



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

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Ohio's Senior Community Services = Elder Justice

- We believe in a just society that recognizes that all people are equal. No matter how old we are, we are entitled to be treated as full members of our communities.
- We are all aging, and we are living longer. We are fortunate to be in a period of time where we can say that we are living longer and healthier lives. This is Ohio's Longevity Era.
- Policies that connect us to our communities at all stages of life are the most effective strategy for combatting elder abuse and neglect. Without these policies, social isolation occurs, putting us greater risk of neglect and abuse.
- When our communities are connected they prevent and are capable of immediately addressing elder abuse.

Our communities are social structures that need strong, integrated supports to make these connections for us as we age. All of these supports are needed to keep the structure sound and to effectively prevent and address elder abuse and neglect.

Among the social structures we rely on to connect us is Ohio's Senior Community Services program (ALI 490-411).

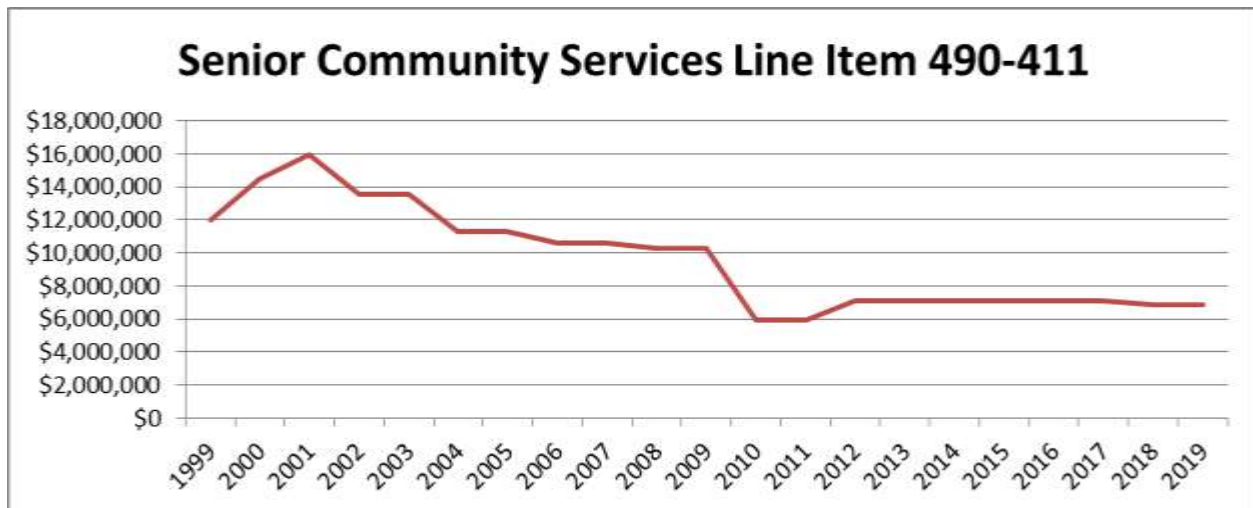
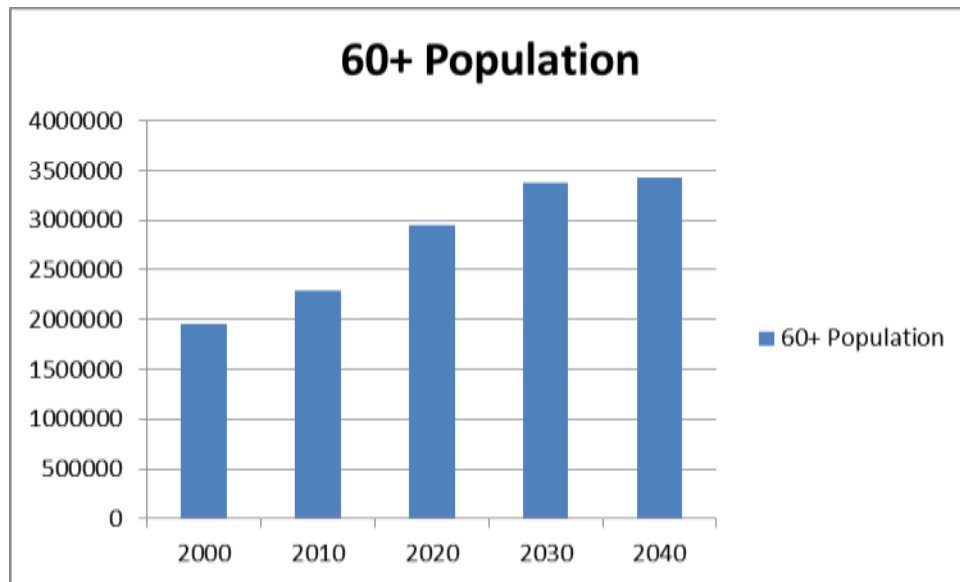
Senior Community Services supports non-Medicaid services that address the social determinants of health for older Ohioans to allow us all to thrive in our communities as we age.

We work with public and private partners to provide the right supports to promote independence and healthy aging, and enable all of us to stay connected and engaged as we age. Transportation, meals, housing assistance, personal care, and other types of support prevent social isolation and connect us to our communities. We leverage federal, state and local resources so that we have the flexibility to ensure our communities' local needs and preferences are taken into consideration and that the resulting local delivery system is tailored to our communities.

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

- Delay and divert from enrollment in Medicaid,
- Address determinants of long-term poverty (Housing, Nutrition, Transportation, etc.),
- Enhance health and wellness programming (Healthy U, Matter of Balance),
- Support family caregivers,
- Include high risk and diverse populations (opioid crisis, rural capacity); and
- Maximize new and existing Medicare benefits.

We support a modest investment (pre-recession levels - \$10 million per year) to bolster and reinforce the effectiveness of the Senior Community Services program.



Ohio's Senior Community Services provide dignity, self-determination, and quality of life for us as we age. We must ensure adequate funding and system resources are dedicated to the full spectrum of supports to enable us to live healthy, engaged and secure lives and access the supports we need in our homes and communities.

Examples of Current and Potential Innovations:

- Elder Abuse Victim Outreach – Area Agency on Aging 3 (Lima)
- Intergenerational Congregate Meals – Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging (Mansfield)
- Transportation Coordination – Area Agency on Aging 3 (Lima)
- Care Coordination – Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging
- Meals as You Mend – Area Agency on Aging 9 (Cambridge)
- Housing Transition Care Coordination
- Direct Care/Personal Care Workforce Recruitment