

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Strengthening and Modernizing Ohio's Community-Based Aging Infrastructure



Every Ohioan deserves the opportunity to age safely, independently, and with dignity in the place they call home. As Ohio's population grows older, more individuals and families will need help navigating healthcare, caregiving, housing, transportation, and long-term services.

Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) work in every community across the state to connect older adults and caregivers with the services and supports they need. We partner with local communities, healthcare providers, and state agencies to help people remain independent while making the best use of public resources. Our 2026 policy priorities focus on strengthening this community-based system so it can meet the needs of today's older adults and future generations.

1 Make it Easier to Find Help: Strengthen "The Front Door to Aging Services"

Many older adults and family caregivers don't know where to turn when they need help. Ohio law establishes a statewide Aging and Disability Resource Network to provide streamlined access to services and supports and the Area Agencies on Aging are responsible for developing and operating this network locally. Priorities:

- Sustainable funding for the "Front Door to Aging Services" as a state funded line item specific to this purpose.
- Better coordination between healthcare, Medicaid, housing, transportation, and other community services.

2 Help More Older Adults Stay at Home: Strengthen Home and Community-Based (HCBS) Aging Infrastructure

Ohio's AAAs play a central role in administering and coordinating home- and community-based services that help older adults thrive in their homes and communities where they want to be. Priorities:

- Preserve the AAA role in MyCare Ohio and Medicaid HCBS waiver coordination.
- Ensure capacity for HCBS waiver services through sustained funding.
- Strengthen the network of HCBS service providers that deliver care in communities across Ohio.
- Encourage innovation and flexible partnerships that improve care while making services easier to access.

3 Support Older Adults Who Don't Qualify for Medicaid: Expand Sustainable Community-Based Services and Supports

Many middle-income older adults earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford the high cost of long-term care and supportive services on their own. Priorities:

- Sustainable funding for services such as transportation, home-delivered meals, home repairs, caregiver support, personal care, and care coordination for older adults who do not qualify for Medicaid
- New public and private partnerships that help older adults remain independent.

4 Modernize and Innovate Ohio's Aging Network

Technology and new partnerships can improve how services are delivered and help people receive the right care at the right time. AAAs provide a ready-made infrastructure for piloting and scaling innovative community-based solutions that align healthcare, aging, and social support systems. Priorities:

- Better data sharing between healthcare providers and community organizations.
- Technology that improves care coordination.
- Programs that support family caregivers.
- Evidence-based wellness and prevention programs that help people stay healthy and independent.

5 Expand Safe and Affordable Housing for Older Adults

Improving Ohio's affordable housing network and options for maintaining existing homes can provide more older adults with safe, secure housing and reduce homelessness. Priorities:

- More affordable and age-friendly housing options.
- Home modifications that allow people to safely remain in their homes.
- Policies that help older homeowners manage rising housing costs.
- Strong partnerships between housing providers, healthcare organizations, and community services.

6 Ensure Strong State-Level Leadership and Partnerships with AAAs

Meeting the needs of Ohio's growing older population requires strong leadership and collaboration across state agencies and local communities. Priorities:

- Continued, coordinated statewide leadership on aging policy.
- Better coordination among agencies responsible for healthcare, housing, transportation, workforce, and aging services.
- Early collaboration with Area Agencies on Aging when developing policies and implementing system changes.

Looking Ahead

Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging provide a trusted, community-based network that helps hundreds of thousands of older adults and caregivers each year. By investing in this system, Ohio can help more people remain healthy, independent, and connected to their communities while preparing for the needs of an aging population.

Together, we can build an Ohio where every older adult has the opportunity to age with dignity, choice, and the support they need to thrive.

- [AAA 1: Council on Aging \(COA\)](#)
- [AAA 2: Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2](#)
- [AAA 3: Area Agency on Aging 3](#)
- [AAA 4: Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio](#)
- [AAA 5: Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging](#)
- [AAA 6: Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging \(COAAA\)](#)
- [AAA 7: Area Agency on Aging, District 7](#)
- [AAA 8: Buckeye Hills Regional Council](#)
- [AAA 9: Area Agency on Aging Region 9](#)
- [AAA 10A: Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging](#)
- [AAA 10B: Direction Home Akron-Canton Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities](#)
- [AAA 11: Direction Home of Eastern Ohio](#)

