

## **ACL Office of Performance and Evaluation**

### **FY 2024-28 Strategic Vision**

#### **Background**

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is an operating division within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), with the mission of maximizing the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities across the lifespan, and their families and caregivers. ACL was created around the fundamental principle that all people, regardless of age or disability, should be able to live where they choose, with the people they choose, and fully participate in their communities.

ACL's Office of Performance and Evaluation (OPE) is an office within ACL's Center for Policy and Evaluation that, in collaboration with constituents, including partners across ACL, HHS, other federal agencies, states, tribes, and community-based organizations, and in accordance with the Older Americans Act, (OAA), develops, oversees, and manages efforts in the following areas:

- Performance Standards and Measures
- Evaluation and Assessment
- Research and Analysis

#### **Objective**

OPE supports ACL's mission to advance independence and inclusion of older adults and people with disabilities by addressing the most pressing questions related to OAA delivery networks and programs. Through the deployment of consistent performance standards and measures, the use of rigorous evaluation and assessment protocols, and engaging in thoughtful research, analysis, and reporting, OPE will also:

- Work to achieve the requirements and goals within the Older Americans Act and its subsequent regulations; the Government Performance, Results, and Accountability Act; the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act of 2018, and the HHS Data Strategy; and the OPE Performance Strategy
- Address HHS and ACL leadership priorities to inform planning and decision-making through rigorous research and analysis

#### **Approach**

OPE is committed to working closely with constituents to develop and execute timely and relevant analysis, performance, evaluation, and research activities related to delivery networks and programs authorized by the OAA the development of:

Consistent Performance Standards and Measures: ACL establishes performance standards and measures in order to understand the extent to which it is advancing its mission, to ensure legislative requirements are being met, and to examine progress toward programmatic goals and objectives.

In collaboration with constituents, OPE:

- Maintains an ACL Performance Strategy;
- Provides consultation and technical assistance for ACL programs;
- Utilizes a rigorous approach to developing, piloting, setting, and modifying performance measures and targets for OAA programs;
- Supports the data systems and technical assistance necessary for OAA grantee reporting of performance data and public access to the data; and
- Reviews, analyzes, and reports on OAA performance data – identifying progress, trends, and opportunities for improvement.

Rigorous Evaluation and Assessment: ACL is committed to conducting rigorous, relevant evaluation and assessment of OAA delivery networks and programs. This includes evaluations required by statute, as well as evaluations and assessments addressing areas of priority or need. These categories address capacity and operation, reach and access, service design and delivery, impact, and opportunities for learning and improvement.

Consistent with HHS' approach to evaluation, OPE seeks to understand:

- Methods by which OAA delivery networks and programs function;
- The extent to which these delivery network and programs are reaching populations of greatest social need;
- Ways in which OAA delivery networks and programs are addressing health-related and social needs of populations served by OAA programs;
- Trends, innovations, and changes among individuals, organizations, systems, relevant outcomes; and
- Strategies for strengthening OAA delivery networks and program access, design and delivery, and impact.

Thoughtful Research and Analysis: OPE expands knowledge and evidence of OAA delivery networks and programs by:

- Developing and conducting policy-relevant research projects to address ACL leadership and programmatic priorities and OAA requirements;
- Conducting both intramural and extramural analysis in support of priorities and requirements, using internal and external data sources;
- Increasing the repository of information about evidence-based programs and supporting the development of new programs and approaches; and
- Disseminating research and analysis findings through publications, presentations, and other means to a variety of audiences.