

**Department of Health and Social Services**

**Division of Services for Aging and  
Adults with Physical Disabilities**



**Dr. Shekelia Hines, DPT  
Division Director**

**Joint Finance Committee Hearing  
Fiscal Year 2027 Budget**

**March 2, 2026**

Good morning, Senator Paradee, Representative Williams, members of the Joint Finance Committee, and members of the public. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and to share our accomplishments and the Fiscal Year 2027 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB).

The Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD) supports older adults and adults with physical disabilities in the community, reaching 23,000 Delawareans each year. While many of our programs mirror services available through Medicaid, our participants are often not Medicaid eligible. We also operate Adult Protective Services, and the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill.

## Accomplishments

State Plan on Aging Progress

Older Americans Act (OAA) Final Rule Compliance

Waitlist Reduction and Service Coordination



In 2025, we made solid progress implementing the State Plan on Aging, which took effect in October 2024, with a strong emphasis on cross-departmental collaboration. We strengthened the Senior Nutrition Program, expanded public awareness of Adult Protective Services through targeted outreach, built a more centralized, coordinated approach to home modifications, and introduced new caregiver supports in partnership with the Division of Development Disabilities Services.

At the same time, we completed a full review and update of our policies and procedures to meet all requirements of the Older Americans Act Final Rule by the October 1, 2025, compliance deadline, which required changes to eligibility, emergency preparedness, and other standards.

We also reduced waitlists and improved service coordination by adding Medicaid enrollment specialists, who supported more than 200 applications and helped over 150 individuals transition from DSAAPD waitlists into Medicaid-funded services. Finally, we implemented the InterRAI assessment tool to strengthen care planning, better identify risks and service gaps, and support timely, person-centered services. Together, these efforts reflect a continued focus on innovation, collaboration, and delivering high-quality supports that help older adults and individuals with disabilities age in place and remain safely connected to their homes and communities.

## Accomplishment



- Innovative, on-demand transportation for DSAAPD clients with no other options
- Statewide access with up to 24 one-way rides per month
- Supports medical appointments, essential services, and community engagement
- Customized rides address mobility, sensory, and cognitive needs
- Promotes independence, prevents isolation, and supports community living
- Demonstrates excellence and innovation in meeting critical access gaps



### Pilot Programs & Special Projects

DSAAPD has implemented several pilot programs and special projects to address service gaps and test new approaches. While we could talk about each one, for the sake of time we want to focus on a pilot that clearly shows both impact and innovation, the GoGo Transportation Program.

GoGo is an on-demand transportation pilot for older adults and adults with physical disabilities who have no other reliable way to get where they need to go. It provides statewide, door-to-door transportation for existing DSAAPD clients.

This program is vital because transportation access directly affects health, independence, and quality of life, and a lack of transportation exacerbates isolation and creates a higher risk of long-term care facility placement. GoGo addresses this gap by offering rides that are customized to individual mobility, sensory, and cognitive needs. The program launched in January 2025, and by November 2025 participants had already received more than 700 rides. Utilization data shows the greatest need in Kent and Sussex Counties.

## FY 2027 Governor's Recommended Budget (\$ in Millions)

	GF	ASF	NSF	Total
FTEs	536	0	25	561
Dollars (\$)	\$76,811.0	\$3,677.5	\$12,995.2	\$93,483.7



**Budget Definitions:**

GF – General Funds  
 ASF – Appropriated Special Funds  
 NSF – Non-Appropriated Special Funds  
 FTEs – Full-Time Equivalent Positions

The slide above shows the budget included in the FY 2027 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB).

Our Division's FY 2027 GRB is:

- \$77 Seventy-Seven Million dollars in General Funds (GF);
- \$3.7 Three point seven Million dollars in Appropriated Special Funds (ASF); and
- \$13 Thirteen Million dollars in Non-Appropriated Special Funds (NSF).
- For a Total Recommended Budget of \$93 Ninety-Three Million dollars.

## FY 2027 Governor's Recommended Budget

(\$ in Thousands)

	GF	ASF	NSF	Total
PAS	\$383.3	\$184.7	\$0	\$568.5

**Abbreviations:**

PAS – Personal Attendant Services

The recommended budget includes a switch fund request of \$380.0 [Three Hundred Eighty Thousand dollars] from Tobacco Settlement - Appropriated Special Funds to General Funds, which supports Personal Attendant Services (PAS). The Personal Attendant Services program is an important component of the community-based long-term care system supported by DSAAPD. As the Health Fund Advisory Committee (HFAC) has raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the budget supports shifting remaining programs from Tobacco Settlement Funds back to General Funds.



# Looking Ahead

---

- Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill (DHCI) New Facility Build
- Outreach/Education/Access



## **DHCI New Facility Build**

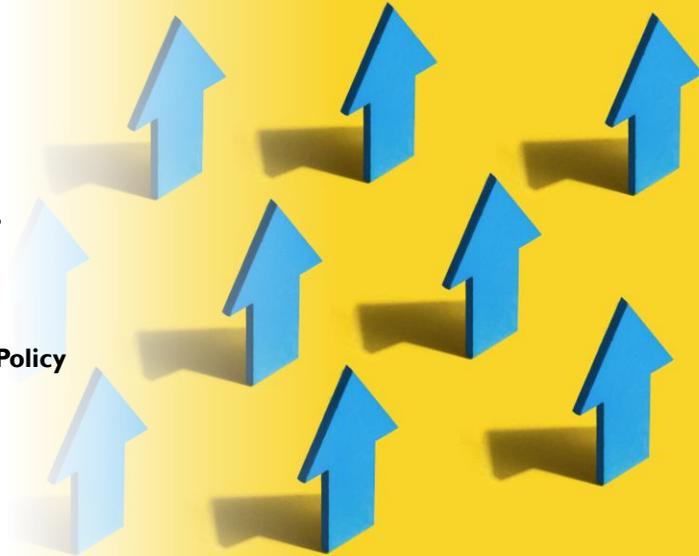
In August 2025, the State broke ground on a new 120-bed, three-story Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill to replace the aging Candee Building. This new facility will modernize care delivery, consolidate services, and create a more home-like, person-centered environment, with an anticipated opening in 2027.

## **Outreach, Education, and Access**

Stakeholders have been clear about the need for a stronger DSAAPD presence in communities to improve awareness and access to services. In response, DSAAPD is realigning staff roles to support more targeted outreach, while continuing statewide engagement and close collaboration with state and federal partners to sustain successful initiatives beyond one-time funding.

# Looking Ahead

- Population Trends – Growing Older Population
- Federal Funding & Policy Impacts



## Longevity and Population Trends

Delaware's population is aging at a pace that current systems and planning cannot keep up with. Nearly 290,000 (Two Hundred and Ninety Thousand) Delawareans are already age 60 and older, including almost 19,000 (Nineteen Thousand) age 85 and above, the group most likely to require intensive services. By 2030, Delaware is projected to rank 9th nationally for the proportion of adults age 65 and older. This growth is not hypothetical. It is happening now and it is putting immediate pressure on already strained affordable housing, transportation, and service capacity across the state. As demand continues to surge, DSAAPD is working across departments, divisions, and with community partners to deliver high-quality, innovative services that support aging in place and help people remain safely in their homes.

## Federal Funding and Policy Impacts

Looking ahead, we anticipate growth in our participant population as federal policy changes affect services such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). When these new requirements push people off federal programs, DSAAPD becomes the safety net. This increases waitlists and pressure on home and community-based services that are essential to aging in place, shifts costs to the state, and increases the risk of crisis care for vulnerable Delawareans.



Thank you for the opportunity to share some updates on our Division.