



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

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Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging: Response to Governor's SFY 2020 - 2021 Budget Request

We are all aging and we are living longer. This is Ohio's Longevity Era. The state must ensure that strong social supports are available to us so that we can continue to be engaged, connected participants in our communities as we age. Governor DeWine's budget proposal increases the State Long Term Care Ombudsman program and the Senior Community Services program to support community resources to promote opportunities for older Ohioans to live healthy, engaged, and secure lives in our homes and communities.

Larke Recchie, CEO of the Association, said, "Investment in services that help prevent elder abuse, keep people safe in their homes and in nursing homes are essential. Senior Community Services provide dignity, self-determination, and quality of life for older Ohioans. The funds provide low cost, less intensive interventions such as meals, transportation, personal care and other services that connect older people to our communities and keep people from entering nursing homes or entering the Medicaid program."

Senior Community Services was cut from \$16 million to \$6.8 million since the year 2000, a 57% decrease. At the same time, Ohio's older population continues to grow, and living longer. By 2030, Ohio's population age 65 and older will increase by 40% compared to 2015.

Recchie concluded, "We are grateful for Governor DeWine's investment in the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program and for an increased investment in Senior Community Services. No matter how old we are, we are entitled to be treated as full members of our communities. Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging stand ready to advance smart and innovative solutions to promote better aging outcomes."