

Virginia Center on Aging Annual Report

The Virginia Center on Aging (VCoA) is a statewide agency located on the Medical College of Virginia Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. VCoA was created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1978 (Code of Virginia 23.1-2311).

Mission: The VCoA advances health, well-being and equity for the elders of today and tomorrow. Our innovative research, critical education and impactful service strive to make Virginia a place where its people can thrive at every age. The VCoA is guided by four foundational objectives:

Research: To conduct and disseminate gerontological and geriatric research to create and share evidence-based, best-practice approaches to improve health, well-being and equity.

Education: To provide high-quality educational opportunities in gerontology and geriatrics to students, staff, faculty, the community and health and human service providers throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

Service: To identify and respond to evolving community needs in order to advance the quality of life through real-world impact.

Resource: Leveraging our wide reach and the high level of expertise of VCoA's faculty and staff, we serve as a Statewide Resource Center to disseminate and translate knowledge for key decision-makers, professionals, elders, advocates and aging services providers.



Annual Numbers to Celebrate

Provided education, workforce development, training, and innovations through research, touching over

25,000 people

Built bridges to enhance care & service provision, cutting edge findings, knowledge across disciplines by partnering with over

175 organizations

With every dollar going to improving quality of life for older adults in Virginia, VCoA dispersed

\$416,000

Major Successes



Combating the “Shadow Pandemic”

VCoA's Abuse in Later Life Project is renowned for its high level of community engagement. In 2021, AiLL partnered with 96 other organizations to address elder mistreatment and abuse. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has been accompanied by what the UN calls a “shadow pandemic” – abuse has skyrocketed. Elder abuse continues to rise, and demand for AiLL's work has grown rapidly. As a result, the project saw a 100% increase in reach in 2021.

VCoA's Abuse in Later Life Project saw a 100% increase in reach in 2021.

Personal development:

“I simply couldn't have survived without this outlet”

The Lifelong Learning Institute in Chesterfield offered 494 courses in the Calendar Year 2021 which included both in-person and online learning opportunities. “I can feel my world becoming smaller--lost family, lost friends, lost abilities. Having been a member of LLI (especially in these COVID days) is especially important to me. I simply couldn't have survived without this outlet.” – Mrs. Boyd, LLI participant



“The most effective pilot research program of its kind in the country”

With \$4.38 Million appropriated as of July 2021 competitively awarded since 1982, Alzheimer's & Related Diseases Research Award Fund has returned \$12 for each \$1 appropriated by the General Assembly. Awardees have obtained \$52.9 million in related grant funding, 6 patents, and 313 subsequent publications in peer-reviewed journals. “The ARDRAF is certainly the oldest and arguably the most effective pilot research program of its kind in the country.”

A critical need

Virginia Geriatric Education Center (VGEC) is interprofessional, interuniversity education for health care professionals across the state to improve the quality of care for older adults. In 2021 VGEC provided Project ECHO, which reached the majority (72%) of eligible nursing homes in the state with critical, urgent COVID-19 safety information and training.



Within the university

In 2021 VCoA staff and faculty taught 5 courses at VCU – next year this number grows to 9. Between student and workforce development within VCU, VCoA touched hundreds within the university in 2021 with high level expertise in geriatrics, gerontology, and innovations in the research.