

## **New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Overview Document Historical Meal Units**

NYSOFA's mission is to help older New Yorkers be as independent as possible for as long as possible through advocacy, development and delivery of person-centered, consumer-oriented, and cost-effective policies, programs and services which support and empower older adults and their families, in partnership with the network of public and private organizations which serve them.

The Historical Meal Units data provides a snapshot of this mission with the growth of meals served since the beginning of the Older Americans Act in the 1974 through the creation of the State funded Supplemental Assistance Program in 1984 to the current year. This data shows the growth of the meals program by AAA. It also shows the transition from congregate meals program to a home delivered one which serves persons more in need.

**AAAs** (Area Agencies on Aging - local offices for the Aging) plan, develop and support comprehensive in-home and community services. These services create opportunities for active senior citizens and help to promote their independence. Residents now have access to: information and referral services; employment, training and volunteer opportunities; senior centers and adult day care programs; transportation; congregate and home-delivered meals; and home health services. Seniors also have legal services, and counseling programs to assist them.

### **New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Benefit of Utilizing Dataset for Historical Meal Units:**

The Historical Meal Units provides a picture of the growth of the meals program in New York State which serves thousands of persons age 60 and older, their spouses, etc. It also shows the transition from a program primarily serving older New Yorkers in a congregate setting to one that brings meals to their home. This reflects the aging of the population and their increasing need.

### **New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Data Collection for Historical Meal Units:**

The listing of meals served is collected by NYSOFA as part of the quarterly client data reporting system. Data is submitted quarterly by the AAAs using a text file format. These files are loaded, tested as to format standards and loaded. Once files have been received from all AAAs a review of the data is begun. Annually there is a verification

process where the AAAs review and verify their submitted data. This allows data to be corrected as needed.

AAA staff complete this data using the one of two available proprietary software packages or by using locally developed systems.