



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

SFY 26-27 State Budget Priorities



Strengthen Senior Community Services Program

To continue upon the profound outcomes of the Healthy Aging grants and meet the growing need, we request that the General Assembly invest in older adults and local communities by **increasing the Senior Community Services Program by \$10 million per fiscal year**. For every \$1 invested in healthy aging interventions, Ohio and local communities can receive \$3.20 in return.

Regular Review of Provider Rates

Increased reimbursement rates for providers in the last biennial budget led to increased wages and benefits for direct care workers, better hiring and retention rates, reduced wait lists and more consumers receiving the services they need. We support a mechanism by which the state regularly reviews provider payment rates to ensure access to services and more closely reflects the true cost of care.

Protect Increased Personal Needs Allowance

We support the Department of Aging's proposed increase to the personal needs allowance (PNA) for long-term care residents from \$50 per month to \$100 per month. This increase will help individuals pay for personal and ancillary expenses not covered by Medicaid like toiletries, haircuts, and clothing. Increasing the PNA reduces financial stress and allows individuals to better manage their care needs and more fully participate in community activities.

Protect 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.

Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have over 50 years of experience serving our communities. They administer and provide case management for the PASSPORT, Assisted Living, and Ohio Home Care waiver programs, and administer Older Americans Act and Senior Community Services. They answer an estimated 300,000 requests for information and referrals annually and link older Ohioans to cost-effective in-home and community-based programs where they live.



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