



NEWS RELEASE

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Four SE Michigan Area Agencies on Aging Announce Collaborative

By 2035, one in every four Michigan residents will be over age 65.

Collaborative will explore expanding services and funding for seniors in 10 counties.

Troy, Michigan – Four of Michigan's largest Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) serving 10 southeastern Michigan counties are joining forces to launch a new collaborative that will seek to expand services for the area's rapidly growing senior population.

The four Agencies and areas they serve include:

- **Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1-A** – Cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Harper Woods, Grosse Pointe Park/City/Farms/Woods and Shores.
- **Area Agency on Aging 1-B** – Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw Counties.
- **The Senior Alliance 1-C** – the 14 communities of southern and western Wayne County.
- **Valley Area Agency on Aging** – Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties.

In response to consumers' changing demands, and anticipating the need for additional programs to serve the senior population, the four Agencies will jointly explore opportunities for pursuing funding, providing increased services, creating operating efficiencies and pursuing research.

By the year 2035, one in every four Michigan residents will be over age 65. The disability rate of these seniors is increasing as well. In fact, right now in Wayne County, almost half of the senior population reports having a disability. These facts, combined with the aging baby boomer population, create an increased need for the services provided by the Agencies.

"The reality is, traditional sources of funding are disappearing while the baby boomers are aging, creating a huge challenge in our abilities to appropriately serve a rapidly growing population," says Denise Christy, chairperson of the Collaborative and president, CEO of Humana Michigan. "In addition, this new generation of seniors has different service demands, and is more culturally diverse. So our Agencies are looking at ways to provide a greater level of service in more efficient ways."

The Agencies have spent the past year reviewing and comparing needs and best practices. The Collaboration will be seeking funding to support research into market needs; exploration of new programming opportunities and partnering in administrative areas such as purchasing, insurance, and training to create financial and operational efficiencies; and education and outreach including branding for the Collaborative.

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Suite 400
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The Senior Alliance
Area Agency on Aging 1-C
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Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 722-2830
www.aaa1c.org

Valley Area Agency on Aging
225 E. Fifth Street
Suite 200
Flint, MI 48502
(810) 239-7671
www.valleyaaa.org

“More than 40 percent of the state’s elderly population lives in the 10 southeast Michigan counties served by the Collaborative. But, this group is just a start,” says Christy. “We will share our findings and experience with additional Area Agencies on Aging across Michigan.

“Initially we will be seeking funding to develop an infrastructure for the Collaborative.”

The announcement of the AAA Collaborative is being made in May during National Older Americans Month.

The Area Agencies on Aging were created from the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA). The Act authorized the agencies to provide information and access to community-based services for older Americans and their families. In 2000, OAA broadened its focus to providing information so that informed choices can be made by older adults and their families. All individuals 60 years of age and older are eligible for services under the OAA, although priority attention is given to those who are in greatest need.

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Area Agencies on Aging Collaborative Serving Together.

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

Our mission

To promote healthy aging and enhance the quality of life for older adults in southeast Michigan.

The challenge

By 2030, one of every three Michigan citizens will be 55 or older and one of five will be 65 or older. This rapid increase in the elderly population and its challenges call for efficient and effective services. Four Area Agencies on Aging, whose mission is to provide community-based services and opportunities for older adults and their families, are stepping up to the challenge by creating a Collaborative that would better serve the needs of older adults while increasing service efficiency and effectiveness.

Who we are

The AAA Collaborative is comprised of four Area Agencies on Aging that, combined, serve a 10-county market region of 5.7 million people including 1.5 million adults – one of every four persons – aged 62 and older.

Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1-A

Detroit; Hamtramck, Harper Woods;
Highland Park;
Grosse Pointe Park/City/Farms/Woods/Shores

Area Agency on Aging 1-B

Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland,
St. Clair, Washtenaw counties

The Senior Alliance – AAA 1-C

Southern and western Wayne County

Valley Area Agency on Aging

Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee counties

What we do

Quite simply, we help older adults live their lives to the fullest extent possible. We provide access to resources and serve as a trusted source of information for older adults and caregivers. We contract for services such as caregiving, home delivered meals, and respite. We provide information about Medicare and Medicaid. We provide options to institutional placement. We help older people make behavioral changes that will reduce their risk of disease, disability and injury. We are a line of defense against elder fraud and abuse. We advocate for seniors. And more.

Why the Collaborative is so important

Our agencies are committed to building a strategic collaborative that will better serve our present clients, attract new clients and increase efficiency and effectiveness. The Collaborative will focus on expanding the services we offer to include clients as young as 50 years of age and to eliminate income requirements. The Collaborative will implement operational changes designed to streamline and reduce administrative, human resource and programming costs. The Collaborative will also create a model of collaboration for other Area Aging Agencies across Michigan.

Infrastructure support is needed for research, program, education & outreach

The opportunity for four established agencies to collaborate is at hand. To build capacity and an infrastructure, the Collaborative needs financial support for 1) **research** into market needs and new programming opportunities; 2) **program** partnerships in administrative areas to create financial and operational efficiencies; and 3) **education** and **outreach**, including branding for the Collaborative.

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