Paving the way for a

Longevity Ready Maryland

Annual Report: January 2026



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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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Executive Summary

The Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) multisector plan for aging is designed to enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of all Marylanders as we age. Using the framework of longevity creates the opportunity to plan for both the individual and broader societal impact of living longer lives.

Maryland is leading the way by being the first state to integrate its ten-year multisector plan for aging—as directed by the Governor—with its federally-mandated four-year State Plan on Aging required under the Older Americans Act. This alignment ensures a cohesive, forward-thinking approach that coordinates immediate state priorities with longer-term strategies to support all Marylanders as we age. LRM is the product of more than two years of rigorous engagement, research, and development, shaped by the insight and expertise of Marylanders from all walks of life, including local and state governments, advocacy organizations, public and private service providers, caregivers, and older adults.

The LRM Plan can be found online at LRM.Maryland.gov.

2026 Annual Report Timeline

Outline of Activities:

JULY 2025 - DECEMBER 2025

Governor Moore and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) approved LRM as Maryland's State Plan on Aging on July 30, 2025, and September 26, 2025, respectively. Since then, activities for the reporting date ending December 31, 2025 focused on the following:

- LRM.Maryland.gov launched in July to provide a robust platform for sharing resources, coordinating workgroups, and disseminating information.
- **Outreach and awareness** from July to October included:
  - Stakeholder engagement events that educated aging partners on implementing LRM's objectives and strategies.
  - Marketing and media communications that built awareness of LRM's value to key audiences and communities across Maryland.
- **Implementation policies** developed between July and September defined practical approaches for cross-sector participation.
- **Workgroup development** began in September with several public events starting in October.

Recommendations:

JANUARY 2026 - DECEMBER 2026

- **Priorities for 2026** include:
  - Caregiver support
  - Nutrition services
  - Improving access to benefits and services
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Continue to expand an all-of-government approach in refining and prioritizing the plan's short-term strategies by expanding the Commission on Aging, increasing aging network participation in state-led Councils, and strengthening cross-agency partnerships for healthy longevity.
- **Policy and Service Analysis:** Further build out the aging services network data capacity and policy in alignment with LRM
- **Policy and Service Development:** Codify LRM into law, redesign MDOA programs, and build out cross-agency policies.
- **Evaluation and Tracking:** Enhance data collection and reporting capacity and develop a robust LRM evaluation framework.

Progress Made to Date

LRM launched in July 2025 and has made significant progress in developing infrastructure, collaborative partnerships, and awareness of LRM during the first six months. An overview of LRM's implementation activities align with LRM's four planned phases of implementation:



Stakeholder Engagement



Policy and Service Analysis



Policy and Service Development



Evaluation and Tracking

Implementation Milestones

Stakeholder Engagement

- MDOA engaged state agencies, local organizations, and community leaders through robust outreach efforts to create awareness of LRM's value and promote opportunities for participation.
- MDOA leadership met with state agencies to align LRM objectives with existing plans and initiatives, identify challenges, and define opportunities for advancing mutual strategies.
- MDOA partnered with philanthropy to drive resources to advance longevity-readiness through the FY26 Aging in Place Grant and began the process of collaborative planning for FY27.

Policy and Service Analysis

- Working closely with key stakeholders, MDOA enhanced MAP to improve the resource database and build awareness of Maryland Access Point (MAP) as a tool for communicating available services.
- MDOA analyzed the alignment of executive commissions, committees, task forces, and advisory boards to initiate strategies that maximize aging service representation in these spaces.
- MDOA redesigned internal programming, policies, data collection, and priorities to align with LRM's objectives and strategies.

Policy and Service Development

- MDOA secured funding and advanced grant-funded multisector planning, policy, and service development for caregiver supports and No Wrong Door improvements.
- MDOA proposed legislation to stakeholders that would codify LRM into MDOA's and the Maryland Commission on Aging's core responsibilities. It is planned for introduction in the 2026 legislative session.
- MDOA launched LRM.Maryland.gov as a robust resource for implementing strategies, tracking progress, and engaging stakeholders. It also features sector-specific resources that communities can use to prepare for longevity-readiness at the local level.

Evaluation and Tracking

- MDOA enhanced and promoted the LRM Data Dashboard as an effective planning tool, integrating relevant local, state, and national data sources.
- MDOA provided oversight to help aging networks meet Older Americans Act program requirements and is redesigning network policy and planning to align with LRM's objectives and strategies.
- MDOA created LRM in Action, an online, public-facing platform where state agencies can share progress and resources for implementing LRM's objectives and strategies.

Key Accomplishments

LRM is a whole-of-government approach developed in collaboration with other state agencies that incorporates the strategic plans, policies, and programs that impact healthy longevity across Maryland. A more detailed list of progress made to date can be found in the Appendix.

Maryland Department of Aging

- MDOA partnered with state agencies, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), and other aging service network providers to prepare for changes to the federal landscape and Older Americans Act regulations, developing and implementing new policies that successfully integrated State Plan on Aging requirements into our ten-year multisector plan on aging, becoming the first in the nation to do so.
- MDOA mobilized the MAP network to address gaps in benefits and piloted a warm handoff process for 211 Maryland callers who need person-centered options counseling from a MAP site.
- MDOA worked with the Maryland Department of Human Services to integrate programs for older adults and people with disabilities into the Maryland Benefits screener tool and direct them to MAP for more help.
- MDOA and the University of Maryland Baltimore County are providing asset-based community development workshops across Maryland. More than 75 community leaders participated in the first workshop held at Frostburg State University in partnership with the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission and Live Together.
- MDOA, AAAs, and the departments of health and disabilities organized a Respite Care Ambassador Program to engage family caregivers, highlight their important role, and provide information on caregiver-related support. Participants are connected to Maryland's No Wrong Door system.
- MDOA and the AAA network established a Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR) workgroup that met between May and September 2025 to develop recommendations on the redesign of state-funded pre-Medicaid long term services and supports.
- MDOA initiated LRM Reframe Aging Workgroup activities by hosting its first learning session to share best practices and build awareness of age-related bias. Aging Reframed through Community Conversations was held on Ageism Awareness Day, and included over 500 participants.
- MDOA, the Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, LeadingAge Maryland, and LifeSpan Network partnered with AgingIn to host Empower Your Possible, an educational series focused on prioritizing person-centered supports in Maryland's long-term care settings.
- MDOA, the Maryland Information Network, and Johns Hopkins University are piloting a Memory Care Checklist tool to support family caregivers with resources tailored to their individual needs. The tool is planned for public release in 2026.

Partner Agencies

- The Maryland Department of Human Services launched the Maryland Benefits One Application in July 2025. The mobile-friendly tool helps Marylanders apply for multiple benefits at once, including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, energy assistance, among others.
- In September 2025 Governor Moore signed an Executive Order to increase housing production, improve the use of state-owned land to create more efficient development, reduce state permitting timelines, and bring more homes to market faster in an effort to tackle housing affordability and address Maryland's 96,000 unit housing shortage.
- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) at the University of Maryland brought together federal, state and local data, methodologies, and subject matter experts to identify multisector challenges facing the state's affordable housing supply and expand the 2020 Housing Needs Assessment.
- The Maryland Department of Health created an Aging and Suicide Fact Sheet in English and Spanish to increase awareness of older adult suicide and improve access to resources.
- Governor Moore announced nearly $600,000 in grant awards to strengthen career pathways and retention for health care workers. The funding distributed through the Maryland Department of Labor will provide occupational training opportunities for more than 300 health care professionals.

Recommendations

MDOA Priorities for 2026

LRM 's priority areas for the four- and 10-year reporting periods include short-, mid-, and long-term outcomes for each of its 14 objectives. The following programmatic and policy recommendations for 2026 will continue the implementation process and support short-term outcomes identified in the plan.

- **CAREGIVER SUPPORT:** Improving the reach, accessibility and coordination of services that support paid and unpaid caregivers in collaboration with the Maryland Commission on Caregiving and the departments of health, human services, and others.
- **MARYLAND NO WRONG DOOR ACCESS TO SERVICES:** Enhancing MAP aging and disability resource center and improving coordination with other access points in collaboration with AAAs, the Maryland Information Network and the departments of health, human services, and information technology.
- **HEALTHY NUTRITION:** Leveraging nutrition programming for a food-is-medicine approach targeting those in the greatest need in collaboration with state and local partners.
- **CODIFYING LRM INTO LAW:** Introducing legislation to protect the cross-sector coordinated supports needed to achieve LRM's goals.
- **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:** Increasing representation in key committees and coalitions across sectors and agencies—including the Maryland Commission on Aging—to support sector-specific partnership building, advance key strategies, build coalitions, and coordinate resources at the state, regional, and local levels.
- **PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS:** Developing relationships with nonprofit foundations to increase investment in aging-in-place infrastructure and combine funding streams.

Key Projects and Initiatives:

- **LRM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK:** MDOA and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Erickson School of Aging Studies will continue asset-based community development training for local community and organizational leaders in Prince George's County, Cecil County, and the lower shore.
- **LRM EVALUATION WORKGROUP:** MDOA is building partnerships with academia to develop a robust and quality evaluation framework to understand and track longevity readiness and progress towards the plan's goals.
- **RESPITE CARE AMBASSADOR TOOLKIT:** MDOA, the departments of health, human services, and disabilities, and respite care professionals from every AAA jurisdiction in Maryland will apply their collective expertise with Maryland's No Wrong Door system to develop resources for respite professionals and family caregivers to increase access to respite care.
- **CAREGIVING OUTREACH PARTNERSHIPS:** MDOA, and the departments of health and disabilities will coordinate year-round communications strategies to better educate families about caregiving resources.
- **JH MEMORY CARE FAMILY CHECKLIST:** MDOA and the Maryland Information Network will launch the Checklist in January and build awareness of its value in helping families impacted by dementia identify needs and access supports to help them develop a larger care plan.
- **AGE-FRIENDLY DESIGNATION:** MDOA and AARP will designate Maryland an Age-Friendly state to support LRM's objectives and strategies, and create more Age-Friendly communities across the state.
- **SOAR IMPLEMENTATION:** MDOA and AAAs will implement SOAR, a consolidation of the former Senior Care, Senior Assisted Living Subsidy, and Congregate Housing Services programs to modernize and strengthen the local home- and community-based services network.

Appendix

The following LRM in Action items include progress made during the 2025 reporting period by state leadership across sectors in implementing LRM's objectives and strategies.

EPIC GOAL 1: Build a Longevity Ecosystem

Objective: Strengthen partnerships with service providers, community organizations, nonprofits, academia, and the private sector to leverage public-private partnerships and support community-driven action.

STRATEGY:

Continually assess longevity readiness across state agencies and increase cross-sector collaboration that embraces a lifespan approach to policy and service delivery.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA and the Maryland Department of Planning have partnered to create the LRM Data Dashboard, a resource for sharing key data on the social determinants of health that impact older Marylanders.
- MDOA, the Maryland Department of Disabilities, and the Maryland Department of Health partnered on a joint initiative committed to the Technology First framework to provide a consolidated directory of free or low-cost medical and assistive technology, equipment, and service programs, and streamlined outreach to bring greater awareness of these supports.
- MDOA is developing the criteria to build an Action Network of coalitions with state-led commissions, councils, and advisory groups, as well as local action leaders from the private sector and academia, to gain an understanding of where work impacting longevity is housed and develop partnerships for implementing LRM's objectives and strategies.
- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development worked with NCSG at the University of Maryland to bring together a range of federal, state and local data sources, methodologies, and subject matter experts to expose the multisector challenges facing Maryland's affordable housing supply and expand the 2020 Housing Needs Assessment.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- LRM Data Dashboard: An innovative resource to help service providers and policymakers identify needs, anticipate trends, and measure outcomes that impact longevity in Maryland by providing information about life expectancy, population growth, and health and economic indicators across racial, age, and geographic breakdowns.
- Maryland Equips: Provides free medical equipment, assistive technology, and other low-cost supports to Marylanders of all ages with any disability, illness, or injury who need additional support to remain comfortable and connected.
- Maryland Housing Needs Assessment Update: Explores the scope and impact of Maryland's housing gap, particularly for low-income and older adult households.

STRATEGY:

Improve data capture and dissemination through coordinated data systems and capacity building at the state and local levels.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Maryland Council on Open Data was established as part of the Open Data Act to recommend, coordinate, identify, advise, encourage, plan, promote, and advocate for open data in Maryland.
- MDOA has implemented internal data systems to better review quarterly and annual data by grantee and by program, engage with stakeholders, and provide insightful data and geomapping information to inform programming needs and track progress.

- MDOA was awarded the Administration for Community Living's Long-Term Services and Supports Efficiency Grant in June 2025, a two-year grant that includes the development of a MAP web-based referral platform to connect health care and MAP partners through closed-loop referrals.
- The Maryland Department of Health released a State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) 2018-2024 Trend Report analyzing key circumstances surrounding unintentional fatal overdoses.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Maryland Open Data Portal: Collects and disseminates data from a range of Maryland-based agencies and service providers.
- Maryland Access Point: MAP specialists work with caregivers, professionals, and all individuals with long-term care needs to plan, identify, connect, and assist with accessing private and public resources for long-term services and supports.
- Community and Clinical Data Initiative (CODI): An open source model that brings together people, processes, and technology to build locally-owned infrastructure that supports the community to improve health.
- Maryland State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS): SUDORS is a statewide surveillance system on accidental and undetermined intent overdose deaths in Maryland that collects data from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports.
- SUDORS Trend Report, August 2025: Provides circumstances of fatal overdose from 2018-2024.
- Overdose Data Portal: A data dashboard that reports fatal overdose statistics in Maryland.

STRATEGY:

Engage local communities in asset mapping, identifying opportunities to promote healthy longevity.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA and UMBC signed an agreement to plan and deliver four asset-based community development workshops over the next year. The training will provide local community leaders with tools for local action through interactive learning and asset mapping.
- MDOA is implementing a robust outreach program to update service provider geomapping referral data provided by MAP.
- MDOA and the Montgomery County Village Consortium are developing a sustainable plan to support villages in the region.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program: Will map assets to leverage operational proficiencies and existing systems, skills, and resources to expand Village model services to more residents in the Montgomery County region.
- LRM Community Development Network: Provides asset-based community development training for local community and organizational leaders to develop skills to identify and connect community resources for collective gain.

STRATEGY:

Promote the adoption of the age-friendly communities model as an effective means for local governments, organizations, and community members to advance collaboration that supports healthy longevity.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA, six age-friendly community leaders, and AARP met in August 2025 for the inaugural convening of Maryland's Age Friendly Communities. The series is intended to provide the opportunity for communities to share successes, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing the age-friendly network in our state.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Age Friendly Communities: The development of inclusive programs and systems that encourage best practices that make communities more livable for residents of all ages.

STRATEGY:

Increase private investment that supports local age-friendly programs and infrastructure.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- Since the start of 2024, MDOA has leveraged $275,000 in privately funded technical assistance consultation and $940,000 in publicly-funded competitive grants to support cross-agency collaborative planning and implementation of aging and caregiving supportive services.

- MDOA and Weinberg Foundation, in collaboration with the Baltimore Community Foundation, are piloting a co-funding grant partnership management model they are in the process of developing to enhance the impact of grant programs and leverage state dollars with private philanthropic investment.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- MDOA Grants Program: Providing competitive funding opportunities that support healthy aging and aging in place initiatives.

Objective: Enhance multi-disciplinary prevention and response policies for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation across state agencies.

STRATEGY:

Implement policies that promote justice and safeguard older adults across state- and federally-funded programs.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA, the Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, Leading Age Maryland, and the LifeSpan Network partnered with AgingIn to host Empower Your Possible, an educational series focused on changing the culture of care in Maryland's long-term care settings towards person-centered supports.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program: Advocates for the health, safety, well-being, and rights of residents in assisted living and nursing homes.

STRATEGY:

Improve systems for monitoring private and public guardianship to preserve the rights of older adults.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Supreme Court of Maryland's Administrative Office of the Courts concluded a three-year Elder Justice Innovation Grant from the Administration for Community Living to assess the state's guardianship system and the "health care-to-guardianship pipeline" to find ways to reduce the number of unnecessary or overly broad guardianships.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- MDOA Guardianship Program: MDOA coordinates the Area Agency on Aging network to serve as public guardians of last resort for adults aged 65 and older.
- DHS Adult Public Guardianship Program: Maryland Department of Human Services coordinates the Department of Social Services' network statewide to serve as public guardians of adults aged 18-64.
- Maryland Court Guardianship Training Program: Training that guardians of a person and property must complete.

Objective: Increase the distribution of resources across state programs to historically underserved and under-resourced communities.

STRATEGY:

Engage under-resourced communities to plan and implement programs and policies that address community needs.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Moore-Miller Administration has committed to expanding access to board service, attracting the best talent possible to serve, and making Maryland's boards representative of the state and diverse communities they serve.
- The Moore-Miller Administration spearheaded the passage of the Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Act, a law intended to tackle the root causes of poverty in Maryland by addressing inequities and working with impacted communities to develop local solutions.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Governor's Appointments Office: The Appointments Office assists the Governor in the appointment process for the individuals who lead and serve on Maryland's 600+ boards and commissions.
- ENOUGH: Administered by the Governor's Office for Children, ENOUGH supports 27 community-led organizations across 12 counties, representing rural, suburban, and urban areas in the state that have been historically impacted by barriers to economic mobility.

STRATEGY:

Establish criteria across agencies for state-funded grants to ensure resources are targeted to communities in need.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA reviewed its Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) for opportunities to better integrate demographic factors used in state and federal funding allocation. MDOA will be working with AAAs to understand the utility and impact of incorporating additional factors into the IFF to determine a potential State Plan amendment to drive resources to populations in need.
- MDOA has incorporated eligibility preferences for grantees that focus on historically underserved communities in an effort to drive resources to persons with the greatest need.

STRATEGY:

Provide training that supports the adoption of bias-free language principles that promote the benefits and contributions of older Marylanders in all state- and federally-funded communications.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA partnered with the National Center to Reframe Aging to change the way society talks about aging, work to end implicit bias toward older people, and create more age-inclusive communities. Over 500 participants were trained, including state agency communications professionals, Area Agency on Aging staff, nonprofit professionals, and philanthropists.
- MDOA initiated the LRM Reframe Workgroup and hosted its first learning session to share best practices and build awareness of age-related bias with stakeholders. Aging Reframed through Community Conversations was held on October 9, Ageism Awareness Day and included over 500 participants.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Reframe Aging: Addresses the impact of age-related bias in the community and disseminates educational material on identifying and eliminating age-related bias.
- LRM's Reframe Aging Workgroup: Works to reshape the aging narrative and promote proven strategies that reduce age-related bias.

STRATEGY:

Continue investment in sustainable growth to build community resiliency, connectivity, affordability, and vitality.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Moore-Miller Administration created Sustainable Growth Policy and Planning Principles, which intend to guide Maryland's shift from smart growth to sustainable growth and usher in a more balanced way of managing land use and development.
- At the request of the General Assembly, the Comptroller of Maryland studied the feasibility and fiscal impact on implementing a statewide a baby bonds program in Maryland.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- The Maryland Sustainable Growth Subcabinet: Chaired by the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, it is responsible for creating, enhancing, supporting, and revitalizing sustainable communities across Maryland.
- The Sustainable Growth Implementation Guide: A planning framework that emphasizes Maryland's land use and development priorities while also allowing flexibility in how they are applied by various user types.
- Expanding Opportunity to Build Wealth – Maryland Baby Bonds Report: An innovative policy approach to increasing economic mobility and bringing generational wealth to under-resourced communities.

Objective: Maximize the benefits of older volunteers across sectors.

STRATEGY:

Evaluate the landscape of volunteerism in Maryland and develop an action plan that leverages the growing population of skilled older volunteers.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA and the Department of Service and Civic Innovation are collaborating to understand the landscape of existing volunteer opportunities.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism: The commission reviews and approves all AmeriCorps State funding in Maryland and serves as a body of ambassadors for service and volunteerism in local communities.

STRATEGY:

Increase awareness and adoption of the neighbor-helping-neighbor Village model.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA has partnered with academia to create data collection, research, and educational resources to empower Village model community organizations.
- MDOA has engaged Village model community organizations to participate in a statewide Maryland Village Directory and communications hub for collecting and disseminating resources and supports.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Supportive Communities: An initiative aimed at creating age-friendly communities where older adults can thrive by supporting local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community members that serve older adults.
- Washington Area Villages Exchange: An initiative that offers resources and support for DC-area Village members.

EPIC GOAL 2: Promote Economic Opportunity

Objective: Strengthen Maryland's ongoing commitment to family caregivers.

STRATEGY:

Increase the capacity of state agencies and the Maryland Commission on Caregiving to adopt actions within the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA is expanding outreach, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing supports for family caregivers through a $490,000 cross-agency initiative funded by The Maryland Caregiver Navigation Grant. Maryland was one of only four states to receive this funding from the Administration for Community Living.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- The Respite Care Ambassador Program: A statewide network of dedicated ambassadors who inspire, educate, and raise awareness about respite care in Maryland.
- Caregiver Webinar Series: 10 evidence-based training sessions intended to implement caregiver support, education, and resources to caregivers in targeted populations.

STRATEGY:

Improve coordination between state-led caregiver support programs such as the National Family Caregiver Support Program, Kinship Care, and the Lifespan Respite Care Program, including through collaboration with the National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families and other technical assistance partners.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- Respite care professionals from every AAA jurisdiction in Maryland along with Maryland Departments of Health, Human Services, and Disabilities have been assembled to apply their collective expertise with Maryland's No Wrong Door system to effectively engage and educate family caregivers on the availability and importance of respite care.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- The Respite Care Ambassador Toolkit: A resource being developed by the The Respite Care Ambassador Program that will include guides, fact sheets, and other supports to help respite care professionals across Maryland educate others on respite care.

STRATEGY:

Expand the reach of existing caregiver support programs to underserved populations through targeted and culturally appropriate outreach in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA and Johns Hopkins University are in the process of piloting a Memory Care Checklist tool to support informal, unpaid, and family caregivers across diverse Maryland communities with resources and supports specific to each individual's needs. The tool is scheduled to launch in January 2026.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist©: Helps caregivers of people living with cognitive difficulties identify different types of care needs they may have and offer personalized recommendations and resources to help address these needs.

STRATEGY:

Improve Maryland's No Wrong Door access to information and supports for family caregivers.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA, the AAA network, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Maryland Department of Disabilities have organized a caregiver leadership program with participants connected to Maryland's No Wrong Door system to effectively engage family caregivers, highlight their important role, and provide information on caregiver-related support.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- The Respite Care Ambassador Program: A statewide network of dedicated ambassadors who inspire, educate, and raise awareness about respite care in Maryland.

Objective: Improve the quality of direct care careers.

STRATEGY:

Engage direct care workers as participating stakeholders in the design of relevant state policies to improve the quality of direct care careers.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Maryland Department of Labor's Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program will provide nearly $240,000 in matching grants to help employers and workforce organizations recruit, retain, and advance direct care workers. The investment will support occupational training, licensing costs, and wraparound services—including offsetting transportation costs—to help workers remain engaged and successful in their careers.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program - Workforce Development & Adult Learning: Provides matching grants to eligible entities that create and expand upon successful recruitment and retention strategies in an effort to increase the number and availability of direct care workers across Maryland.

EPIC GOAL 3: Prepare Marylanders to Afford Longevity

Objective: Improve access to affordable, accessible housing options that support aging in place.

STRATEGY:

Through partnerships between the public and private sectors, invest in a variety of affordable housing developments, programs, and initiatives that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has been working with a range of public and private partners to expand affordable housing development for low-income residents through finance and funding opportunities and multifamily finance programs.
- MDOA has been consulting with DHCD's Housing and Finance Review Committee to prioritize investment in housing programs that support aging in place through development in key areas and repurposing multi-housing developments to be more accessible to people with disabilities.
- Governor Moore signed an Executive Order in September 2025 to increase housing production across the state, improve the use of state-owned land to create more efficient development, reduce state permitting timelines, and bring more homes to market faster in an effort to tackle housing affordability and address Maryland's 96,000 unit housing shortage across the state.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development Online Application Portal: Consolidates program and grant applications for a range of HUBS, New Construction, Emergency Mortgage Assistance, and other affordable housing programs in Baltimore City.
- Maryland Affordable Housing Trust: Promotes affordable housing for low-income residents by funding capital costs and operating expenses of rental and ownership housing, providing financial assistance to nonprofit developers, and financing supportive services for occupants.
- CAPABLE Pilot: Expanding evidence-based home modification and support models in rural communities to help older adults age in place.
- Department of Housing and Community Development: Provides financing for developers and contractors.

STRATEGY:

Expand aging in place options by providing wraparound services that include health care, transportation, and social services in coordination with Area Agencies on Aging, Centers for Independent Living, Villages, and other community-based aging service providers.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- Through the Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator, Maryland agencies received a targeted resource to better guide AAAs to make effective referrals to connect eligible older Marylanders to low- or no-barrier stable housing and integrated medical care with wrap-around services.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS): Helps eligible Medicaid participants within Baltimore City, Cecil County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County who are at risk of institutional placement or homelessness find housing and tenancy-based services.

STRATEGY:

Increase access to home repair and modification programs that ensure safe and accessible home environments, such as HUBS, BCAUSE, CAPABLE, and Accessible Homes for Seniors.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- DHCD and MDOA partnered to secure public and private funding to expand the CAPABLE home modification model to rural communities over a two-year span. Local service delivery under the grants has launched.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- CAPABLE Pilot: Expanding evidence-based home modification and support models in rural communities to help older adults age in place.

STRATEGY:

Increase access to any applicable state tax credits for income-limited households by lowering income thresholds, increasing property value limitations, and simplifying applications.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- DHCD incorporated a permanent supportive housing requirement into the proposed Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program for 2024/2025. Older adults who are chronically homeless will be prioritized for units created under the program.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program: Encourages the private sector to invest in the construction and rehabilitation of housing for low- and moderate-income families.

Objective: Streamline access to public benefits and services.

STRATEGY:

Review and modernize state- and Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports to increase the number of people served, improve equitable service delivery statewide, and reduce administrative burden on providers.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA and the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) were awarded a privately-funded technical assistance opportunity to create a more streamlined continuum of care from pre-Medicaid to Medicaid LTSS. Based on the lessons learned, MDOA proposed and passed HB36, SB212 - Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR) to consolidate and restructure three existing state-funded programs to enhance care support for older adults in their homes and communities.

- MDOA worked with consultants in 2025 to review the SOAR and Senior Call Check and Social Connections programs for opportunities to incorporate evidence-based practices, blend and braid funding, and improve the reach and effectiveness of services to inform program redesign.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Supporting Older Adults with Resources (SOAR): modernizes and strengthens the local home- and community-based services network by standardizing and streamlining systems of supports to more efficiently and effectively serve a greater number of older Marylanders.

- Senior Call Check and Social Connections: A safety check program that sends daily automated calls to program participants to make sure they are ok. Participants can opt in to receive weekly live calls as an alternative.

STRATEGY:

Incorporate programs targeting Marylanders across the lifespan, including older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers into the universal eligibility benefits application.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Maryland Benefits One Application launched July 2025. The mobile-friendly tool helps eligible Marylanders apply for multiple benefits, including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, energy assistance, and others in one place.

- MDOA worked with DHS to integrate programs targeting older adults (Medicare Savings Programs, Low Income Subsidy, and the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program) into the Maryland Benefits screener tool and direct older adults and people with disabilities to MAP for additional assistance with long-term services and supports. Updates to the tool went live in early November 2025.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Maryland Benefits: A single source for applying for food, cash, health, and energy assistance benefits in Maryland through a shorter, easier-to-understand form that works on any device. Users can also track benefits and update their information through the platform.

STRATEGY:

Explore ways artificial intelligence can be leveraged to improve access to public benefits and programs.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- Governor Wes Moore announced a landmark partnership between state government and private sector technology companies to harness artificial intelligence in tackling child poverty, expanding housing access, and modernizing Maryland's government. The partnership builds upon a 2025 collaboration that expanded customer access while reducing call volumes for the SUN Bucks food support benefits for kids using a bilingual chatbot.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Maryland SUN Bucks: Helps families with school-aged children who receive free or reduced-price meals buy groceries during the summer break when school meals are unavailable.

EPIC GOAL 4: Optimize Health, Wellness, and Mobility

Objective: Improve equitable access to holistic health care that addresses physical, behavioral, emotional, and cognitive health.

STRATEGY:

Implement the AHEAD model to expand Maryland's focus on primary care, population health, prevention, and health equity across age groups.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- In September 2025, Governor Moore issued a directive to create a working group of state regulatory agencies to achieve the goals and objectives of the State of Maryland under the AHEAD Model. The working group conducted listening sessions in October and November to receive stakeholder input.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- AHEAD Regulatory Working Group–Multi-Agency Workplan: Details the participants and priorities in advancing the state's vision of improving health care quality, access, and affordability through the AHEAD Model.

STRATEGY:

Explore policies that incentivize enhanced care delivery models in the home and community that collaborate with community-based organizations, care navigators, and community health workers, such as the Neighborhood Nursing model.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- MDOA and the University of Maryland School of Medicine completed the Hospital Transitions Program, a one-year pilot with Maryland Information Network to reduce preventable hospital readmissions among Medicaid- and Medicare-eligible older adults and adults with disabilities.

- The Maryland Department of Health gathered public feedback to inform the development of the state's Rural Health Transformation Program proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). CMS must approve or deny all applications by December 31, 2025.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- The Hospital Transitions Program: Delivered intensive, person-centered support to 62 participants for 120 days after a hospital discharge to guide them through waiver enrollment, paperwork, insurance navigation, and access to essential services. The program delivered a 23 percent reduction in hospital visits within the first month, and a 5 percent reduction at three months. On average, for every $1 spent on care management for program participants, there was a $20.81 reduction in hospital utilization-related costs.

- Maryland's Proposal for CMS's Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): Focuses on three initiatives: 1. Transform the Rural Health Workforce; 2. Promote sustainable access and innovative care; and 3. Empower rural Marylanders to eat for health.

STRATEGY:

Expand access to, and utilization of, community-based behavioral health services that address long-term care needs.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE

- Mental Health and Aging Coalition's 2026 Policy Agenda sets behavioral and mental health policy recommendation standards to better meet the unique needs of Maryland's older adult population.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Collaborative Care Participant Information: Helps primary care providers coordinate mental and behavioral health treatments, including depression and substance use disorders.

STRATEGY:

Leverage existing state infrastructure to target shortage areas for health providers and direct support professionals to increase access to care among older adults in underserved communities.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- Governor Wes Moore announced nearly $600,000 in grant awards to provide career pathways and increase retention among health care workers. The grant funding will provide occupational training opportunities for more than 300 health care professionals.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Career Pathways for Healthcare Workers Program: Provides funding to help eligible employers train health care workers.
- Direct Care Workforce Innovation Program: Provides funding to create and expand successful recruitment and retention strategies to increase the direct care workforce in Maryland.

STRATEGY:

Increase access to technology that will enhance the ability of all Marylanders to pursue their best life as they define it through the Technology First initiative by increasing access to the internet and providing resources for digital literacy education, accessible telecommunications equipment, telehealth, assistive technology, and durable medical equipment.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE:

- The Office of Statewide Broadband completed a nearly $2 million infrastructure project in September 2025 to bring high-speed internet access to residents and business owners in Smith Island.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Connect Maryland: Works to ensure that every Marylander has access to broadband services, regardless of their ZIP code.

Objective: Increase access to healthy food and physical activity.

STRATEGY:

Promote free and low-cost community wellness and fitness classes through targeted communications, partnerships with local organizations, and the utilization of public spaces.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE

- Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and other partnering agencies are planning promotions, events, and webinars spotlighting Maryland pedestrian safety, health, and commuting options for the October Walktober observance.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Walktober: A Maryland observance in October to promote pedestrian safety and walking programs and Initiatives.

STRATEGY:

Embrace a food-is-medicine approach by developing policies that support access to healthy food, home-delivered meals, and medically-tailored meals through cross-sector collaboration.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE

- MDOA developed a Nutrition Security Policy Statement to guide internal programming and collaborative planning to support access to healthy food among older adults and caregivers. The policy will be utilized to support MDOA efforts to modernize aging services network programming and effectively partner with MDH on a wider Food is Medicine Initiative.
- The Maryland Department of Health included Food is Medicine as a primary component to the CMS Rural Health Transformation Program and is in discussion with several state agencies on ways to collaborate in 2026.

KEY INITIATIVES

- MDOA Nutrition Services: Provides leadership for nutrition programs serving healthy meals or supplemental food to older adults throughout the state.
- The Rural Health Transformation Program Proposal: Addresses three areas of transformation to strengthen and improve the health and well-being of our rural residents.

STRATEGY:

Screen for and cross-promote food assistance programs, including SNAP, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and locally-operated programs.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE

- In October 2025 the Federal Commodities Supplemental Food Program was successfully transferred from MDOA to the Department of Human Services to better align the program with the Emergency Food Program, Maryland Emergency Food Assistance, and other programs to improve efficiency and cross-promote available resources.

KEY INITIATIVES

- DHS Office of Community Grants: Contracts with emergency food providers throughout the State to distribute funds and commodities to meet the needs of hungry Marylanders.

Objective: Increase investment in services and transportation infrastructure that promote safety, accessibility, and mobility.

STRATEGY:

Build out a sustained Model Complete Streets building initiative to improve connectivity between land use planning and community transportation, fill in gaps in active transportation networks, and support accessible and walkable communities.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE

- Maryland Department of Transportation published the Complete Streets Implementation Plan in February 2025 which translates the Complete Streets Policy into a blueprint of new project development and decision-making processes.
- Maryland Department of Transportation completed the Maryland MOVE Roundtable, an engagement series to establish Complete Streets champions among local, regional and state partners.

KEY INITIATIVES

- Complete Streets Initiative: Ensures a range of safe options for multimodal transportation are prioritized throughout all phases of project development, applying a multi-pronged approach to delivering safe and accessible travel options for every roadway user.
- MDOT Complete Streets Implementation Plan: Details project development and decision-making processes that leverage existing and new resources for the implementation of Complete Streets
- 2025 MOVE Roundtable: Convenes diverse stakeholders to address a local issue through the MOVE lense: Mobility, Opportunity, Voice, and Equity.