



Aging Forward
ALLIANCE



2024 IMPACT

Data from nearly half of all affiliates was analyzed, reflecting the Alliance's diversity in size, staffing (paid/volunteer), services, and budgets. When viewed across the network, these results underscore the powerful impact of the Alliance's collective efforts.

Highlights

53,690 older adults engaged in lifelong learning activities for an estimated total attendance of 692,100 throughout the year.



10,000 volunteers gave more than 377,500 hours of service.



46,500 older adults were helped through free, informal caregiving services, such as a ride to medical appointments or small home repairs.

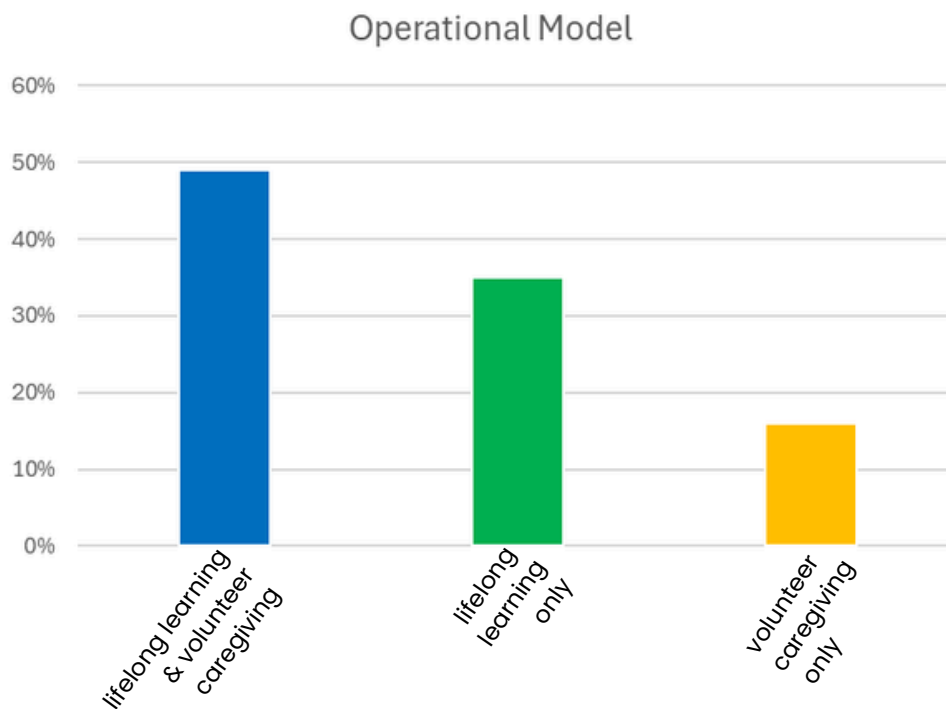
Estimated value of services is \$13.1 million, based on the Independent Sector's value of \$34.79 per volunteer hour. Adjusting for inflation, this is a 21% increase over the previous year.



SERVICES



- 35% of affiliates focus on lifelong learning programs
- 16% of affiliates focus on volunteer caregiving programs
- 49% of affiliates offer both lifelong learning and volunteer support programs



Note: The decline from 70% to 50% of affiliates offering both lifelong learning and volunteer support services reflects new affiliates focusing on only one of these program areas.

Volunteer Caregiving Services

Nearly 9 out of 10 (88%) offer medical transportation services

Nearly 9 out of 10 (88%) offer handy helper services

Nearly three-quarter offer friendly telephone visits

Close to three-fifths (60%) offer nonmedical transportation services

Roughly 4 in 10 offer friendly visiting

Roughly 4 in 10 offer meal delivery/food assistance

Roughly 4 in 10 offer light household chores/yard work

By offering an average of six different services, Aging Forward affiliates strengthen both impact and sustainability. A diverse service menu not only meets the layered needs of older adults – from transportation and home safety to social connection – but also broadens funding opportunities by aligning with multiple priorities.

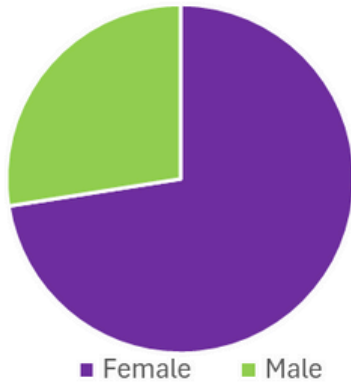
- ***It creates more entry points for volunteers with varied skills, enhancing recruitment and retention.***
- ***Multiple services encourage ongoing engagement, allowing older adults to access support as their needs change.***
- ***This holistic approach positions affiliates as comprehensive community hubs, deepening relationships, improving outcomes, and demonstrating value to funders and partners.***

One-quarter (24%) offer shopping services

Nearly all, at 94%, offer information and referral services

Participants

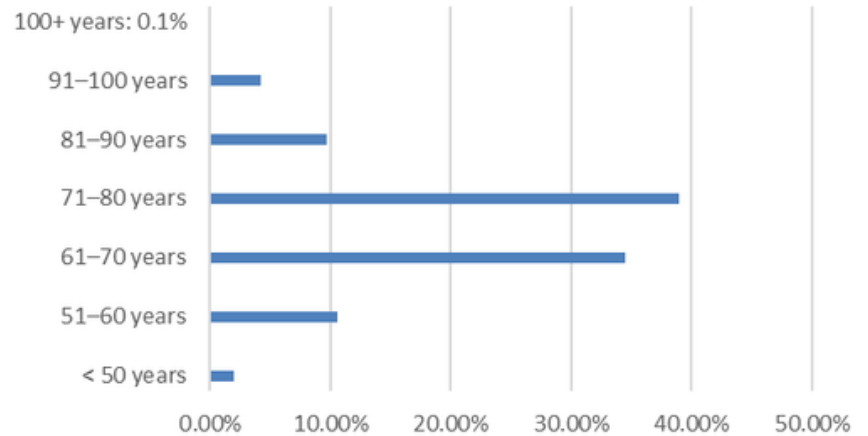
Gender



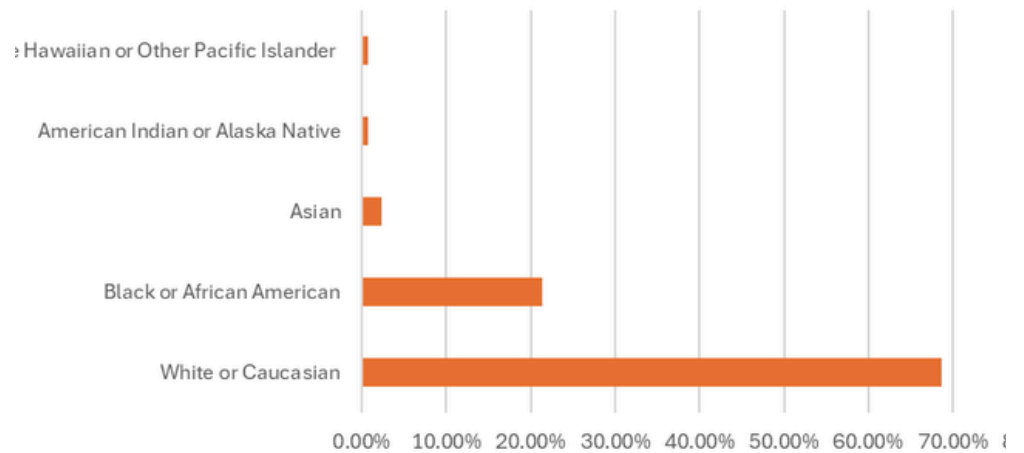
Other characteristics:

- 12.5% Veterans
- 49.7% Below the federal poverty level

Weighted Age Distribution



Race



Participant and volunteer engagement:

- > 50% engaged for 6 or more years
- 15% engaged for 11 or more years
- Only ~15% are newcomers (<1 year)



Staffing

- 83% of affiliates have a paid director
 - 62% of paid directors work fulltime
 - 13% of paid directors work 21-32 hours/week
 - 17% of paid directors work 11-20 hours/week
 - 8% of paid directors work 1-10 hours/week

On average, affiliates have 2.5 FTEs

On average, affiliates have volunteers working regularly for a total average of 3.3 FTEs

Financials

The average expense budget is \$292,100, with a low of \$10,000 and high of \$1,400,000+.

The overall ranking of funding source by frequency is:

1. Individual contributions (most common across all ranks)
2. Corporate/business contributions
3. Private foundation grants
4. Congregational support
5. Government grants
6. Earned income/fee for service

Other Key Take-Aways

- The variety of funding sources — including foundations, businesses, congregations, and government — suggests a healthy degree of diversification.
- However, 74% of affiliates had three or more funding streams, which is a drop from 82% last year.
- The dominance of individual contributions reflects strong community and donor engagement.
- The moderate presence of corporate/business and congregational support points to potential areas for growth or outreach.



Insights

Program Diversity: Affiliates offer a wide spectrum of programs, with participation levels and service types differing to a somewhat significant extent.

Operational Differences: Variations in leadership structure (paid vs. volunteer) and staffing capacity (including FTEs) are likely linked to program scale and sustainability.

Strong Community Retention: High rates of long-term involvement suggest deep relational ties—potentially a defining strength that distinguishes Aging Forward affiliates from other aging service models.

Shared Opportunities for Advancement: Increasing diversity efforts, standardizing reporting, and scaling successful programs collaboratively can promote greater alignment and sustainability across the network.

Brand Visibility and Collective Strength: Using the Aging Forward Alliance badge reinforces a shared identity that builds public trust and recognition. This visibility helps attract new volunteers and funding, strengthening both local impact and the Alliance's collective presence.

Based on available research, volunteer caregiving programs that help older adults remain at home and socially connected typically produce a SROI of about 2:1 to 8:1, meaning every \$1 invested generates \$2–\$8 in social value. Overall, the evidence shows that volunteer caregiving is a highly efficient and socially valuable approach to supporting healthy, independent aging.

Based on available research, lifelong learning programs for older adults that enhance connection and well-being typically produce a SROI of about 2:1 to 6:1, meaning every \$1 invested generates \$2–\$6 in social value. Overall, these findings show that lifelong learning is a cost-effective way to support healthy, socially connected aging.