

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

Larke Recchie Executive Director

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (04a)

88 E. Broad St. Suite 870 Columbus, OH 43215 Phone: 614/481-3511 Fax: 614/481-3566 o4a@ohioaging.org www.ohioaging.org March 27, 2020

Contact: Beth Kowalczyk Chief Policy Officer (614) 893-5367 call or text kowalczyk@ohioaging.org

Statement on DeWine Administration and General Assembly Actions

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging CEO Larke Recchie issued the following statement in response to the decisive action by Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly this week:

"We applaud Governor Mike DeWine's and Department of Health Director Amy Acton's leadership, and the guidance received on a daily basis from the Ohio Departments of Aging and Medicaid and local authorities as we ensure that older Ohioans and people with disabilities who are most vulnerable and at highest risk continue to be served.

Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging are on the front lines continuing to coordinate essential services to enable these Ohioans to abide by the Governor's Stay at Home order. Our network is working diligently to make sure that people receive meals, groceries, transportation to medical appointments, personal care and other services they need to stay healthy and at home. While the closing of congregate sites like senior centers and adult day services is a difficult choice to make and poses significant challenges for older Ohioans, we understand that to protect the health of all Ohioans and flatten the curve to avoid overwhelming our health care system, the Governor must take decisive action.

Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging will continue to support and assist the Governor and his administration in every way to protect Ohio's older adults and Ohioans with disabilities. The Area Agencies on Aging, with their 2500 staff members and provider network, stand ready to help. This is what we do. Ohioans concerned about loved ones or who need assistance themselves can contact their community's Area Agency on Aging for assistance at 1-866-243-5678."