

# 2019 Policy Priorities

For 20 years, the American Association of Service Coordinators (AASC) has represented the interests of service coordinators while also providing guidance and training on best practices. Our more than 3,000 members play a pivotal role in nationwide efforts to promote self-sufficiency among older adults, persons with disabilities and families living in affordable housing.

Each year, AASC sets policy priorities that guide our organization's work as well as our advocacy. These priorities are targeted to the programs that directly impact service coordination. Therefore, they don't encompass the myriad of federal policies and resources affecting Americans living in affordable housing, which AASC also watches closely and cares about deeply.

We believe it's necessary for decision makers at all levels to take service coordination into consideration as part of a holistic approach to preparing for a massive demographic shift that is currently underway. As our aging population continues to grow rapidly, the nation will look to provide older adults with better, more affordable care in their communities. Service coordinators are already working to achieve these goals, but there are far too few of them to meet the needs.

Because of that, AASC's ongoing goal is to preserve existing service coordination programs while expanding them. Bringing service coordinators to more properties as well as into the community will help address America's growing need for supportive services that aim to keep people healthier, safer and in their own homes.

## Service Coordination *BY THE NUMBERS*

**66%**

How much less it costs nationally for older adults to live independently with the assistance of a service coordinator than in a nursing home.

**3/4**

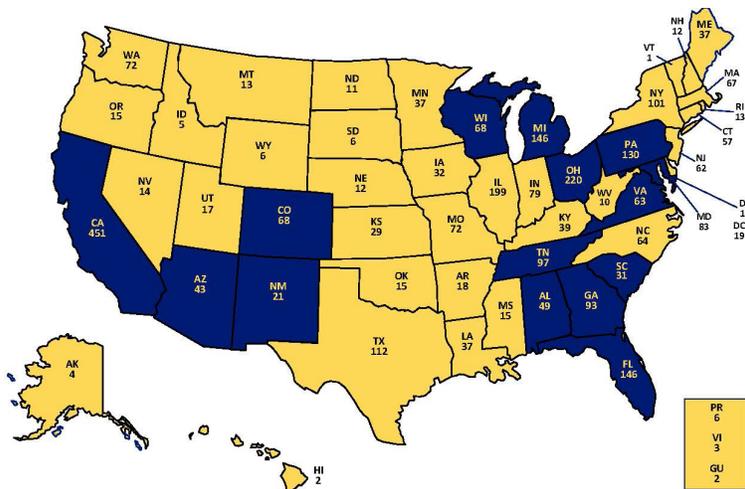
The fraction of Americans eligible for housing assistance that currently don't receive it because there aren't enough properties to house them.

**18.3**

Average number of services provided to residents by service coordinators using the AASC Online documentation system.

**94**

Percentage of residents with service coordinators who in 2018 continued living independently instead of moving to facilities or homes with higher care levels.



## Serving Residents Nationwide

Properties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories have service coordinator programs. But according to HUD, less than a quarter of the nearly 20,000 multifamily housing sites that are eligible for a service coordinator are able to cover the costs through available federal grant funding or excess operating funds.

# AASC Urges Policy Makers to Preserve and Expand Service Coordination

**Join AASC and its more than 3,000 members across the country in supporting proposals that strengthen service coordination and enrich more housing with supportive services to the potential benefit of millions of Americans. The following are AASC's 2019 policy priorities.**

- Continue to appropriate \$90 million for service coordinators in federally-assisted housing. This will ensure adequate funds for expiring grants for existing service coordinator positions.
- Appropriate \$30 million in new funding for FY20 to support service coordinators in 500 additional Section 202 communities.
- Appropriate \$600 million for Section 202 housing, which will allow for new construction.
- Support funding for programs that place service coordinators in community settings with the goal of improving wellness outcomes and increasing the number of residents who are capable of aging in place.
- Recognize the opportunity for service coordinators to be a workforce solution as the nation faces a social worker shortage and a sharp increase in the number of older adults who must age in place because of a severe lack of senior housing.
- Fully fund Section 8, PRAC, other rent subsidies, and project operating funds to permit the staffing of a service coordinator as a routine part of the housing property's operating budget. Just like the property manager and maintenance person, the service coordinator should be considered essential staff for the operation of affordable housing for the elderly. The service coordinator position not only saves funds for the residents on fixed incomes, but also saves taxpayer dollars by keeping residents in less costly, independent living environments as opposed to assisted living or even more costly nursing home care.
- Appropriate a minimum of \$10 million in FY20 to fund a competitive grant for service coordinators in Section 514, 515, and 516 programs under USDA.
- Direct HUD and its regional hub offices to provide necessary budget adjustments and regulatory relief to remove any barriers restricting the staffing of service coordinators through a property's operating budget.
- Extend funding and the evaluation timeline for HUD's Integrated Wellness in Supportive Housing (IWISH) demonstration, which is testing an enhanced service coordination model to help low-income older adults age in place.