



Everyone plays a role in making Illinois an exceptional place to live, work, support family, and grow older. Aging well, living well, is about all of us.

The Illinois Department on Aging — in collaboration with a wide range of public and private partners — is developing ***EngAging Illinois: A Comprehensive Plan for Living Well***.

The Plan will establish policy and programmatic priorities to ensure our State, counties, cities, and towns are great places to grow up AND grow old. It will help all of us — no matter where we live, how much we earn, what we look like, what we believe, or our abilities — to live well and to age with a sense of security and possibility.

With a fundamental concern for equity and inclusion, ***EngAging Illinois*** will describe strategies to improve and transform services, policies, and programs critical to all of us as we get older. It will reframe the way we think about aging and recognize the important value of older adults' experiences, insights, and contributions.

The Plan will be organized around four key focus areas (see reverse side):

- 1** *Creating Livable and Connected Communities*
- 2** *Ensuring Health for All Ages*

- 3** *Investing in Caregivers*
- 4** *Affording Aging*

Creating the Plan

In August 2024, Governor JB Pritzker signed an Executive Order to establish a cross-sector planning process that would create a framework to address the needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers over the next decade. He charged the Illinois Department on Aging, led by Director Mary Killough, to drive this effort with the participation of 15 state agencies and a 25-member Community Advisory Council. These groups include partners with a wide range of expertise in areas from housing and transportation to health, homelessness, and economic development. Illinois is among the first wave of U.S. states to develop this type of inclusive and holistic strategy. This comprehensive planning process will generate new initiatives, align and coordinate resources, and set out measurable outcomes through 2036.

EngAging Illinois is due to the Governor and Illinois General Assembly by December 31, 2025. Between now and then, we will identify promising practices and ideas, build partnerships, develop new strategies and approaches, and most importantly, listen to and learn from people across Illinois.

Four Key Focus Areas

Public feedback helped identify the following key focus areas, which may evolve over the months and years ahead.



1 *Creating Livable and Connected Communities*

Developing people-centered, physical, and social infrastructure, including:

- Innovations to facilitate aging in place
- Housing security and stability
- Transportation
- Social connection and community engagement

2 *Ensuring Health for All Ages*

Ensuring high quality, age-friendly, culturally attuned health care and prevention, including:

- Health education, promotion, and screening
- Coordinated and accessible care
- Social services and supports

3 *Investing in Caregivers*

Expanding investment in:

- Well-being and resources for paid and unpaid caregivers
- Cultivating a well-trained and sustainable caregiving workforce

4 *Affording Aging*

Working to guarantee that older adults have:

- Economic security and financial health
- Estate planning resources
- Access to long-term care support
- Freedom from fraud, neglect, and elder abuse

Looking ahead

Translating this ambitious plan into action will take time. It will require the energetic and engaged participation of all levels of government, the business community, education, health and social service providers, philanthropy, and most importantly, community leaders and the people of Illinois. We all have a role to play.

EngAging Illinois will be both ambitious and realistic. It will serve as a meaningful roadmap for the future. Over time, this plan will evolve to incorporate new opportunities based on developments in scientific research, advances in technology, and program innovations.

Together, we can make Illinois the best state in the country to live and age well.

Please join us in this important work!

For more information:

Visit the website:

<https://ilaging.illinois.gov/forprofessionals/multi-sector-plan-for-aging.html>

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