

Friday, January 20, 2023

To: Association for Professionals in Aging
7672 Montgomery Road, Suite 181
Cincinnati, OH 4523

Subject: Letter of Support
APA Awards in the Field of Aging Nomination



**HAMILTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

Greg Kesterman, Health Commissioner
250 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, OH 45219
Phone: 513.946.7800 Fax: 513.946.7890
www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Council on Aging (COA)'s Homebound Vaccination program, in the Outstanding Project category, for the 2022 Association of Professionals in Aging (APA) Awards Program. COA is the leading Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for southwestern Ohio. COA is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for older adults, people with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. They promote independence, dignity, and well-being through a range of services that help people remain in their homes for as long as possible. A large part of extending this independence, is by offering Homebound Vaccinations.

COA consistently went above and beyond for older adults in SW Ohio during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the 65+ population was most impacted by severe illness and death from COVID-19, COA acted quickly to implement programs for social and nutritional needs of older adults. In late 2020, early 2021, vaccines became available to older adults, COA partnered with local public health agencies, the National Guard, and other providers to quickly vaccinate and protect our older adult population. They were also instrumental in helping older adults navigate technology and complex registration requirements - making sure no one was left behind from accessing lifesaving vaccines.

COA established a process to receive homebound vaccination referrals from both internal clients and outside social service agencies. They created a standard protocol and database at the regional level, which incorporated a quality assurance process to ensure people who were added to the homebound vaccination list – actually received their shot. They consistently addressed the needs of a highly vulnerable population that was not being served or considered through other vaccination efforts. I can say with certainty, our region is better off, because of the actions and care provided by COA to our seniors. Happy to provide any additional details. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christa Hyson".

Christa Hyson, MPH, CHEP
Director, Emergency Preparedness | Hamilton County Public Health
Christa.Hyson@hamilton-co.org | 513.325.3864



Healthy choices. Healthy lives. Healthy communities.