

GOAL #5 – ENERGY / UTILITIES NEEDS

Prohibitive energy / utilities put our older adults and adults with functional impairments at risk during the winter and summer months.

RATIONALE

Needs assessments continue to support the need for reduced energy / utility costs and the need for the provision of firewood to enable the older adults and adults with functional impairments to live in an environment which promotes health and well-being. A large number of people live on limited incomes which do not support the basic provision of home, food, and prescriptions. Heat and air conditioning is viewed as a luxury which few can afford. Without a reasonable temperature in their dwelling, their health becomes a risk factor.

While the PSA2AAA does not receive funding specific to utility and heating needs, it is the goal of PSA2AAA to strive to help where ever possible.

OBJECTIVES

- A. The PSA2AAA Advisory Council will develop a county workgroup which will determine “What is working in each County”, at a local level. This information will then be shared with the other members of the Advisory Council in other counties. The members will then solicit community support to implement the “What is working” (in other counties) into their own county.
- B. The PSA2AAA Advisory Council members will contact local service groups (youth groups, 4H, churches, and other service groups) to encourage their commitment to help our older adults and adults with functional impairments meet their utility / heating / air conditioning needs (e.g., wood cutting, etc.)
- C. The PSA2AAA staff will instruct the Information and Assistance providers to include the services available within the community service lectures and outreach programs. This effort will assist those in need in meeting their utility/heating/air conditioning needs.
- D. The PSA2AAA staff will conduct an Information and Assistance survey to inquire what programs and utility discounts are available in each county.

This information will then be shared with other county Information and Assistance programs to insure that all services available are fully utilized.

- E. The PSA 2 staff will encourage all service providers to contact the local Work Alternative Programs (e.g., through jail and court systems, etc.) to help with the manual labor items such as chopping wood at community focal points which could then be delivered to the homes of older adults and adults with functional impairment by utilizing volunteers.