



Year in Review 2025

● Senior Housing Matters
Forum

● Senior Transportation
Fair

● Music & Movement

● AARP

● Updates

● Highlights

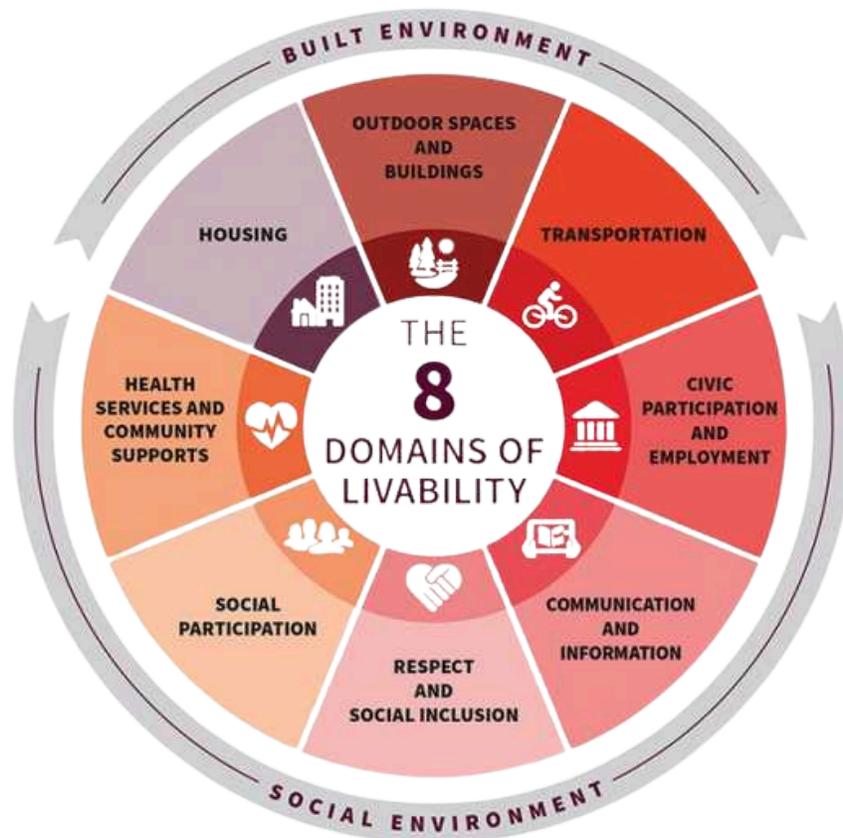


Message from the Director Natasha Pietrocola

This year, the Livable Cuyahoga Age Friendly initiative has been actively engaging organizations and older adults across the county in meaningful activities that further our mission to improve the quality of life for all residents. Our goal is to create a county where everyone can age with dignity and independence while remaining active and connected to the community.

The cornerstone of this important work lies in our strong relationships with community partners both those that have supported this mission for decades and those newly joining us in this effort. We recognize that this is an ongoing process that will continue to evolve to meet real time needs. Practical solutions, innovative ideas, and creativity remain the driving forces behind our work.

Please be sure to follow us and the Division of Senior and Adult Services as we continue this important work. We welcome everyone to help us reimagine a better Cuyahoga for all generations. We hope you enjoy this annual newsletter, which highlights our successes in greater detail.



The Livable Cuyahoga Initiative is now in year four of a five year effort to enhance quality of life for older adults and promote healthy aging across the county. Our work is guided by the eight domains of livability, which reflect key community features that directly affect the well being of older adults. During this implementation phase, we continue to follow the Livable Cuyahoga Needs Assessment completed in 2022 and the Livable Cuyahoga Roadmap developed in 2023, which shape our vision and priorities. Current focus areas include housing, transportation, and social participation, based on strong feedback from community members and stakeholders. This year we planned and hosted programming in each of these areas, and as we move toward 2026 we will continue to expand our efforts to reach more communities throughout Cuyahoga County.

Senior Housing Matters Forum



The Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services hosted the Senior Housing Matters Forum to address the growing need for accessible and affordable housing for older adults in our community.

The event convened local leaders, policymakers, and housing professionals to discuss collaborative strategies for improving senior housing options across the county.



Shontel Brown

Ohio Congresswoman
District 11



Sara Parks Jackson

Director
Department of Housing & Community
Development



Dorivette Nolan

Chief of Policy,
Planning & Voucher Administration CMHA



Senior Transportation Fair

Senior Transportation Fair
The Senior Transportation Fair on September 29 at the Frederick Douglass Recreation Center brought together seniors, caregivers, and community partners to explore safe and accessible mobility options. Hosted by DSAS and the City of Cleveland, the event featured expert presentations, a resource fair, and remarks from County Executive Chris Ronayne, all aimed at helping older adults stay independent and on the move.



Music & Movement



The Music and Movement Fest on October 8 at the Warrensville Heights Civic Center and Senior Center brought the community together for a fun-filled day of energy and engagement. Hosted by DSAS and the City of Warrensville Heights, the event featured fitness classes, dance demonstrations, music, games, and lively performances that encouraged attendees to stay active, healthy, and connected.

AARP & Updates

What you need to know

AARP Tools:

- [Housing That's Home for People With \(or Without\) Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [The 5 A's of Senior-Friendly Transit](#)

Committees:

Social Engagement Subcommittee ,
Chaired By Simone McNitt and
Catherine Rush. Meets every first
Monday of the month.

Transportation Subcommittee,
Chaired by Laura Kleinman and
Chris Hall. Meets every first
Tuesday of the month.

Housing Subcommittee, Chaired by
Michael Billnitzer and Dr. Victoria
Berry. Meets every second Tuesday
of the month.

Highlights:

Stay tuned for
2026 events!

Committee Members

Social Engagement

- Joy Banish
- De'Neitra Brown
- Freddy Collier
- Lenora Lockett
- Mark S. Meder
- Erin Lally
- Wendy Sattin
- Vanessa Jackson
- Sabrina Roberts
- Jennifer Lastery

Transportation

- Angie Schmitt
- Nate Robbins
- Jenna Thomas
- Myron Bennett
- Orion Bell
- Adam Allen
- Mara Layne
- Annie Pease
- Michael Quigley
- Matthew Finley

Committee Members

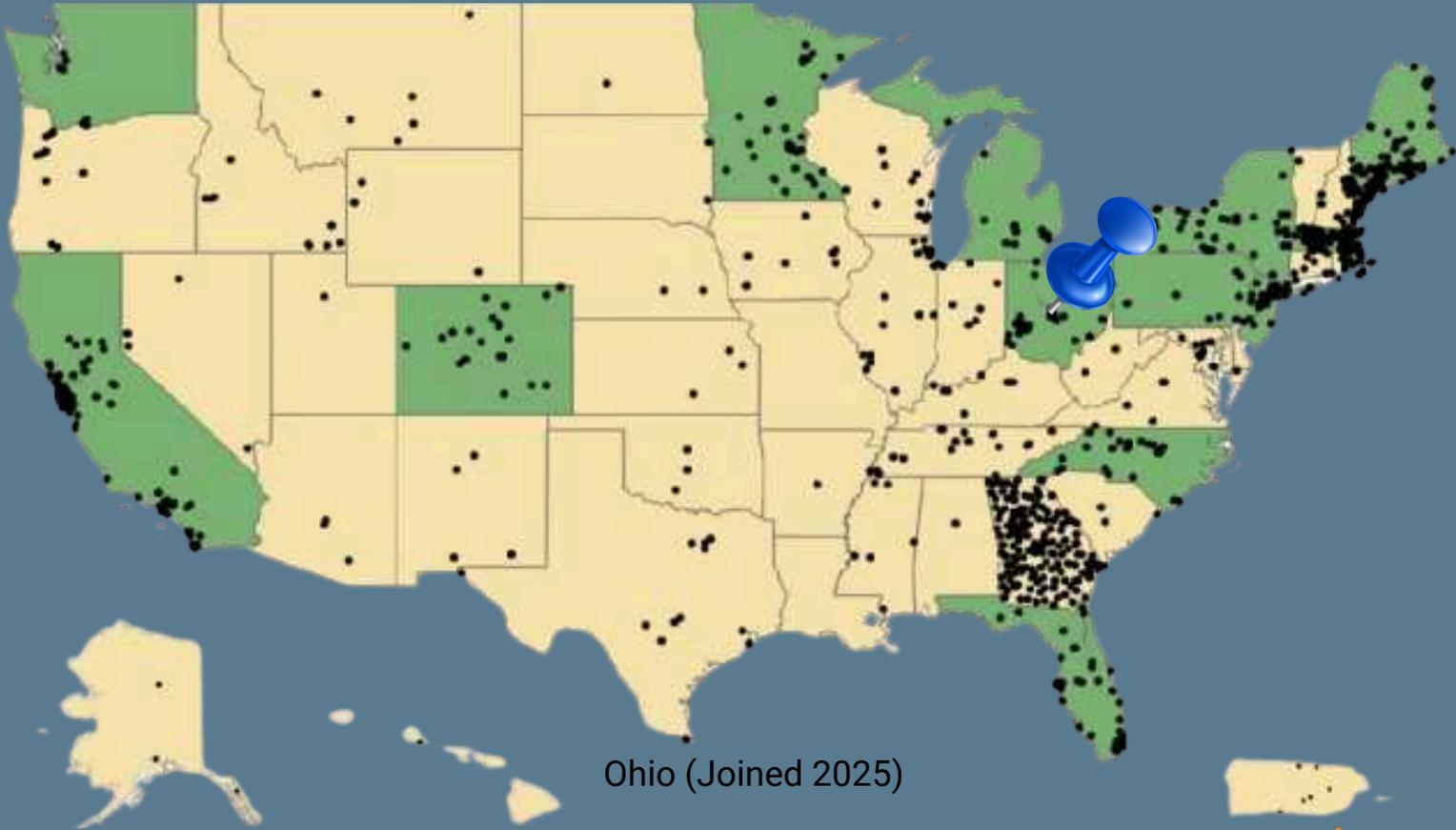
Housing

- Hazel Remesch
- Steve Hansler
- Jeanna Davis
- Michelle Thomas
- Mary McNamara
- Megan Gergen
- Maria Graciani
- Matthew Finley
- Pam Schuellerman
- Frank Ford
- Valerie James
- Kellie F. Glenn
- Yvette Bozman-Wright
- Jackson Bartlett
- Donald Heckelmoser

DSAS Staff

- Natasha Pietrocola
- Latoya Blake
- Patricia Newell
- Taiyier Parks
- Sonya Walker-Betts
- Tanesha Washington
- Maridell Couture

AARP Network of Age-Friendly States



America Is an Aging Nation

The population of the United States is rapidly aging. By 2030, one in every five people in the U.S. will be 65 or older, and by 2034, adults over 65 will outnumber children under 18. In Cuyahoga County, nearly 30 percent of the population is expected to be 60 or older, highlighting the importance of planning for an age-friendly community.

Livable Cuyahoga Helps Bring CarFit to the Community

The Livable Cuyahoga team recently completed CarFit training and are now certified CarFit volunteers, joining a national effort to help older adults stay safe and confident on the road. They were on site for a CarFit event in October where they assisted drivers with evaluating how well their personal vehicles fit their needs. We partnered with the City of Cleveland Age Friendly initiative for this event. CarFit is an educational program created by AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association that helps older adults adjust their vehicles for better visibility, comfort, and control.

Older adults are often among the safest drivers on the road, but their aging bodies can make them more vulnerable to injury during a crash. Ensuring that seats, mirrors, and safety features are positioned correctly can make a meaningful difference in overall safety and mobility. Attendees of the Livable Cuyahoga Transportation Fair were also able to sign up for upcoming CarFit events, continuing the effort to support independence and safety for older drivers across the community.



