



State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging



FY 2024-2025
**Illinois Senior Housing
Residents' Advisory Council**
ANNUAL REPORT

December 2024

The Authority and Purpose of the Illinois Senior Residents' Advisory Council

The Illinois Senior Residents' Advisory Council (the Council) was created March 31, 2022, by Public Act 102-0986.

As outlined in statute the objectives of the Council include, "The purpose of the Senior Housing Residents' Advisory Council established under this Section is to create a space and opportunity for senior Illinoisans to connect with each other and meet with representatives from the Department on Aging and the Department of Public Health in order to share their ideas on how the State can improve the quality of life for its senior residents. The Council will also give senior Illinoisans the opportunity to share their findings and recommendations on targeted services and supports for seniors with the Governor and the General Assembly."

The Illinois Senior Residents' Advisory Council are preparing to make recommendations in our final report on the following:

1. How best to disseminate information to seniors on available supports and services with the use of State agency websites, informational materials, and outreach personnel.
2. How to ensure of the availability of targeted services for seniors and to eliminate any gaps in service for seniors.
3. How to improve State policy concerning seniors and congregate living arrangements for seniors in response to COVID-19.

Council Mandates and 2024 Goals

- Mandate (1): Identify barriers to seniors feeling supported by and connected to their communities.
- Mandate (2): Evaluate available resources and services for seniors.
- Mandate (3): Evaluate State outreach to seniors.
- Mandate (4): Evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on congregate living arrangements for seniors.
- Mandate (5): Written Reports. The Council will prepare written reports on the following dates December 31 in 2023, 2024.
- Mandate (6): The Final written report with recommendations will be due December 2025, the Council shall submit a written report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the results of its findings and evaluations under subsection (d).

Council Sub-Committees

Training and Outreach/Community Engagement – The Training and Outreach Subcommittee seeks to develop an outreach plan to identify service provider training needs and improve competency in the delivery of health, housing, and long-term support services to the aging community. In addition, we plan to create an outreach plan to identify social isolation causes and isolation prevention tools.

HealthCare - The Healthcare Subcommittee seeks to address gaps in services highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance healthcare access for Illinoisians who are aging. We will assure that health care is delivered in a safe and welcoming manner by increasing provider competency, assuring that patients know their options and rights. We hope to increase healthcare utilization among the Aging Population by examining how our patients utilize healthcare and the overall patient experience.

Housing – The Housing Subcommittee seeks to identify and address challenges to Seniors aging well in their homes and concerns with the provision and availability of affordable housing, access to home care services and long-term care. This will be accomplished through a comprehensive review of data, analysis of existing resources and provision of testimony which will inform recommendations for policies, procedures, and best practices to address this issue.

Member Recruitment

There was a focus throughout the year on filling any vacancies. The Council had a difficult time identifying persons to fill the Southern Illinois and Western Illinois seats. We were successful in our drive to recruit a new member for the Southern Illinois vacancy, but we continue to search to fill the Western Illinois seat.

2025 Council Goals

1. The Council will continue to explore the following topics:
 - Isolation Prevention
 - Keeping seniors in their homes
 - Ensuring seniors feel connected to their communities.
 - Addressing gaps in services highlighted by the COVID 19 pandemic.
 - Improving IDoA's outreach to seniors statewide
2. The Council will continue to examine how IDoA works with our Area Agencies on Aging, Community Organizations, and Sister Agencies to ensure the highest quality programs and services for Older Adults in Illinois.
3. Develop a stronger role in Legislative Procedure.
4. The Council will research and compile information regarding the following topics:
 - Insurance fraud
 - Medication accessibility
 - Independent living facilities security and record of visitors
5. The Council will prepare its final report with recommendations to present to the Governor and General Assembly on or before the December 31, 2025 deadline.

Senior Resident's Advisory Council Members

Mary Killough – Chair (Glenda M. Corbett
– IDoA Designee)

Edna Lee – Co-Chair

Sharon Ewing

Rhonda Jacobs

Dilane Knights

Julie Lewis

Adam Moore – IHDA

Deborah Palmer

Dennis Powell

Alice Quinlan

Katrina Smith – IDHS DD Shapiro Center

William T. Wilson

Leo Davis

Burtrell Selph Sr. – IDHS DD Ludeman Center

Representative Dagmara Avelar

Representative Bradley Stephens

Senator Dave Syverson

Sr. Sameer Vohra (Jennifer Epstein – IDPH Designee)

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**Senior HelpLine: 1-800-252-8966; 711 (TRS)
8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday**

**24-Hour Adult Protective Services Hotline:
1-866-800-1409; 711 (TRS)
ilaging.illinois.gov**

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