call, a shared meal, or an offer to run errands can be the difference between someone feeling invisible and someone feeling valued.

Watch for signs that a senior may need help: unopened mail piling up, difficulty keeping up with appointments, missed social activities, or noticeable changes in behavior or routine. These small indicators may be the first signals that they are struggling. By stepping in early, we can prevent crisis, offer support, and reassure our seniors that they are not alone.

On this Day of Kindness, we at Marion Senior Services invite you to join us in building a community where every senior is seen, supported, and cherished. Together, through compassion and care, we can ensure that our elders who once cared for us are never left without someone to lean on.

Because kindness, after all, is the truest form of philanthropy.



WORLD
KINDNESS
DAY

Tom Kammerdener, President & CEO of Aging Matters in Brevard
FASP Board Member - District VII



Aging Matters in Brevard

1h · 🌐



For the first time since 1965 local seniors in most critical need are on a Meals on Wheels wait list. That's why President & CEO Tom Kammerdener unfurled their names on a scroll before our Brevard County Legislative Delegation yesterday asking the state to help drive down the list in its coming session. Learn more about the issues facing Space Coast Seniors at AgingMattersBrevard.org





National Philanthropy Day, celebrated each year on November 15th, is a day to recognize and honor the impact of philanthropy and those who work to make a difference in their communities and around the world. It's a time to celebrate the countless ways individuals, nonprofits, businesses, and communities come together to create lasting change through generosity.



FASP MEMBERSHIP RATES ARE INCREASING



**BEAT THE DUES INCREASE AND RENEW
BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025.**

**NEW RATE INCREASE TAKES EFFECT WITH ALL
MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026.**

	Current Rates through December 31st	NEW RATES - As of January 1st
Individual	\$100	\$125
Organizational	\$300	\$350
Government	\$350	\$400
Corporate	\$600	\$700

FASP represents the full array of direct service providers that serve the aging community in Florida. Its philosophy is that an organization speaking with one collective voice can achieve more positive results than individuals acting alone.

FASP, through leadership, training, networking, and advocacy, strengthens and supports organizations that help older persons.

RENEW at www.fasp.net - Click Membership in left bar - Click Apply or Renew Now!

INVOICE REQUESTS OR QUESTIONS
call 850-222-3524 or email
moreinfo@fasp.net





**Florida
Aging
Summit**

News Service
FLORIDA

**Advancing
Opportunities
for Older Adults
Across Florida**

November 19, 2025

Florida Aging Summit — November 19th in Tallahassee

FASP members are invited to attend the **Florida Aging Summit**, presented in partnership with [The News Service of Florida](#). This half-day program will bring together agency leaders, legislators, health plans, AAAs and aging-services providers to discuss the future of aging in Florida. The event opens with a networking breakfast followed by sessions on caregiving, healthy aging, housing and workforce solutions.

Speakers include: Michelle Branham (DOEA), Shavaun Harris (AHCA),
Sen. Kathleen Passidomo

FASP members receive 25% off with code **FASP**.

[Register Here!](#)



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Beverly Hougland
Osceola Council on Aging
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