



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging sets a bold goal that all Ohioans live longer, healthier lives with dignity and autonomy, and that disparities and inequities are eliminated. Progress toward this goal is critical because, for too many Ohioans, opportunities for healthy aging are out of reach. For example, Ohioans living just miles apart experience strikingly different life expectancy driven by differences in community conditions and access to resources.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the unique needs and challenges faced by older Ohioans and caregivers, exposed flaws in systems and infrastructures, and highlighted the resilience of communities and the aging network. The pandemic has profoundly impacted many Ohioans, with disproportionate impacts on some groups, such as Black Ohioans and Ohioans with disabilities.

The state's commitment to older adults and caregivers is unwavering in the face of these challenges, and this commitment is reflected in Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging.

Achieving Ohio's State Plan on Aging Goals and Vision

This State Plan provides a comprehensive roadmap to improve the overall health and well-being of older Ohioans. Rooted in public and private collaboration, Ohio's plan ensures all partners are aligned in their approach (see figure 1).

With a focus on evidence-informed strategies, the outcomes and objectives in Ohio's State Plan are achievable. This plan requires intentional, synchronous efforts to assure that everyone in Ohio can age with grace and dignity in the setting of their choosing with rich, meaningful opportunities to contribute and thrive.

In addition, this plan highlights opportunities to advance elder justice and equity, which serve as key guiding principles. OAA has consistently emphasized these principles and required that funding be targeted to those with the greatest economic and social needs.



Figure 1. Multi-Sector Partnerships to Achieve the State Plan Goal and Vision



Figure 2. 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging Framework

	<p>VISION Ohio is the best place to age in the nation.</p>
	<p>GOAL All Ohioans live longer, healthier lives with dignity and autonomy, and disparities and inequities are eliminated.</p>

Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging Priorities



	<p>PRINCIPLES  Elder Justice  Equity  Federal Priorities</p>
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Aging Reframed: Investing in Health and Longevity

Prioritizing upstream investments and changes earlier in life, and in the right places, can make healthy aging a reality for all. Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging priorities reframe how we view aging and approach the aging process, and embeds the importance of addressing the social determinants of health.

This prioritized plan reflects the strengths and needs of Ohio's communities and establishes a unifying framework (see figure 2). Using this framework, partners across the state can work together to make Ohio the best place to age in the nation. The plan prompts Ohio to broaden our approaches to policymaking, service delivery, and investment priorities.



Call to Action

Six Action Steps to Achieve Ohio’s Vision and Goals

This comprehensive plan requires a cross-sector response. It relies on collaborative efforts, leveraging community strengths and key partners, and engaging and empowering communities to achieve the goal and vision. All Ohioans, including state and local partners in both the public and private sectors, can implement the State Plan through one or more of these action steps:

	ALIGN	Align with and focus on one or more of the goals, outcomes, and/or priority populations identified in the State Plan.
	ADVOCATE	Advocate for funding and policy change to address the State Plan priorities.
	FUND	Fund evidence-informed strategies identified in Attachment E of the State Plan.
	IMPLEMENT	Implement one or more of the evidence-informed strategies identified.
	PARTNER	Partner and collaborate within and across sectors to improve the State Plan outcomes.
	EVALUATE	Evaluate progress on the State Plan objectives and the impact of the evidence-informed strategies.

For additional guidance and information on achieving these action steps, please view the [SAPA Implementation Toolkit](#). The toolkit provides guidance, best practices, tools, and resources that state and local partners can use to engage in this work.

ODA is proud to partner with, and relies considerably on, Ohio’s network of twelve Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and the array of state agency partners, non-profit organizations, and volunteer and advocacy organizations to implement Ohio’s State Plan on Aging for 2023-2026.