



## Program Profile

## Older Americans Act Programs

### What are Older Americans Act Programs?

- The federal Older Americans Act (OAA) is the foundation of Ohio's aging network, which includes the Ohio Department of Aging, area agencies on aging, senior centers, service providers and others. The OAA supports nutrition programs, home- and community-based services, caregiver support, long-term care ombudsman programs and senior employment programs.

### Who is eligible for Older Americans Act Services?

- Generally, any Ohioan age 60 or older is eligible for OAA services. Caregivers of eligible older adults may also receive certain services. Some services have different or additional eligibility requirements.
- Services are not income based, but are prioritized to serve individuals most at need, including older adults with low incomes, members of minority groups, residents of rural areas, frail individuals, those with limited English proficiency and those who are at risk for institutional placement.
- Consumers and their families are encouraged to make donations to help cover the cost of the services. However, they are not required to do so. Some services, such as homemaker and home repair, are provided on a sliding fee scale based on income.

### What services are available?

- **Nutrition programs** provide access to healthy meals, nutrition education and nutrition counseling, such as congregate and home delivered meals.
- **Caregiver support programs** help families care for older relatives, as well as older adults who are providing care for relatives' children. Support includes information and referral, support groups, training, respite care and supplemental services.
- **Population health programs** address public health issues such as chronic conditions, falls and injuries. Services include HEALTHY U Ohio chronic disease self-management workshops, "A Matter of Balance" falls prevention workshops and more.

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- **Independent living services and supports** enable older Ohioans to retain their independence in their own homes and communities. Services include chore and homemaker services, adult day services, home modifications, senior employment programs, legal assistance and transportation.
- **Long-term care ombudsman services** help people receiving home care, assisted living and nursing home select care providers, understand benefits and resolve issues with providers.

### **Where can I learn more about Older Americans Act Programs?**

- Visit [www.aging.ohio.gov/FindServices](http://www.aging.ohio.gov/FindServices) to find local contact information for area agencies on aging and other service providers.
- Visit [www.aging.ohio.gov/healthyandactive](http://www.aging.ohio.gov/healthyandactive) for more information about OAA and related programs.

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