

Help4Seniors.org Guide

Resources & Assistance for Older Adults in Southwestern Ohio

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What exactly is the "Council on Aging" (COA)?

The COA is a non-profit organization and Area Agency on Aging. They serve as a central hub for Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, and Warren counties, helping seniors stay independent in their own homes.

2. Am I eligible for help through this website?

Eligibility varies by program. Generally, programs serve adults aged 60+ (some 45+) who need help with daily activities. A phone screening at (513) 721-1025 is recommended.

3. Is there a cost for these services?

Some services are free, some are covered by Medicaid, and some operate on a sliding fee scale (Cost Sharing) based on your income and medical expenses.

4. Can I apply for help online?

While you cannot complete a full application online, you can submit a "Referral" through the website to have a specialist contact you.

5. How can I get "Meals on Wheels"?

The COA coordinates home-delivered meals for those who cannot cook for themselves. Local contact info is available on the Home Delivered Meals page.

6. Can someone help me with cleaning and laundry?

Yes, "Homemaker Services" are available through several programs to help with light housekeeping and essential errands.

7. Is there transportation available for doctor's appointments?

Yes. Through their home52 service and county-specific programs, they offer transportation for medical and sometimes social needs.

8. Can the COA help me find a "Home Health Aide"?

They contract with various providers to send aides to your home for personal care, including help with bathing and dressing.

9. What is "Emergency Response" support?

COA can provide Emergency Response Systems (help buttons) that allow you to call for help instantly in an emergency.

10. What is the "Elderly Services Program" (ESP)?

A community-funded program via local tax levies that provides in-home care for seniors who don't qualify for Medicaid but need financial help.

11. What is "PASSPORT"?

PASSPORT is a Medicaid-funded program that provides nursing-home-level care to people who prefer to stay in their own homes.

12. Does the website help with home repairs?

They offer "Minor Home Modifications," such as installing grab bars or ramps, to make your home safer.

13. I'm caring for my spouse/parent; is there help for me?

Yes. The National Family Caregiver Support Program offers advice, training, and "Respite Care" to give caregivers a temporary break.

14. Can I get help understanding my Medicare options?

The COA provides access to OSHIIP (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program) counselors for unbiased Medicare advice.

15. How do I find senior-friendly housing?

The website has a Housing Search database to filter by county, facility type, and budget.

16. What is the Homestead Exemption?

A program to lower property taxes for eligible seniors; the site provides local application details.

17. Does COA help with nursing home transitions?

Yes, programs like "Home Choice" help individuals move from facilities back into the community.

18. What if I suspect senior abuse?

The site provides contact information for Adult Protective Services (APS) in each county.

19. Are services available for younger adults?

Yes, they manage programs for younger adults with disabilities through MyCare Ohio and PASSPORT.

20. How do I stay updated?

You can sign up for their digital newsletter on the website or follow their "News" section.

Understanding the Sliding Scale (Cost Sharing)

The "Cost Sharing" system ensures services are affordable. Your monthly payment is determined by:

- **Income:** Monthly Social Security, pensions, and interest.
- **Assets:** Savings and stocks (primary home and car are typically excluded).
- **Medical Expenses:** Out-of-pocket costs for meds, insurance premiums, and bills are subtracted from your income, often lowering your payment.

Note: Roughly 60% of ESP clients pay \$0. If you are above the threshold, you pay a small percentage of the service cost. Re-evaluations occur annually.

Information based on www.help4seniors.org (Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio).

Contact: (513) 721-1025 | (800) 252-0155