



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging: Executive Budget Review

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Area Agencies on Aging



Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging are mission-driven, primarily not-for-profit, organizations that operate a complex service delivery system with federal, state, local and private funding that successfully develops, coordinates and administers aging services.



House Bill 96: State Operating Budget

- **February 3: Governor DeWine Released Executive Budget Proposal**
- **March 14: House Amendment Deadline**
- **April 1: House Adopts Sub-Bill**
- **April 3: House Omnibus Amendment Deadline**
- **April 8: House Accepts Omnibus Bill and Finance Committee Vote**
- **April 9: House Floor Vote**
- **June 11: Senate Floor Vote**
- **June 24: Conference Committee Adopts Report**
- **June 25: Conference Floor Vote**
- **June 30: Governor DeWine Must Sign Bill**



Senior Community Services Program

Flexible funding for non-Medicaid services:



Meals



Personal Care



Housing



Prevent Isolation



Transportation



**Low Income, High
Need, Cognitively
Impaired Individuals**



Home Modifications



Senior Community Services Program

Low cost and less intensive interventions through Senior Community Services also:

- **Delay and divert from enrollment in Medicaid**
- **Reduce waiting lists for services**
- **Enhance health and wellness programming**
- **Support family caregivers**
- **Create structures that effectively prevent and address elder abuse and neglect**



Senior Community Services Program

Healthy Aging Grants: \$40 million

Nutrition services, transportation, home modifications and repairs, chronic disease management, health promotion, personal care, respite, and more

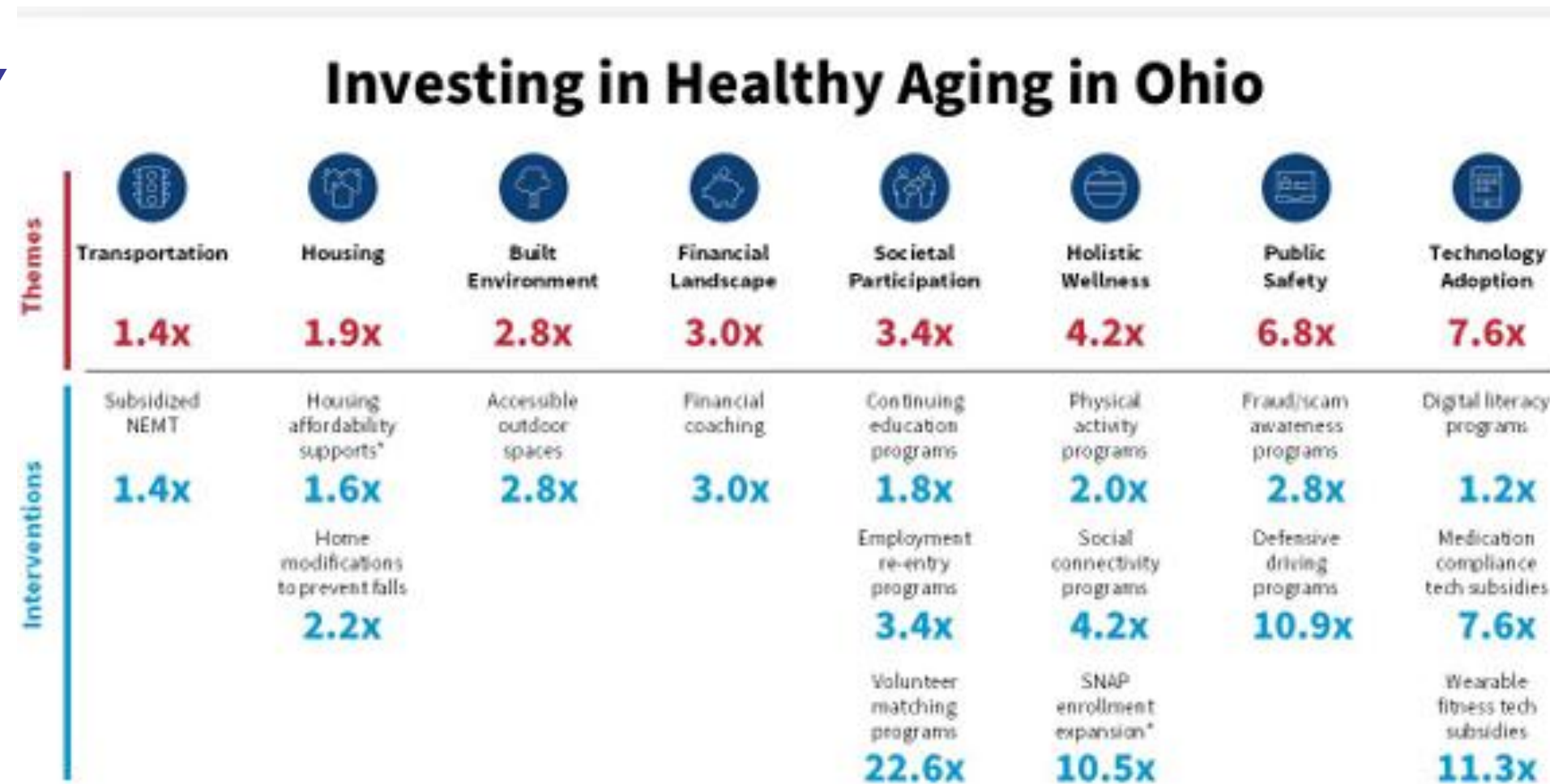
- **85 counties**
- **270,000 Ohioans**
- **500,000 services using evidence-based healthy aging interventions**



Senior Community Services Program

Healthy Aging Grants: Return on Investment

“USING OHIO DATA, WE SHOWED THAT FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN HEALTHY AGING INTERVENTIONS, THE STATE RECEIVES \$3 BACK. DEPENDING ON THE SPECIFIC INTERVENTION, THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT VARIES FROM 1.4 TIMES EVERY DOLLAR WE INVEST TO OVER 22 TIMES EVERY DOLLAR WE INVEST.”



For every \$1 invested in Healthy Aging on average, Ohio can receive \$3.20 in return.



Senior Community Services Program

Executive Budget: Flat Funded

Ask: +\$10M per fiscal year to to meet the growing needs of older adults to remain safely in their homes, connected to their communities and out of more costly residential care facilities.



Waiver Programs

PASSPORT and Assisted Living are Medicaid Home and Community – Based (HCBS) waiver programs that have successfully enabled thousands of older Ohioans to thrive in their homes and communities each year.

We support the Governor's request for sustained support for the PASSPORT and Assisted Living waivers, and the Area Agencies on Aging that administer them.



Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)

Executive Budget: Increases the long-term care personal needs allowance (PNA) from \$50 to \$100 per month.

This increase will help individuals cover personal expenses like toiletries, haircuts, and clothing, reducing financial stress and allowing them to better manage their care needs.



Provider Reimbursement Rates

Executive Budget: Maintained increases in provider rates from the last budget.

Ask: Provide a mechanism for a regular review of provider payment rates to ensure they reflect the real cost of care. This includes PASSPORT, Assisted Living Waiver, Ohio Home Care, State Plan Home Health/Private Duty Nursing, adult day services, and the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).



Housing

The Governor's budget supports investments in housing development in rural and border counties. In addition to these investments, we encourage the General Assembly to:

- Increase investment in the Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) to support affordable housing and home modification and repairs**
- Provide property tax relief to older adults that targets relief to those most in need and affords financial flexibility for Ohioans to age in their own homes.**



Adult Protective Services

Governor's Budget: Flat Funded

Ask: Increase of \$2M in the Adult Protective Services line item currently \$9.72M in H.B. 96. The increase will enable local communities to make more connections, strengthen existing connections and find better ways to respond quickly to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The most recent data indicates there were increasing statewide rates of abuse, neglect and exploitation with over 38,000 reports for those 60 and older. Neglect increased by over 14% and abuse including emotional, physical and sexual increased by over 18%. Exploitation is significantly increasing with a nearly 34% increase.



Alzheimer's and Other Dementia Respite

Governor's Budget: Flat Funded

Funds are allocated to AAAs in accordance with a population-based formula. In turn, AAAs are required to distribute at least 50% to the local Alzheimer's Association covering each county in the AAA region. In FY 2024, almost 20,000 individuals were served by the program.

This line item is used to provide match for Older Americans Act Title III Family Caregivers dollars.



Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Governor's Budget: Flat Funded at \$1 million per FY

The Ombudsman Program advocates for long-term care consumers who are receiving home and community-based services and residents of nursing homes, residential facilities, class 2 residential facilities, and unlicensed homes. Ombudsmen do this for individuals regardless of age. Ombudsmen also voices consumer needs and concerns to policymakers and providers.

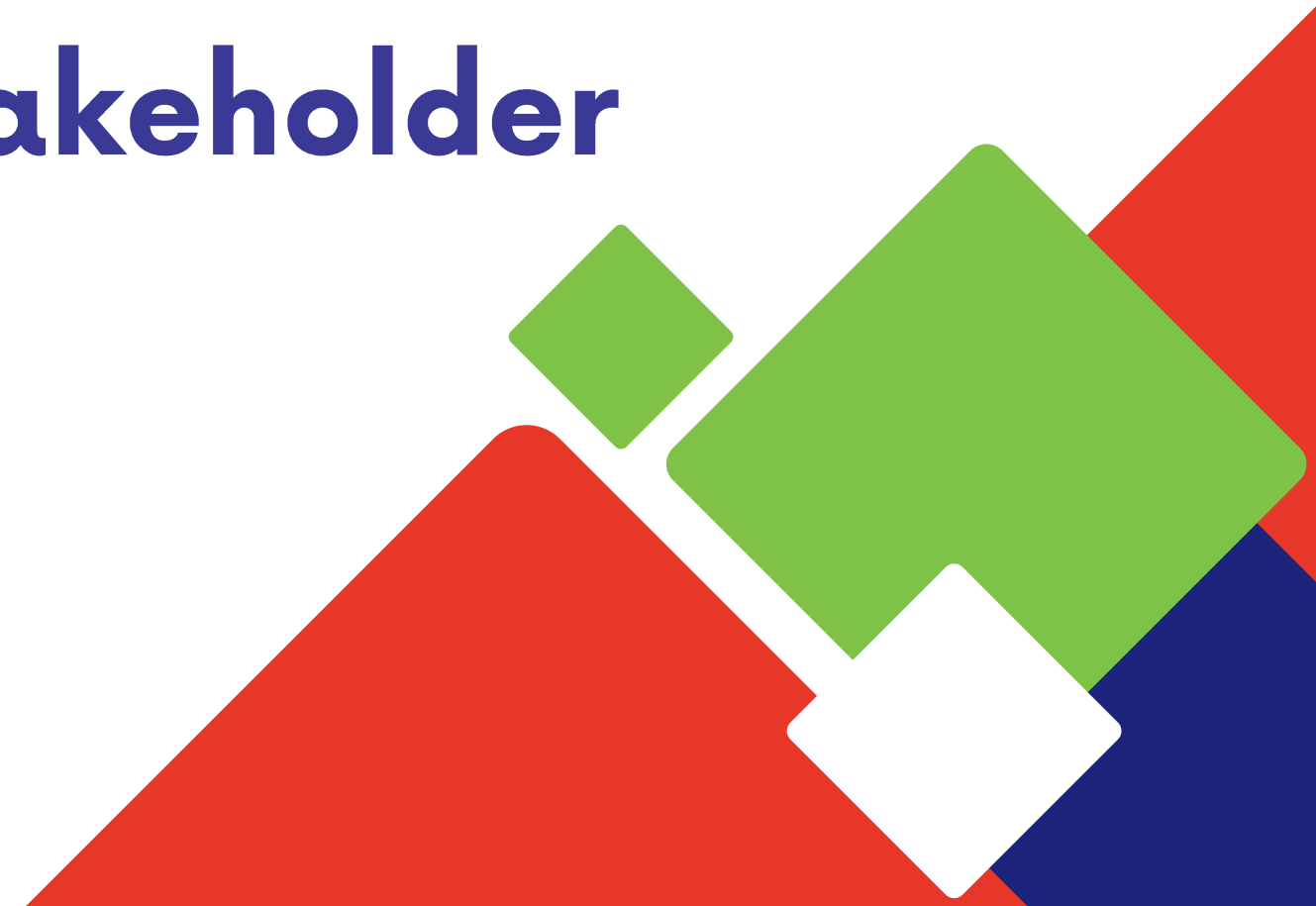
In FY 2024, the Office worked on 9,693 complaints and completed 9,319 visits. In addition, among other things, the program provided information and assistance to about 9,700 individuals and 1,900 providers.



o4a Testimony: House Children & Human Services Committee



On February 19th, o4a CEO Beth Kowalczyk testified in House committee along with a number of aging policy stakeholder organizations.



o4a Budget Outreach

o4a, in collaboration with our contract lobbyists and AAA leaders, have met individually with 12 key House members and have 5 more scheduled in the coming weeks.

Meetings with Senate members will begin after the first round of House amendments.



OhioAGING

ADVOCACY COALITION



SFY 2026-2027 STATE BUDGET BLUEPRINT: Home & Community Based Services





Thank you!



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