

LORAIN COUNTY OFFICE ON AGING

Aging & Disability
Resource Center
Information & Assistance
Benefits Assistance
Options Counseling

Medicare, Medicaid
Experts

Emergency
Utility Assistance

Food Services
Food Pantry
Senior Food Boxes
Home-Delivered Meals
Restaurant Vouchers
Farmers Market Coupons

In-Home Services
Light Housekeeping
Heavy Chore

Social Support Services

Transportation to
Healthcare

RSVP Volunteers
Retired Senior
Volunteer Program

Kinship Caregiving
Grandparents
Caring for Grandchildren

Senior Years Newspaper

Forms, Insurance, Taxes

Resource Library

Central Office:

320 North Gateway Blvd.
Elyria OH 44035
Phone: 440-326-4818
Phone: 440-244-6261,
Extension 4818
Fax: 440-326-4828

Northeast Office:

4575 Lake Road
Sheffield Lake OH 44054
Phone: 440-949-8146
Fax: 440-949-8163

Southern Office:

508 Dickson Street
Suite 4
Wellington OH 44090
Phone: 440-647-0777
Fax: 440-647-0777

Dear Honorable Members of the Finance—Health and Medicaid Subcommittee:

The Lorain County Office on Aging provides assistance, specialized information & referrals and relevant education on aging to more than 10k individuals a year that are 60+ years old in Lorain County. We have heard first-hand the stories of our clients, some who are frail, vulnerable and alone along with those who are spunky and ask dozens of questions. They reach out to us for guidance, hope and assistance and are thankful some things are in place such as Medicare, Home Delivered Meals and Transportation – all proven to have a direct impact on improving their quality of life and ability to stay at home to 'age in place' (although they do not like how that phrase sounds).

More than a need, more than a dream, more than anything, older adults tell us they want to stay in the place they call home. Being at home tangibly gives them comfort, reassurance and freedom to continue life within a context they know they can navigate. I know their motivation is to stay in their own home, not necessarily saving government dollars. However, through the insightful support of SCSBG funding for older adults, the functional and financial decline that leads to Medicaid dependence can result in millions and millions of dollars saved.

The Lorain County Office on Aging is serving the 'Silent Generation', the 'Baby Boomers', along with the 'Sandwich Generation' (their adult children) that accompany them on appointments and assist with their affairs. Especially with so many Boomers coming into an age that may require assistance at some time or another, we must firmly establish and elevate the care for those who built our communities.

No one is taking this population lightly, as they have an influential voice that is networked. Sometimes their voice is heard in the editorial column of a local newspaper, when they call us for assistance and/or most definitely when they vote. I was amazed when I learned there are over 56k registered voters in Lorain County that are 60+ and more than 75% of them voted in 2014. We have found they are Internet-savvy, have Facebook pages and are handling their retirement years from a base of knowledge, research and referral. If they are not on the Internet, they are asking family members to go on the Internet for them. It's a new time. They want their needs to be heard and supported. Increasing the Senior Community Services Block Grant is a response that acknowledges the validity of their needs. Thank you for all you do on behalf of the citizens of this great State of Ohio!

Respectfully submitted,



Rita S. Campbell, MPA
Executive Director

P.S. Please call anytime.

Age well in the place called home