
2026 Public Hearing

Area Agency on Aging, Region 9
710 Wheeling Ave
Cambridge, Ohio 43725



Introductions

AAA9 Presenters

Aging Network Overview

Jud Love

Chief Executive Officer of AAA9



Strategic Area Plan

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Director of Access & Innovation



Agenda

- Aging Network Basics
- Federal and State Funding Overview
- AGE Policy Requirements
- State Strategic Action Plan on Aging (SAPA) Overview
- AAA9 Community Needs Assessment
- AAA9 Strategic Area Plan Focus Areas
- Comments



AAA9 is part of a National Network



U.S. Administration on Community Living



Regional Office on Community Living (10 in U.S.)



State Unit on Aging: Ohio Department of Aging (AGE)



Area Agencies on Aging/Aging and Disability Resource Network



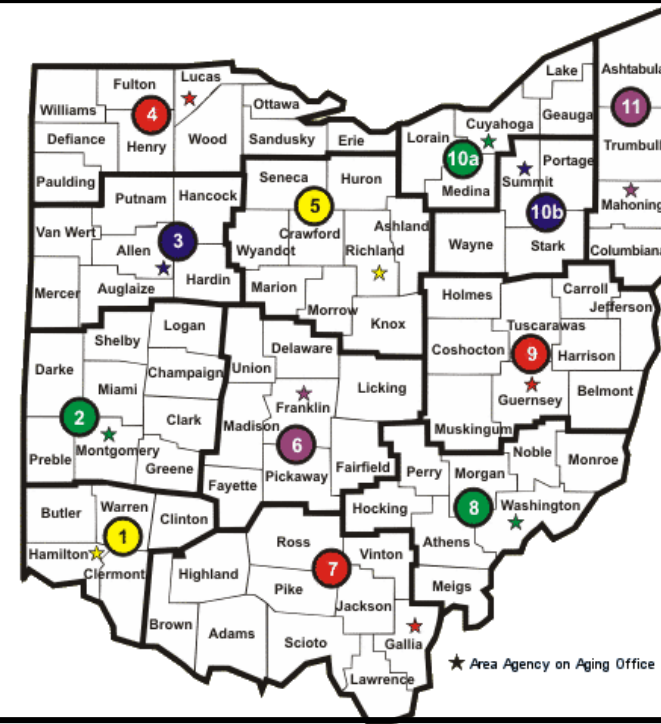
Local Service Providers



Ohio's Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's)

- AAA's are part of a national framework of services created by the Older Americans Act in 1965
- 12 AAA's in Ohio; more than 600 nationwide
- AAA9 is the AAA for Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, and Tuscarawas counties.
- Serve as the connection (front door) to information and services for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.
- Find an Area Agency on Aging:
 - <https://eldercare.acl.gov/home>
 - 1-800-677-1116



Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's)

- Promote Healthy Aging through nutrition education, wellness programs, and chronic disease management.
- Support Community Engagement through social, educational, and recreational opportunities.
- Help Older Adults remain at home through home assistance, caregiver support, and resource navigation.
- Improve Access to Care through long-term care planning and community-based services.

*Services may vary by location. Eligibility guidelines may apply

AAA9 Role: Planning, Prioritizing, and Administering Funds



- AAA9 is responsible for developing a regional Strategic Area Plan (every 4 years) and an annual update to determine priorities for Older American's Act and Senior Community Services Funding.
- The Area Plan includes coordination with the state plan as well as findings from a local needs assessment.

Federal and State Funding Overview

Older Americans Act Funding (Title III)

- Administered by AAA9 for our 9-county region
- Receive about \$2.5M Title III Annually
- Funding to senior centers and service organizations to provide:
 - Transportation, congregate meals, legal services, wellness programs, etc.
- A funding formula is used to determine how much is given to each county.



What funding formula do we use?



Intrastate Funding
Formula

Title III Allocation Process

- Priorities are established by gathering input from stakeholders and community needs assessment.
- Priorities are approved by the AAA9 Board and Regional Advisory Council.
- A Competitive Bid Process is required.
- RFP's are issued every 2 years and priorities are announced in the RFP process.
- 2026 RFP's, will issue contracts for 1/1/2027-12/31/2028.



Department of
Aging

NUMBER	103-PLN-01	PAGE 1 OF 5
TITLE	Strategic Area Plans and Annual Updates	
RELATED RULES/CODES	42 U.S.C. Chapter 35 ; 42 U.S.C. 3026 ; 45 C.F.R. 1321.59 ; 45 C.F.R. 1321.53 ; 45 C.F.R. 1321.63 ; O.A.C 173-2-02 and O.A.C 173-2-06	
RELATED POLICIES	103-PLN-02 105-SVC-01 105-SVC-02 105-SVC-05	
EFFECTIVE DATE	August 10, 2021	
SUPERCEDES		
APPROVED	 Ursel J. McElroy, Director	

I. AUTHORITY:

This policy is issued pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 1321.11 which requires the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) to develop policies governing all aspects of programs operated under the Older Americans Act (OAA).

II. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to outline ODA's expectations of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) for development and submission of their Strategic Area Plan and Annual Updates.

III. APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all area agencies on aging (AAAs).

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Strategic Area Plan means a written document containing the AAA's four (4) year strategy to provide for the development and implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated service delivery system for services to older individuals in its planning and service area (PSA).

Annual Update means the AAA's yearly submission to update its approved Strategic Area Plan demonstrating progress in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the AAA's Strategic Area Plan.

AGE Policy #103-PLN-01

The purpose of this Policy is to explain AAA9's responsibilities regarding ODA Policy #103-PLN-01 regarding Strategic Area Plans and Annual Updates.

2026 AAA9 Community Needs Assessment

The ultimate objective of this Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is to improve the quality of life for older adults living in the AAA9 service area. Specifically, the CNA provides a comprehensive picture of the health and well-being of older Ohioans in the nine-county service area. To assist AAA9 in developing a Strategic Area Plan that prioritizes specific collaborative actions to improve outcomes.

Full copy of the 2026 Community Needs Assessment is available on the AAA9 website at

Methodology Overview



Secondary Research

Reviewed and validated data sources on older adults to identify disparities and key insights



Qualitative Research

Three focus group discussions and 14 key informant interviews were completed



Community Survey

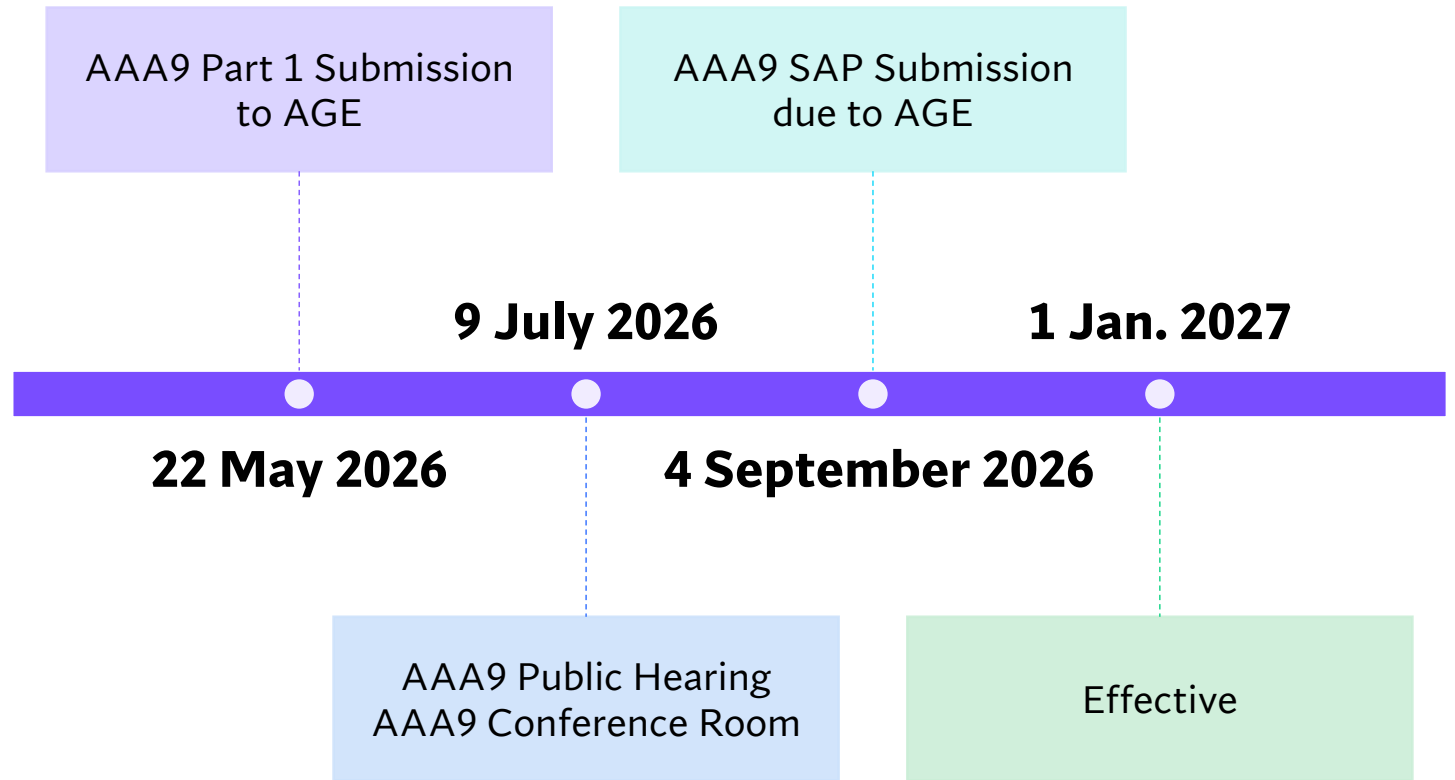
Community survey to identify needs and barriers to AAA9 services; 270 responses were collected through online, paper, and senior center outreach



Needs Prioritization

AAA9 leadership reviewed findings, used the Hanlon Method to score 11 community needs, and finalized priorities for the next Strategic Action Plan

Strategic Area Plan Timeline 2026



Strategic Area Plan

The Strategic Area Plan (SAP) serves as the comprehensive planning, budgeting, and service delivery framework for older Ohioans within our planning and service area.

As a four-year operational plan, it guides the coordinated delivery of a broad spectrum of quality services and initiatives designed to meet community needs. While the SAP establishes the overall direction and priorities for the four-year period, annual updates allow for adjustments in focus, goals, and strategies to respond to changing needs and emerging opportunities.



Summary of Strategic Area Plan Submission and Annual Updates

Includes all required certifications, signatures, assurances, and plans to be followed by the AAA under provisions of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

Have been developed in accordance with all rules and regulations specified under the OAA and related State of Ohio Policies.

Incorporate the comments and recommendations of the AAA's Advisory Council.

Reflect input from a cross-section of service providers, consumers, and caregivers who are representative of all areas and culturally diverse populations of the planning and service area (PSA).

Have been reviewed and approved by the AAA's Board of Directors and respective governing bodies.



AGE Strategic Action Plan on Aging Priorities

- AGE leads statewide efforts to ensure older Ohioans can live healthy, safe and independent lives. It also sets priorities that reflect the most pressing needs of our aging population.
 - The SAP must include seven priority areas of focus that contribute to the overall health and safety of older adults.
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Ohio Department of Aging Priority Areas

Healthy Food Access

Community Supports & Services

Quality & Coordinated Care

Safe & Accessible Housing

Reliable Transportation

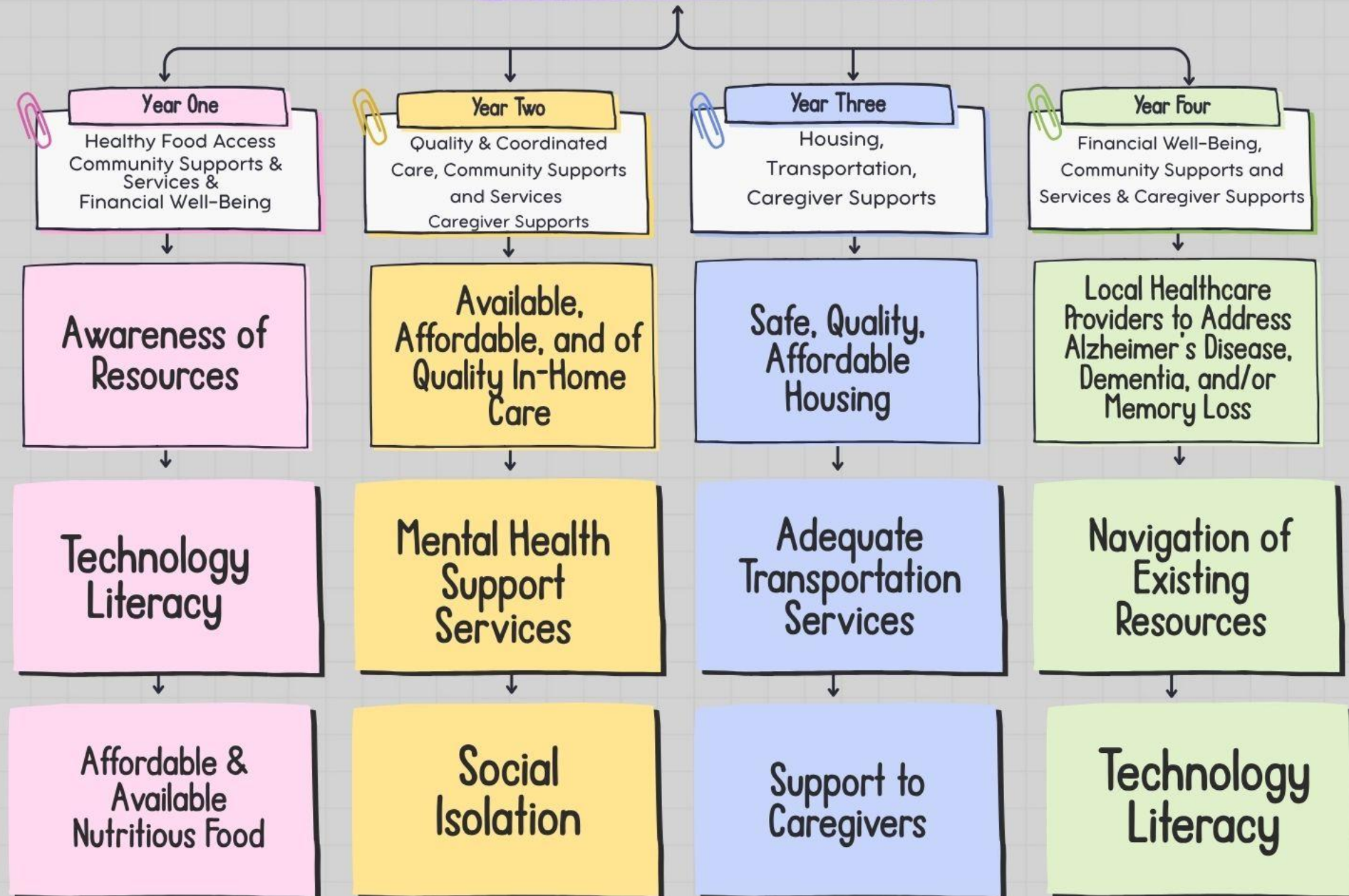
Caregiver Supports

Financial Well-Being

Final Identified Community Needs

Rank	Community Need
1	Awareness of Resources
2	Navigation of Existing Resources
3	Affordable and Available Nutritious Food
4	Available, affordable, and of quality in-home care
5	Mental Health Support Services (i.e., counseling, support groups, crisis care)
6	Social Isolation
7	Safe, Quality, Affordable Housing
8	Adequate Transportation Services (i.e., expanded operating hours)
9	Support for Caregivers (i.e., in-home assessments, educational opportunities)
10	Local Healthcare Providers to Address Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, and/or Memory loss
11	Technology Literacy (i.e., training for computers, smartphones, tablets, e-mail, internet navigation, service/program applications, social media, etc.)

STRATEGIC AREA PLAN - FOCUS AREAS



AAA9 Focus 1: Awareness of Resources

Objective 1.1: Increase awareness of available aging services and community resources through coordinated outreach efforts across our nine-county service area.

Objective 1.2: Improve individuals' ability to identify and connect to appropriate services through enhanced information, referral and navigation supports.

Objective 1.3: Strengthen partnerships with community organizations to improve awareness and access to services across the region.

AAA9 Focus 2: Navigation of Existing Resources

Objective 2.1: Improve awareness and understanding of available resources.

Objective 2.2: Strengthen referral process for access to information and referral.

Objective 2.3: Expand access to support navigation.

AAA9 Focus 3: Affordable and Available Nutritious Food.

Objective 3.1 : Increase awareness, accessibility, and utilization of nutrition services among older adults with the greatest social and economic need.

Objective 3.2: Strengthen community partnerships to improve access to nutritious food and reduce food insecurity among older adults.

Objective 3.3: Strengthen access to and utilization of reliable, nutritious food supports.

AAA9 Focus 4: Available, Affordable And Quality In-Home Care

Objective 4.1: Increase participation in health promotion and disease prevention programs.

Objective 4.2: Support older adults in managing chronic health conditions and maintaining overall wellness.

Objective 4.3: Strengthen collaboration among healthcare providers and community partners to support coordinated healthcare services.

AAA9 Focus 5: **Mental Health Support Services** (i.e., counseling, support groups crisis care)

Objective 5.1: Increase awareness of available mental health resources and support services.

Objective 5.2: Strengthen connections between older adults and community-based mental health supports.

Objective 5.3: Reduce social isolation and promote emotional well-being among older adults.

AAA9 Focus 6: Social Isolation

Objective 6.1: Increase participation in social engagement and community-based activities.

Objective 6.2: Increase engagement among older adults who are socially isolated or at risk of isolation.

Objective 6.3: Expand opportunities for volunteerism and meaningful community participation.

AAA9 Focus Area 7: Safe, Quality and Affordable Housing

Objective 7.1: Improve access to home modification and home repair through programs such as the Housing Assistance Grant Program to support older adults in maintaining safe and livable homes.

Objective 7.2: Maximize use of available funding.

Objective 7.3: Reduce time of referral to service delivery.

AAA9 Focus 8: **Adequate Transportation Services** **(i.e., expanded operating hours)**

Objective 8.1: Increase awareness of available transportation services and mobility resources throughout the AAA9 service area.

Objective 8.2: Improve access to transportation services for older adults with identified mobility and transportation barriers.

Objective 8.3: Strengthen regional partnerships that support transportation access and mobility options.

AAA9 Focus 9:

Support to Caregivers (i.e., in-home assessments, educational opportunities)

Objective 9.1: Ensure resources remain current, relevant, and useful.

Objective 9.2: Increase awareness of available resources and improve ease of navigation to resources.

Objective 9.3: Maintain multiple methods for accessing resources and information.

AAA9 Focus 10:

Local Healthcare Providers to Address Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia and/or Memory Loss

Objective 10.1: Increase caregiver participation in support services.

Objective 10.2: Improve caregivers' ability to access available community resources and support services.

Objective 10.3: Strengthen partnerships and collaborative efforts.

AAA9 Focus 11:
Technology Literacy
(i.e., training for
computers,
smartphones, tablets,
email, internet
navigation,
service/program
applications, social
media, etc.)

Focus 11:
Scam, Fraud, Prevention/Technology
Literacy

Objective 11.1: Increase awareness of common scams, fraud, schemes, and financial exploitation risks.

Objective 11.2: Improve technology literacy and digital safety skills among older adults.

Objective 11.3: Strengthen access to resources and support services related to financial protection and assistance.

AAA9 Focus 11: continued.

Focus 11:

Access to Technology and Internet Access

Objective 11.1: Increase awareness of available technology and internet access resources.

Objective 11.2: Improve digital literacy and confidence among older adults.

Objective 11.3: Strengthen partnerships that support technology access and digital inclusion.

Direct Service Waivers



- **AAA9 is not requesting any direct service waivers during this Strategic Area Plan.**
- AAA9 receives Title III Funds for Information and Assistance, Caregiver Support and Case Management. These services do not require a Waiver.
- ODA requires a Waiver when the AAA provides direct services other than those listed in the last bullet.
- AAA9 applies for Waivers when:
 - the provision of services by the AAA is necessary to ensure an adequate supply of services, and/or
 - the services are directly related to the administrative functions of the AAA.

Questions?
Comments?





Thank You

Thank you for your partnership and for
your time today.
