



Awards and Recognition

2021

- **C-Suite Awards** – In September, Suzanne Burke, Council on Aging’s CEO, was honored by the *Cincinnati Business Courier* with a C-Suite Award in the Chief Executive Officer, Large Non-Profit category. The C-Suite Awards honor top-level executives who’ve shown outstanding leadership and stellar performance at Greater Cincinnati businesses and nonprofits. [Read More](#)
- **Clinton County C4 award** – Council on Aging won a Clinton County Community Champion (C4) award for the second year in a row. The 2021 award recognizes Council on Aging’s leadership in developing a plan to bring COVID-19 vaccinations to homebound older adults. [Read More](#)
- **Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) Innovation Award** – In May, COA received national recognition from the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) for its Comfort Meal Program. The program, which addresses food insecurity and social isolation among older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic, was awarded an AIRS Innovation Award in the category of Disaster Preparedness. [Read More](#)
- **City of Cincinnati Human Service Fund supports home52 Transportation** – home52 Transportation received \$55,000 from the City of Cincinnati Human Service Fund to coordinate free non-emergency medical transportation for low income seniors. home52, a wholly owned subsidiary of Council on Aging, will partner with low-income senior housing units in the City of Cincinnati to coordinate transportation for residents with barriers to appropriate transportation to meet their medical needs.

2020

- **Association of Professionals in Aging 2020 Hero Award** – In December, COA and several other area service providers, were recognized as Heroes for their response efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **bi3 Grant** – In November, bi3, Bethesda Inc.’s grantmaking initiative, awarded \$50,000 to Council on Aging (COA) to help support the implementation of virtual case management and assessment visits. bi3 sought proposals addressing health or social needs that impact health outcomes, particularly for people experiencing health disparities. The \$50,000 grant award will

help build COA's care management capacity, strengthen operations and better position the organization to meet future needs. [Read More](#)

- **Humana Bold Goal Grant** – In November, COA received a \$25,000 grant from Humana as part of its Bold Goal population health strategy to improve the health of the communities it serves. The grant helped COA sustain its award-winning COVID-19 comfort meal program, which provided more than 47,000 restaurant meals to low-income older adults in COA's service area during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read More](#)
- **Clinton County Community Champions (C4) Awards** – In November, Council on Aging received a Clinton County Community Champions (C4) Award. The awards, created in 2020 by the Wilmington-Clinton County Chamber of Commerce, along with the Clinton County Convention and Visitors Bureau, highlight stories of the Clinton County citizens, employers and employees, and organizations making an impact in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COA was recognized in the nonprofit category for its Comfort Meal Program. The program is a COA partnership with local restaurants that delivers meals to low-income older adults to help them combat monotony and isolation during the pandemic. In addition, COA nominee and Clinton County resident Donna Slone-Gumbert received a C4 award in the citizen category. Donna was selected as a winner for her work as a key partner in serving seniors in Clinton County – delivering food and essential supplies to those in need. [Read More](#)

- **Outstanding AAA Partnership of the Year Award** – In October, COA received the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) 2020 Outstanding AAA Partnership of the Year award for its Comfort Meal Program. Through COA's partnerships with nine local restaurants, about 50,000 meals were delivered to the doorsteps of low-income seniors during 2020. The program also helped its partner restaurants continue to operate during a time of shut-downs and limits on dine-in service.

- **Aetna Grant** – In April, COA received a \$40,000 grant from Aetna, a CVS Health business (Aetna), supporting its response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The grant was part of more than \$1 million CVS Health and its foundations gave to address food insecurity and other community needs in response to the challenges presented by pandemic. [Read More](#)
- **United Way of Greater Cincinnati/Greater Cincinnati Foundation COVID-19 Regional Response Fund** – In April, Council on Aging received \$500,000 to support pandemic response efforts aimed at ensuring the health and safety of older adults in COA's service area. Funding was used to provide meals and personal care items to older adults impacted by the pandemic. [Read More](#)

2020 & 2019 Care Census Project

During 2019 and 2020, COA conducted an innovative research project designed to help local businesses understand the impact of elder caregiving on their workforce. Named the "Care Census," COA collected data from employees in our region that demonstrates to businesses how changing demographics and gaps in our country's long-term care system impact their employees.

The Care Census work was recognized with the following awards:

- **September 2020** – Council on Aging received an Aging Innovations Award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NAAA), the highest honor presented by NAAA to member agencies. [Read More](#)
- **December 2019** – Council on Aging was honored to receive the Outstanding Project in Aging award from the Tristate chapter of the Association for Professionals in Aging. [Read More](#)
- **October 2019** – COA was a finalist for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Ignite Action Award in the category of Leading with a Bold Voice for Business. [Read More](#)

2019

- **COA Awarded Federal Transportation Grant** – In May, received a \$470,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The award was part of FTA's Access and Mobility Partnership Grants which awarded approximately \$9.6 million to 37 projects led by transit agencies, governmental authorities and nonprofit organizations to support innovative transportation solutions to expand access to health care. Council on Aging used the funding to design and implement a centralized, on-demand transportation service to coordinate non-emergency medical transportation for older adults in COA's service area. [Read More](#)

2018

- **AAA Staff Member of the Year** – In November, COA’s Sharon Fusco, VP of Innovation and New Business Operations, was honored as the Ohio Association of Area Agency on Aging’s AAA Staff Member of the Year for her significant contribution to Ohio’s Aging Network.
- **COA Staff Member Honored** – In April, Sharon Fusco (then COA’s Vice President – Business Services Group) was named to comSpark’s Power 500 list. The list, published in *Lead Magazine*, celebrates the leading IT executives and influencers of public, private and non-profit organizations in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

2017

- **Inspire | Healthcare 2017 Quality Improvement Award Winner, The Health Collaborative** – Council on Aging’s innovative program for helping hospitalized seniors connect with essential in-home services received The Health Collaborative’s Richard M. Smith MD Leadership in Quality Improvement Award. The award was presented to Council on Aging’s FastTrack Home program at the organization’s annual Inspire | Healthcare Awards Ceremony on November 1. The award recognizes an individual or team who exemplifies commitment to quality improvement, makes it an organizational priority, and serves as a role model for those working to enhance the quality of care within their organization and throughout the community. [Read More](#)
- **Venue Magazine and Lead Magazine C-Suite Award** – Council on Aging’s Vice President of Human Resources, Training and Organizational Development Jacqueline Hutsell, M.Ed., PHR, HCS, was selected as a C-Suite Award honoree for 2017. The award is presented by *Venue Magazine* and *Lead Magazine* to honor our region’s leading chief executive officers; chief operating, information, marketing, and financial officers; board level leaders; and other C-level executives. Individuals are selected based on their invaluable contributions to their organization and the region as well as their personal leadership characteristics. [Read More](#)

2016

- **Inspire Healthcare Awards** – Council on Aging’s Care Transitions team was a finalist for the Health Collaborative’s Inspire Healthcare Award in the Leadership and Quality Improvement category. The awards recognize individuals, teams and organizations working to improve health and healthcare in the community.
- **Aetna Better Health of Ohio** – Council on Aging received a \$25,000 grant from Aetna Better Health of Ohio, Inc. to help develop initiatives aimed at strengthening the connection between health and long-term care.

2015

- **Comprehensive Healthcare Leadership Award** – Suzanne Burke, Chief Executive Officer, received the award honoring our region's leading health care professionals who strive to improve the everyday lives of their patients and colleagues. The award is based on the individual's invaluable contributions and personal leadership characteristics.
- **Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center W. Fred Cottrell Distinguished Alumni Award** – Ken Wilson, Council on Aging's Vice President of Program Operations, received the award for outstanding leadership in the field of aging.
- **Leadership 500 Excellence Awards Program** – Council on Aging's Team Educator Certification Program received third place honors in the Midsize Company Category out of 200 contestants as a best practice in human resources.

2013

- **OSAGE Best Practitioner of the Year Award** – Awarded to Council on Aging's Business Intelligence Team for their leading-edge work in data analysis.
- **O4A Award** – Sharon Fusco, Vice President of Business Services, was honored by the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A) for her work leading the statewide initiative to develop pricing models.
- **Women Excel Award – Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce** – Council on Aging's Care Transitions Program was a runner up in the Best New Product of the Year category.

2011

- **Service Appreciation Award** – O4A honored three Council on Aging senior leaders for their statewide efforts and support of the association.

2010

- **Better Business Bureau Torch Award** – The prestigious Torch Award honors businesses and organizations that fully commit to ethical practices.