

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2025, Elder Options continued to champion older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers through impactful programs and advocacy efforts. The year also brought real challenges; however, with strong community support and the dedication of our team, the organization was able to stay focused and move forward.

Despite these challenges, Elder Options provided direct services to 7,771 clients, while 9,022 clients remain on waiting lists. These numbers reflect the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners' commitment to the mission. As we move into 2026, we continue to adapt to meet the needs of the people we serve.

Helpline: 1-800-262-2243
www.agingresources.org



OUR VISION

Envisioning communities where individuals are respected for their wisdom and experience, supported in their choices, and able to live with health, security, and dignity.

OUR MISSION

To provide trusted, unbiased information, resources, and assistance while advocating for stronger communities, enhancing support systems, and promoting innovative services prioritizing personal choice and independence.

WHO WE ARE



Elder Options provides information and referral services, benefits counseling, screening and eligibility assistance, Healthy Aging workshops on diabetes, classes for improving and maintaining balance (Tai Chi), one-on-one help for depression, SHINE Medicare counseling, and Caregiver Training and Support and we administer state and federal pass-through funds via grants awarded to contracted service providers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Esseck, President, Shirley Green Brown, Immediate Past President, Mary Dukes, Vice President, Jeff Greenspan, Treasurer, Mildred Milligan, Secretary, Marcia Burr, Victoria Conklin, Phyllis R. McKnight, Mary Mitchell, Cheryl Danley

ADVISORY COUNCIL

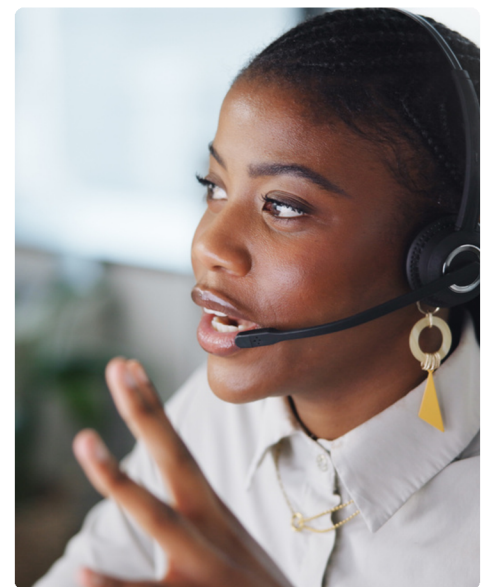
Charles Barrett, Chair, Marie McCloud, Co-chair, Annie B. Brooks, Secretary, Alphonso L. Johnson, Alicia Maxwell, Beverley Fountain, Carnell Williams, Minerva Santiago, Sandra E. Buck-Camp, Trish Gleason

Elder Options brings programs and services together to help older adults stay independent, supported, and connected—right in their own communities.

THE ENTRY POINT - THE ELDER HELPLINE

1-800-262-2243

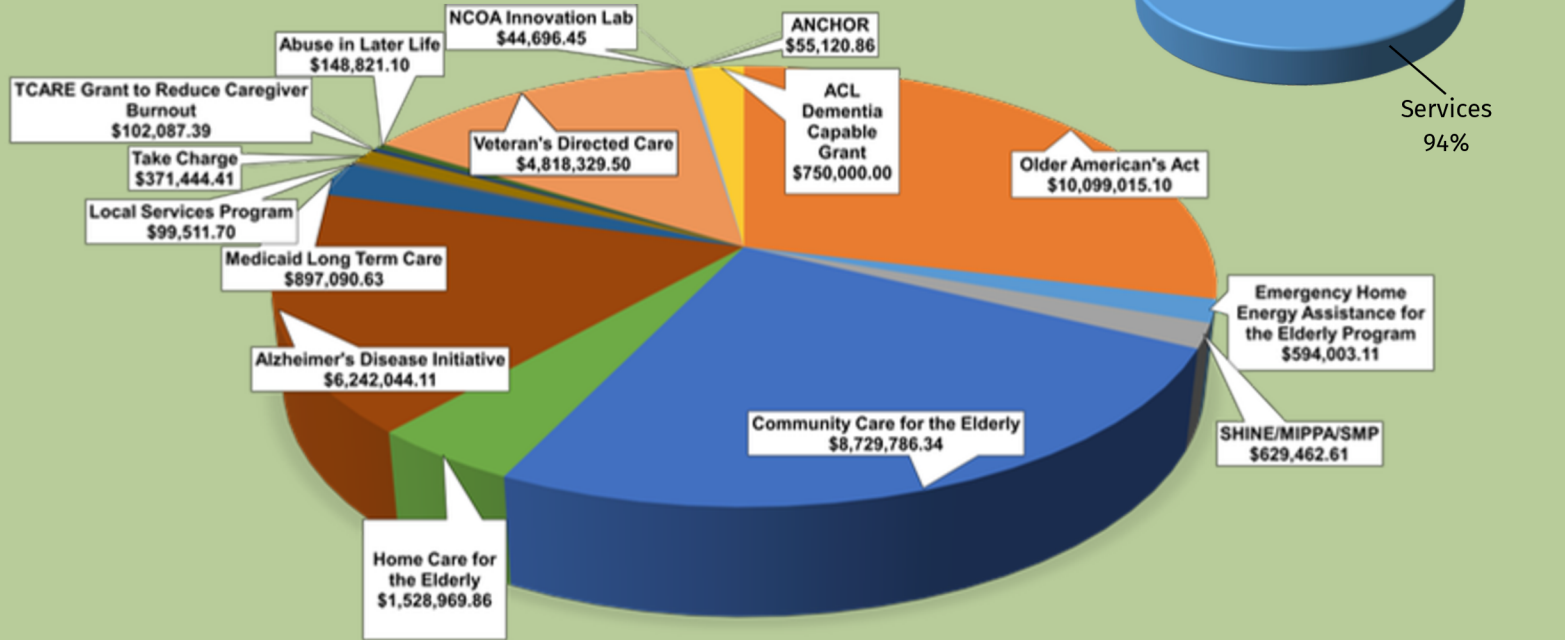
The Elder Helpline is frequently the first connection caregivers, older adults, and family members have with Elder Options. Skilled Specialists provide personalized support to each caller, ensuring they receive the resources they need. From community resources like transportation and meal programs to our wide range of in-house programs, the Elder Helpline acts as a trusted guide. We are here to help you navigate aging with confidence and care.



 **34,406** Answered Calls to the Helpline

FUNDING FISCAL YEAR 2025

FEDERAL, STATE, AND OTHER FUNDING



LEAD AGENCIES AND LEGAL PROVIDERS

Elder Options funds and monitors Provider Agencies that coordinate and deliver community-based services, including home care, meals, transportation, and legal services.

AGENCIES

- **Citrus County Support Services** - Citrus
- **Columbia County Senior Services** - Columbia
- **Easterseals Florida** - Putnam
- **ElderCare of Alachua County** - Alachua
- **Marion Senior Services** - Marion
- **Suwannee River Economic Council** - Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee, Union
- **You Thrive Florida** - Hernando, Lake, Sumter

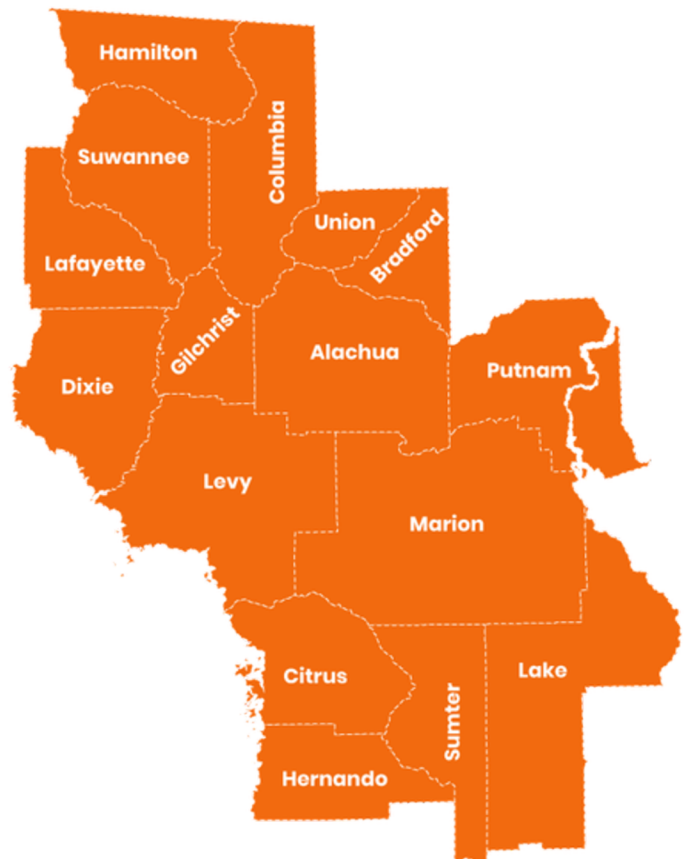
LEGAL PROVIDERS

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida, Inc.

- Citrus
- Lake
- Putnam
- Hernando
- Marion
- Sumter

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc.

- Alachua
- Gilchrist
- Levy
- Bradford
- Hamilton
- Suwannee
- Columbia
- Lafayette
- Union
- Dixie



OUR GROWTH IN 2025



GUIDE

Elder Options became a participating provider in Medicare's new GUIDE program—Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience—bringing free, comprehensive support to people living with dementia and their caregivers. Services include 24/7 access to a support hotline, care coordination, caregiver education, and short-term respite care.



FLIP THE SCRIPT ON AGING

During Older Americans Month, we partnered with ElderCare of Alachua County, to host Flip the Script on Aging, a panel highlighting older adults who challenge stereotypes and redefine what it means to age. The event fostered connection, reflection, and a renewed narrative around aging in our community.



SERVICES PROVIDED

ELDER OPTIONS

5,169 **New Screenings**
Completed for Eligibility

2,159 **Annual Re-screenings**
Completed for Eligibility

2,741 **Clients Released Medicaid**
Managed Long-Term Care Services

10,872 **Clients Assisted with**
Medicaid Managed Long-Term Care

904 **Clients Served**
in 82 HA Workshops



1,228 **Caregivers Served**
by the Caregiver Training and Support



172 **Veterans served**
with Veterans Directed Care – 658 home visits



168 **Older adults served**
through Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation direct services

352 **Community Professionals Trained**
in Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

6,590 **SHINE Client Contacts**
Made by Volunteers and Staff

LEAD AGENCIES

157,927
Congregate Meals Served

307,136
Home Delivered Meals Provided

162,422.75
Hours of Respite/Breaks for Caregivers

130,705.75
Hours of Homemaking

10,038
Transportation Trips

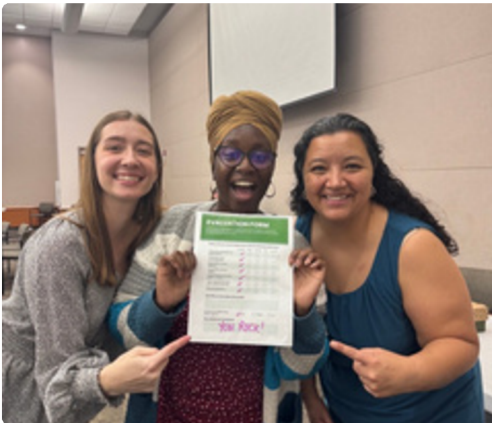
53,403.75
Hours of Personal Care

41,869
Hours of Adult Day Care

175,618
Emergency Alert Response Days of Service

904
Clients Received Emergency Home Energy Assistance Awards

YOUR IMPACT



DONATIONS

We extend our gratitude to the donors, vendors, and sponsors who made our Fall events possible, including the Caregiver Conferences in Ocala and Gainesville, the Falls Prevention event in Gainesville, and the Alachua Senior Showcase. Together, these events connected more than 500 people with aging resources and support.



VOLUNTEERING

- 12 Healthy Aging Community Partners provided 322 hours of service worth \$11,202.38*
- 70 Volunteer **SHINE** counselors provided 8,121 hours of service, worth \$282,529.59*

*Rate \$34.79 per hour by Indeopendent Sector April 2025



SAVINGS TO BENEFICIARIES

766 low-income persons assisted with Extra Help and Medicare Savings Program benefits putting money back in their pockets for other essentials

PROGRAMS & GRANTS



FALLS PREVENTION GRANT

Elder Options was named one of 18 organizations nationwide awarded funding from the National Council on Aging through the U.S. Administration for Community Living Innovation Lab to advance falls prevention efforts locally. An online and in-person Chair Yoga program is being rolled out to Alachua, Bradford and Marion counties in the future.



INNOVATION GRANT: DEMENTIA COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Elder Options was selected as one of only five organizations nationwide to receive a federal innovation grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Community Living to launch an innovative dementia Community Health Worker model. The funding is part of a \$3.7 million national effort to enhance dementia care and caregiver support.



TAKE CHARGE

Our partnership with **UF Health** helps patients transition from hospital to home by ensuring their needs are met. We assist with medication management, health records, follow-up care, and condition education. Our coaches served 820 patients, with 92% avoiding readmission within 30 days.



SHINE/SMP SERVING HEALTH INSURANCE NEEDS OF ELDERS SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

The Senior Medicare Patrol task force submitted **145 complex fraud cases**, addressing identity theft, billing fraud, unauthorized accounts, and other scams. They hosted 10 Medicare Fraud Prevention events to help protect our community and safeguard Medicare for the future.

SENIOR SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT: DIABETES EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

At 76, Mary turned a serious doctor's appointment into a turning point by enrolling in a diabetes self-management class through Elder Options. While caring for her 93-year-old mother, the program helped her regain control of her health and energy.

"My A1c dropped from 13.8 to 7.3," she shared. "I'm not as tired, and I'm better able to care for my mom." Mary is one of **111 individuals who graduated** from Elder Options' diabetes program, highlighting the impact of evidence-based education and support.



JOIN US TO EMPOWER SENIORS

As we reflect on a year of meaningful impact, we invite you to be part of what comes next.

Your support helps ensure that older adults and individuals living with disabilities can remain independent, connected, and cared for—right in their own communities. There are many ways to make a difference:



DONATE

- **Donate** online with a one time or recurring gift
- **Include us in your will or estate plan** to support future caregivers
- **Double Your Impact** - check to see if your employer offers donation matching



VOLUNTEER

- **Teach** a Healthy Aging Class
- **Become** a SHINE Counselor
- **Lead** a Caregiver Support Group
- **Serve** on the Board or Advisory Council
- **Serve** on the Transportation Disadvantaged Board



ADVOCATE

- **Speak out** for seniors and persons living with disabilities
- **Share** Elder Options classes and programs with friends

Scan to make a **gift** today!



ADDRESS SPACE

**100 SW 75th St STE 301
Gainesville, FL 32607**



Nonprofit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
City, State
Permit #000

**Learn More about Programs for
Older Adults in Your Area**

