



FY24 & FY25 BUDGET PRIORITIES



All Ohioans deserve the right to live healthy, engaged and secure lives, and to be able to age with dignity and autonomy. We need bold action so that Ohio will be the best place to age in the nation.

EQUAL ACCESS TO HOME CARE:

Eliminate waiting lists, ensure parity across programs, and build capacity to meet growing need for home care for older adults and people with disabilities in Ohio.

SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY:

Enact policies and support programs that enable us all to continue to be active members of our communities and have options as we age.





Ensure continuing and future capacity of the Area Agencies on Aging to meet the needs of older adults in their communities.

Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

BUDGET REQUESTS



1

ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO HOME CARE

- **Rate and Wage Increases:** \$20/hour wage for the direct care workforce with at least a 50% increase in the reimbursement rate for PASSPORT(Aging) and Ohio Home Care (Medicaid) home care providers, to ensure parity across programs for older adults and people with disabilities in parity with other parts of the care continuum.
- **Streamlined Housekeeping:** provide voucher or service for at least one housecleaning a month, laundry service and grocery delivery.
- **Provider Engagement Coach:** include at least an additional \$1 million per year, estimated \$40,000 per year per AAA, for Area Agencies on Aging to hire provider engagement coaches to link, assist and coach participants and providers (particularly participant-directed) to successful certification and timely delivery of home and community-based services.
- **Remove barriers:** remove potential recruitment barriers by excluding participant-directed providers (usually family or friends) from home care licensure requirement.
- **Support Area Agencies on Aging:** Area Agencies on Aging have administered the PASSPORT waiver for over 30 years. The cost of delivering services continues to increase and the need grows but resources have not been adjusted to enable the AAAs to meet the need. Review and adjust case management and operating funding based on current environmental factors and increased complex need.

2

SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Adult Day Services:** support rate increases and initiatives to increase capacity.
- **Senior Community Services/Healthy Aging:** support additional funding outside of Medicaid to meet existing and future needs; to address wait lists; delay the need for Medicaid; and to enable the state to draw down additional Older Americans Act ARPA funding. Services can include addressing home repairs and modifications, benefits counseling, elder abuse supportive services, and AAA innovations.
- **Assisted Living Waiver Rate:** support rate increase to encourage more assisted living facilities to accept Medicaid reimbursement as an alternative to nursing home placement.
- **Ohio Housing Trust Fund/Affordable Housing initiatives:** support initiatives that increase access to affordable housing for older adults, home maintenance, and home modifications.
- **Adult Protective Services:** support proposed additional \$4 million per year to allow for each county to receive at least \$80,000 for staff and to support additional services.