



COLORADO

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COLORADO

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Policy & Research

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**WHAT ARE OUR NEXT STEPS FOR
AGING-RELATED POLICY IN COLORADO?**

MODERNIZE OLDER COLORADANS ACT

Key Components of Past Recommendations

Organization and Structure:

Permanent, high-level position or office within the executive branch

Legislature should consider a similar position for Legislative Council

Sufficient autonomy and authority for policy development, coordination, and implementation

Advisory council of statewide stakeholders with diverse membership

Sustainable funding and adequate staffing

Key Components of Past Recommendations

Duties and Responsibilities:

Set and coordinate consistent policy priorities with federal, state, local, and private partners

Maximize efficiencies and identify gaps, strengths, and funding opportunities

Collect, analyze, share data, convene, and coordinate across agencies

Help drive public education and outreach efforts

Implement Strategic Action Plan on Aging and recommendations from other work groups

Develop and propose legislation and budget requests

Implement Lifelong Colorado strategies and support age-friendly community efforts

WHAT IS MISSING HERE?

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Older Americans Act: Mission of the State Agency

“The Older Americans Act intends that the State agency on aging **shall be the leader relative to all aging issues** on behalf of all older persons in the State. This means that the State agency shall proactively carry out a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, coordination, interagency linkages, information sharing, brokering, monitoring and evaluation, designed to lead to the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems in, or serving, communities throughout the State. These systems shall be designed to **assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives** in their own homes and communities as long as possible.”

Older Americans Act, 45 CFR § 1321.7:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/1321.7>

Emerging Federal Direction

Administration for Community Living developed the Strategic Framework to support state efforts to:

1. Address the holistic needs of older adults and people with disabilities through program coordination and integration with health care financing and delivery; and,
2. Support partnerships across health care and social service organizations to improve health care outcomes and lower costs by effectively addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) and integrating the delivery of long-term services and supports (i.e., community integrated health networks).

“No single state agency acting alone will be able to respond to the projected growth in SDOH related service and support demands and associated costs. State health and human service leaders have an important and timely opportunity to evolve from focusing not only on administration and oversight of federal and state funding, but can also serve as strategists working across state government and beyond to ensure adequate growth and modernization of aging and disability networks in their states. Developing strong relationships across state agencies and with other partner organizations is essential to identifying and implementing the most effective and efficient strategies to partner with health care payers and providers and to coordinate funding for SDOH services and supports in the future.”

Strategic Framework for Action, Administration for Community Living, p.7:
https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2020-06/ACL_Strategic_Framework_for_Action_v1_%20June%202020_final_508_v2.pdf

OLDER COLORADANS ACT

Older Coloradans Act

Passed in 1964 in-line with Older Americans Act

Part 1 - creates Colorado Commission on Aging

Part 2 - creates the State Office on Aging and lays out duties of the Area Agencies on Aging

This should be our starting point

What comes next for Older Coloradans Act?

Duties of the Colorado Commission on Aging

The commission, through its director, shall carry out the following purposes:

- (a) Conduct, and encourage other organizations to conduct, studies of the problems of the state's older people;
- (b) Assist governmental and private agencies to coordinate their efforts on behalf of the aging and aged in order that such efforts be effective and that duplication and waste of effort be eliminated;
- (c) Promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged. The commission shall assist governmental and private agencies by designing surveys that may be used locally to determine needs of older people; by recommending the creation of services; by collection and distribution of information on aging; and by assisting public and private organizations in all ways the commission may deem appropriate.
- (d) Conduct promotional activities and programs of public education on problems of the aging;
- (e) Review existing programs for the aging and make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly for improvements in such programs;
- (f) Advise and make recommendations to the state department and the state office on aging, created pursuant to part 2 of this article, on the problems of and programs and services for the aging and aged.

Duties of the State Office on Aging

In addition to such other duties and functions as the executive director may allocate to the state office, the state office shall have the following duties and functions:

- (a) To develop and administer a state plan on aging, which includes input from area agencies on aging;
- (b) To establish a process that encourages local, regional, and statewide participation in the development stages of the state plan on aging, which shall be coordinated with the area agencies on aging, the commission established under part 1 of this article, and other persons or entities involved in programs for older persons;
- (c) To assist public and nonprofit private agencies in planning and developing programs to facilitate a statewide network of comprehensive, coordinated services and opportunities for older persons, giving priority to those agencies, programs, services, and activities that support independent living;
- (d) To study those aspects of the problems of aging necessary to accomplish the purpose of state policy through such activities as conducting research, computing statistics, and holding hearings;
- (e) To maintain a clearinghouse of information related to the interests and needs of older persons and act as a referral service for the dissemination of said information;
- (f) To assess the need for services to be provided to the older population within the state and determine the extent to which the state's service delivery system serves said population, with particular emphasis on older persons with the greatest economic and social needs;
- (g) To encourage and support the involvement of volunteers and seek ways to utilize the private sector to assume greater responsibility in meeting the needs of older persons; and
- (h) To designate area agencies on aging to assist the state office in carrying out its functions in specified geographic areas within the state.

Four Common Components Across States

Responsive and proactive state office on aging

Engaged and empowered citizen advisory council

Strong non-profit organizations that engage and coordinate community stakeholders

Active philanthropic foundation to push innovations and support community-based organizations

ADVOCACY

LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC PLANNING

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

PROACTIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY INTEGRATED HEALTH NETWORKS



Lifelong Colorado

**A Colorado well adapted for aging is one where
all individuals can thrive - a Colorado for all**

Action Items ahead of September Meeting

Review Older Americans Act, Older Coloradans Act, and other state statutes - JH to provide packet

How do we better align OAA/OCA and CCOA/SAPGA?

Identify high-level concepts and specific components to be integrated into Older Coloradans Act through survey

Based on previous recommendations and additional input, JH put together first draft

Review and provide feedback at upcoming meetings

Next Steps

Deeper dive in September and October

Similar exercise with Colorado Commission on Aging

Governor's Office continue to lead coordination

Pursue statutory changes in 2022 Session

Identify long-term needs ahead of 2023 Session