

Awards, Grants and Recognition

Updated April 28, 2023



2023

Association for Professionals in Aging Project of the Year Award – In March, Council on Aging’s Vice President of Program Operations Ken Wilson received the TriState chapter of the Association of Professionals in Aging’s (APA) Project of the Year Award for the Homebound Vaccination Program. [Read More](#)

VUCA Award – Council on Aging Senior Innovation Designer Jai’La Nored received the 2023 VUCA Leadership Award from the Leadership Council for Nonprofits in March. The award recognizes an early-career leader in the Greater Cincinnati nonprofit sector who is positively impacting their organization and the community through demonstrated vision, understanding, clarity and agility in a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world. [Read More](#)

HUD’s Older Adults Home Modification Program – In April, Council on Aging was awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Older Adults Home Modification Program. The program aims to enable low-income elderly persons to remain in their homes through low-cost, low barrier, high impact home modifications to reduce older adults’ risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and improve their functional abilities in their home. Council on Aging will use the funding to assist low-income older homeowners in Clinton County.

2022

North Star Leadership Award – Council on Aging CEO, Suzanne Burke received the North Star Leadership Award from 55 North (formerly known as the Hyde Park Center for Older Adults) in recognition for her leadership during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2022 Outstanding Area Agencies on Aging Partnership of the Year Award – Council on Aging and the University of Cincinnati’s (UC) Live Well Collaborative received this award in October for partnering to develop innovative programs that use available, modern technology to improve the lives of area older adults and caregivers. The award highlights a partnership with significant contributions, exemplary cooperation, and innovative approaches for improving services to older adults. [Read More](#)

Interact for Health Advised Grant – In August, Council on Aging received a \$6,500 Interact for Health Advised Grant. The funds will play a critical role in meeting the transportation needs of low-income older adults who do not qualify for other existing transportation programs.

Forty Under 40 – In July, Council on Aging’s Senior Innovation Designer, Jai’La Nored, was named to the Cincinnati Business Courier’s Forty Under 40 Class of 2022. The annual awards program recognizes young leaders and professionals from across Greater Cincinnati. [Read More](#)

2022 Medical Mutual Aging and Disability Innovation Award – In June, Council on Aging’s Care Census was recognized for its research on the scope and impact of caregiving responsibilities on the broader workforce and for its work to build partnerships with the local business community to better support working caregivers. [Read More](#)

2021 OAGE Practitioner of the Year – In April, Council on Aging’s Vice President of Program Operations, Ken Wilson, was named Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education’s (OAGE) 2021 Practitioner of the Year. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that either have improved services to older adults through research and evaluation or have developed noteworthy partnerships with institutions of higher learning for the betterment of Ohio’s elders. [Read More](#)

2021

The Health Collaborative’s Inspire Healthcare Award – In December, Council on Aging received an Inspire Healthcare award from The Health Collaborative for Discharge to Home, a program developed by COA during the pandemic to provide a safe, supportive path home for older adults being discharged from area hospitals and nursing facilities, while also freeing up valuable healthcare resources. Inspire Healthcare is the region’s premier healthcare awards event, recognizing regional heroes who are pioneering efforts in improving health and healthcare. [Read More](#)

Council on Aging named NASW Ohio Chapter Region 6 Agency of the Year – In November, Council on Aging was named the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Ohio Chapter Region 6 2021 Agency of the Year. The award honors agencies that best exemplify social work values in the field, using best practices to make positive change in their communities. [Read More](#)

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 older adults. 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 older adults 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 older adults 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 (n4a), the highest honor presented by n4a 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](#)

2017

Inspire Healthcare Awards – Council on Aging’s innovative program for helping hospitalized older adults 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 People Services, 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 – Council on Aging staff were honored by the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A) for 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.