



*Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.*

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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**Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging Response to House Bill 110:**

Larke Recchie, CEO, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging:

“We wish to thank the Ohio General Assembly for passing a budget that provides unprecedented increases in investment in home and community-based services. When over 90% of people want to age in place in their homes and the cost is 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the cost of institutional care, it is time for the state to make this system work better. The pandemic exposed the challenges of congregate care and reinforced the need to prioritize home and community-based services, because now more than ever, home is where people want to be.

An unprecedented 6% increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for home care and assisted living services are a welcome investment to a system where almost 3000 individuals are enrolled in programs but essentially on a waiting list for home care services. The additional \$2 million in state resources for the Senior Community Services program will ensure access to cost-effective services such as home modifications, transportation services, and home-delivered meals, so that older adults can age in place in their homes and communities.

The increase in reimbursement for adult day services boosts an important service that provides care and companionship for older adults who need assistance or supervision during the day but otherwise can remain at home with support and enables family members to go to work or handle personal business.

We also applaud the General Assembly for including an additional \$1.5 million per year for Adult Protective Services. Amounting to about \$65,000 per county per year, this increase is also an unprecedented amount for critical services to address elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

We are all aging, and we want to be able to age in place in our homes and communities. This budget includes investments that move the state in the right direction so that **home can be a real option for all Ohioans.**”

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The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), a nonprofit organization, is a statewide network of agencies that provide services for older adults, people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers, as well as advocate on their behalf. The Association addresses issues that have an impact on the aging and disability network, provides services to members, services as a collective voice for Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).  
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