

2-1-1 HELPS KEEP PENNSYLVANIANS SAFE IN THEIR HOMES



2-1-1 refers seniors and others in need to agencies and programs that keep them healthy and independent.

FACT

Seniors age 60 or older will make up 29%, or 4 million, of Pennsylvania's population in 2030. This is an increase from the current 2.2 million seniors in PA.¹

This growth will represent an increase in the number of contacts to 2-1-1 for referrals for utility assistance, meals, and transportation, among others.

FACT

Housing a senior in a Pennsylvania nursing home costs between \$69,500 and \$135,000 annually.¹

It is burdensome for seniors and other family members to bear the costs of living in nursing homes or assisted living. These costs will only continue to rise. 2-1-1 provides other alternatives to help keep seniors and others independent in their own homes.

FACT

2-1-1 referrals assist seniors and those unable to leave the home easily with home modifications, meals, legal aid, transportation and utility assistance that can help them remain independent.

29,826 seniors were provided basic needs assistance through 2-1-1 referrals, keeping them healthy and self-sufficient.²

PLEASE VOTE TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S 2-1-1 SYSTEM IN THIS YEAR'S STATE BUDGET TO CONTINUE OFFERING CRITICAL SERVICES AND REFERRALS WHICH KEEP PENNSYLVANIANS SAFE IN THEIR HOMES.

¹ Pennsylvania Health Care Association, Long-Term Care Trends and Statistics, 2016
² 2-1-1 data

WHAT IS 2-1-1?

Every hour of every day, people need essential human services. Through 2-1-1 people connect to a wide range of services from disaster relief to utility assistance, senior citizen programs, emergency food, job counseling, youth programs and much more. The information provided comes from the 2-1-1 statewide resource database. The common software also records information about consumer contacts and needs. PA 2-1-1 is the single-most comprehensive source of assistance and volunteer information covering all sectors of service both private and public.

2-1-1 IN PENNSYLVANIA

2-1-1 is a health and human services referral line that has been established nationwide for the past 20 years. Last year, 161,174 Pennsylvanians contacted PA 2-1-1 for help on a range of issues. These are veterans, victims of drug and alcohol addiction, seniors, and job seekers, among many others. Currently, this essential service receives the majority of its funding from the Pennsylvania United Way network, approx. \$3 million each year.

2-1-1 strives to be a public-private partnership for information and referral via all communication channels.

We urge the state to partner with United Way to grow the 2-1-1 service. We are asking for a \$1.5 million annual investment, for a minimum of 3 years, to continue building the 2-1-1 network and increase the consistency of service across the state. With this investment, PA 2-1-1 can enhance its current capacity to help more residents on their path to self-sufficiency and provide data to drive human service planning and policy improvements. We can also extend coverage to communities who currently don't have access to 2-1-1 in Northwest PA.

United Way and PA 2-1-1 hope to increase efficiency and effectiveness by leveraging private support and partnering to eliminate silos for state information and referral functions currently housed in multiple state agencies. In other states, 2-1-1 contracts with state government to provide information and referral or initial intake for public assistance programs such as food stamps and homeless services. Other state 2-1-1s are also activated during disaster response to help with public information, rumor control, volunteer and donation coordination as well as non-emergency contacts.

PLEASE VOTE TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S 2-1-1 SYSTEM IN THIS YEAR'S STATE BUDGET TO CONTINUE OFFERING CRITICAL SERVICES AND REFERRALS TO KEEP PENNSYLVANIANS SAFE IN THEIR HOMES.

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