

AGE-FRIENDLY

Delaware County, Ohio
2018-2023 Final Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Age-friendly is an international effort led by the World Health Organization and facilitated in the U.S. by AARP.

This age-friendly initiative encourages areas to prepare for the rapid aging of our population by working together to strengthen and advance our communities.

SourcePoint leads the charge in Delaware County, working with local partners to innovate and improve six domains of livability—focus areas that influence healthy aging for all.

We develop and implement an action plan every five years that helps ensure an active, safe, and healthy lifestyle for Delaware County residents of all ages. By working together, we have made a difference in the lives of people of all ages and abilities, making our community more age-friendly than ever before.

However, our work doesn't end! Being age-friendly means we commit to continuously and consistently grow, learn, and adapt. By doing so, age-friendly communities are better equipped to become great places—and lifelong homes—for people of all ages.

2018

Begin project with assessment of county adults ages 55 and older.

2019-
2020

Identify community needs and develop strategic plan.

2020-
2023

Implement plan in Delaware County.

2023

Assess progress and provide status update.

Age-Friendly Delaware County Partners

AAA

AARP Livable Communities

American Red Cross

Big Walnut Local Schools

Bridges Action Community

Buckeye Valley Local Schools

City of Delaware Parks & Recreation

Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities Ohio

Connections Volunteer Center

Delaware Area Career Center

Delaware City Schools

Delaware County Emergency Management Agency

Delaware County Master Gardener Association

Delaware County Prosecutor's Office

Delaware County Transit

Delaware County Veterans Services

Delaware Fire Department

Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

Delaware Police Department

Delaware Public Health District

Greif, Inc.

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties

Main Street Delaware

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Ohio Wesleyan University

OhioHealth

Preservation Parks

SourcePoint

St. Michael's Community

United Way of Delaware County

Unity Community Center

Village in the Ville





Focus Area > **HOUSING**

Ensure that older adults have access to affordable, accessible, and safe housing options with the ability to age in place if they so desire.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Delaware County Housing Alliance

- ✓ SourcePoint's age-friendly coordinator served as committee chair for the Older Adult and Aging Services subcommittee.
- ✓ Created a centralized home modification program for the county.



Focus Area > **OUTDOOR SPACES & BUILDINGS**

Provide safe and accessible indoor and outdoor places for people of all ages to gather and engage in community. The outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence, and quality of life for older adults, as well as their ability to age in place.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Age-Friendly Benches

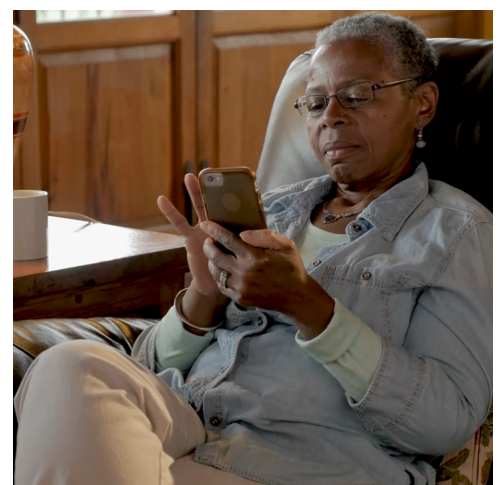
- ✓ Created a standardized bench policy that was pushed out to political subdivisions in the county.

Age-Friendly Business

- ✓ Promoted within the City of Delaware's business district.

Safety and Walkability of Outdoor Spaces

- ✓ Conducted walk audits in the City of Delaware.





Focus Area > **TRANSPORTATION**

Assure that older adults have access to affordable, safe transportation that will get them where they need to go. Various forms of transportation, such as bikes and walking trails, are easily utilized.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Senior Safety Day Event

- ✓ Featured information on weather warnings, crisis intervention, mental health awareness, scams, identity theft, fire safety, and home safety checks.

Driver Education

- ✓ Offered a panel discussion on “Driving Changes as We Age” featuring older adult driving statistics.
- ✓ Hosted CarFit and tested brake reaction times.
- ✓ Provided ongoing “Talk with a Trooper” programs including roundabouts and driving changes as we age.
- ✓ Published quarterly transportation articles in My Communicator.





Focus Area > **COMMUNITY SUPPORT, HEALTH & SAFETY**

Ensure that older adults are able to access and afford the community support, health, and safety services they require. Health and social services are well-distributed, conveniently located, and offer an adequate range of health and community support services that promote, maintain, and restore health for people of all ages and abilities. It also focuses on emergency planning that includes older adults, taking into account their needs and capacities in preparing for and responding to emergencies.

Highlights and Accomplishments

St. Michael's Community Garden

- ✓ Awarded 2020 Community Challenge Grant via AARP Livable Communities.
- ✓ Hosted cooking classes featuring wrapped horticulture and healthy eating education.
- ✓ Highlighted in the national AARP Livable Communities publication, "Creating a Community Garden."

Safety Awareness Toolkit

- ✓ Developed and distributed to SourcePoint's in-home care clients.

Mental Awareness Campaign

- ✓ Created a mental awareness video for our community: youtu.be/ip01KAfJ6x4.





Focus Area > **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Ensure that older adults can continue to work for pay if they choose, volunteer their skills, and be actively engaged in community life. It focuses on honoring what each person has to offer and encourages participation regardless of age or ability. This focus area also includes creating intergenerational opportunities where people can engage at any age.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Positive Aging Campaign

- ✓ Created a positive aging video: youtu.be/4KPtis6vGcY and social media campaign.

Intergenerational Programming

- ✓ Ran Sages and Seekers program in three local school districts to promote intergenerational relationships, combat stereotypes on aging, and combat social isolation.

Fall into Health Event

- ✓ Highlighted new outdoor equipment in Ross Park, Delaware.
- ✓ Provided education and demos, including bike safety, healthy cooking, line dancing, and yoga.



Focus Area > **COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION**

Recognize that older adults communicate and receive information in various ways that may be different than other age groups and provides access to programs and services that meet their needs. This means that regular and reliable information is available through different sources, such as mail, email, newspaper, and radio, as well as through public meetings, community centers, and clubs.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Age-Friendly Awareness Campaign

- ✓ Created an introductory video: MySourcePoint.org/age-friendly.

Information Technology

- ✓ Added accessibility features to SourcePoint's website, including ability to increase font size, contrast, and readability.

Small Steps. Big Impact.

