

EngAging Illinois: Ten Priorities

10

EngAging Illinois is an ambitious Plan with four areas of focus and dozens of strategies and action steps. In the next 10 years we will endeavor to make progress on all of them, but these are the top priorities. (For details, please see Appendix A.)

- **EngAge Central: The Illinois Aging Resource Center**
Create a comprehensive website (See Special Initiatives, page 28) built from existing information and efforts to increase awareness of, access to, and utilization of the meaningful resources, programs, services, and benefits that help Illinoisans age in place and in community.
- **Illinois as an Age-Friendly State**
Pursue statewide age-friendly designation and provide implementation support, including guidance on equity and inclusion, toolkits, and design guides for accessible public spaces, community checklists, and case studies to increase the number of age-and dementia-friendly communities.
- **New Housing Models to Increase Affordable and Accessible Housing**
Partner with a variety of sectors to create new housing models and expand affordable and accessible housing for people of all ages.
- **The Needs of Older Adults in the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure**
Ensure the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure implementation efforts address the specific transportation needs of older adults and builds on efforts to improve mobility and expand transportation access for the state's aging population.

- **Healthy Illinois 2028**

Promote the goals and programs of Healthy Illinois 2028, the statewide initiative to facilitate health improvement and advance health equity, as well as Illinois Department of Public Health efforts around brain health, falls prevention, and substance use.

- **Training on Geriatrics and Age-Related Topics into Healthcare Workforce**

Integrate geriatrics and age-related topics into all Illinois residency, health professions training, and certificate programs.

- **Statewide Caregiver Awareness Campaign**

Develop and launch a statewide comprehensive caregiver awareness campaign to help caregivers of all ages self-identify and access support through EngAge Central.

- **Financial Education, Understanding Eligibility, and Access to Supports**

Help individuals understand their eligibility for – and access – supports through development of a streamlined application for Illinois benefit programs and provide financial education tools to increase financial literacy.

- **Home and Community-Based Services Modernization**

Improve cost efficiency and better align these services with the needs and preferences of older adults and people with disabilities. (See Special Initiatives, page 28.)

- **Statewide Academic Collaborative on Aging**

Create this Collaborative (See Special Initiatives, page 29) to facilitate partnerships and collaborative research, education, and support for policies, programs, and services and workforce development that foster positive aging.