



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING



# PENNSYLVANIA Master Plan for Older Adults

A 10-year strategic plan designed to help transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for Pennsylvania's older adults.



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## Office of the Secretary

Governor's Office of Policy and Planning Presentation

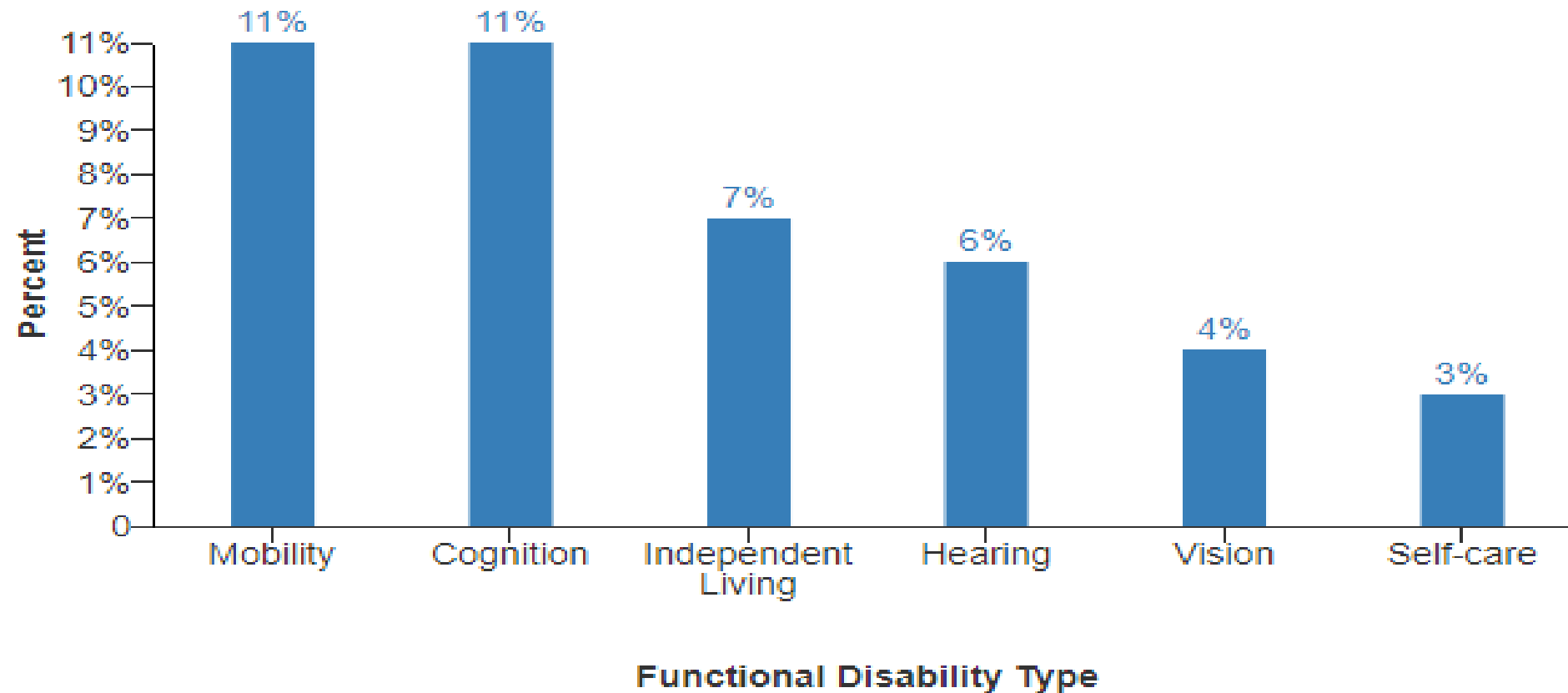
# Master Plan for Older Adults Overview

- On May 25, the Governor signed Executive Order 2023-09 directing the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to lead the Master Plan for Older Adults.
- A Master Plan for Older Adults (master plan) is a state-led, stakeholder driven, 10-year strategic planning resource that can help states transform the infrastructure and coordination of services for their older adult and disability populations.
- A master plan is particularly valuable to states with aging demographics and a large population of adults with disabilities, like Pennsylvania.
- The development of the master plan will involve evaluating issues facing older Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvanians with disabilities to identify and develop approaches that promote the health, well-being, and quality of life of Pennsylvania's aging population.

# Why Should Pennsylvania do a Master Plan for Older Adults?

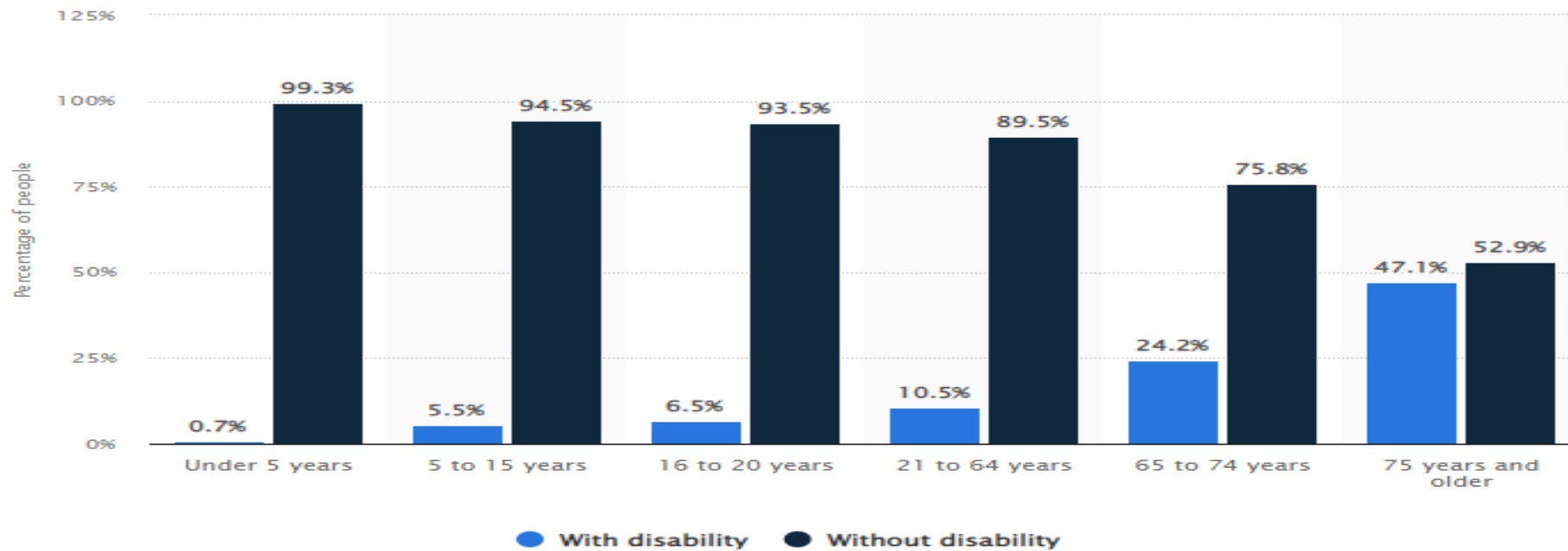
- Pennsylvania expressly values older adults and adults with disabilities and is committed to building and maintaining an age and disability-friendly Commonwealth so that all Pennsylvanians may live with dignity and independence.
- Pennsylvania is ranked fifth among the fifty states by the sheer size of its older adult population (3.4 million) and seventh by percentage (17.8 percent) of the total population. Pennsylvania is ranked third for populations 85 years of age and older.
- Pennsylvania's total older adult population grew from 15.4 percent (1.96 million persons) in 2010 to 17.8 percent (2.27 million persons) in 2020.
- Pennsylvanian adults with disabilities represent 11% of the population in terms of mobility and cognitive challenges, 7% with regard to independent living, 6% regarding hearing impairment, 4% regarding vision impairment, and 3% with regard to self-care.

## Percentage of adults in Pennsylvania with select functional disability types



# Older Adult/Disability Intersectionality

- The prevalence of disabilities is significantly larger with older adults compared to those under the age of 65:



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# Core Tenets



## ***Transparency and inclusion***

involving significant stakeholder and public-facing engagement as well as a strong communication plan.



## ***Embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in all phases of development***

addressing disparities and promoting equity and inclusion regardless of a person's age, gender, gender expression and gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, economic insecurity, geographic disparity, other marginalized populations not yet identified, and genetic information.



## ***Principles of person-centered planning***

valuing older Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania adults with disabilities holistically with careful consideration to each person's unique needs and preferences.



## ***Creation of a living document that will evolve through the 10-year span of the plan***

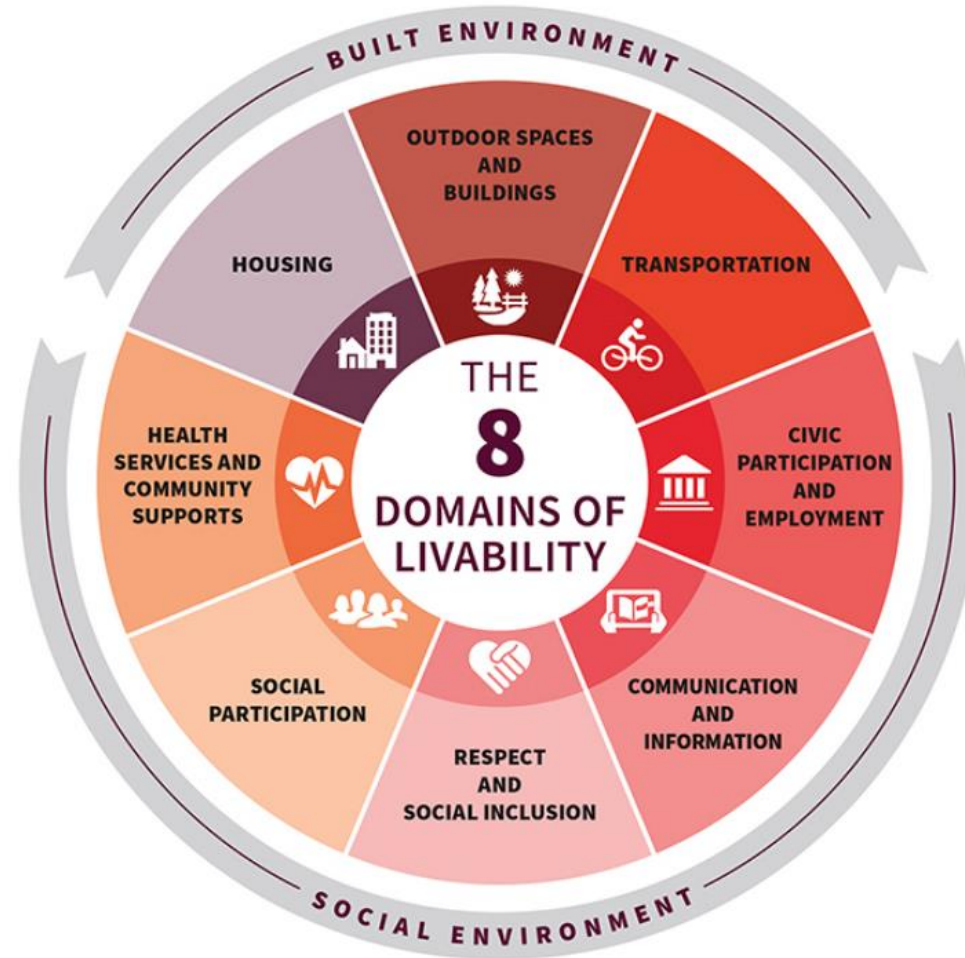
based on the changing needs and preferences of older Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania adults with disabilities and on emergent events.



## ***A reframe of how we think about, talk about and value older adults and adults with disabilities***

to recognize the momentum, experience, longevity, economic contributions, and wisdom of older adults and adults with disabilities and how these individuals add energy, vitality, and possibility to Pennsylvania.

# World Health Organization/AARP 8 Domains for Age-Friendly Communities





# Eight Domains for Age-Friendly Communities

- **Social Participation:** This topic focuses on access to public events and social isolation. Public events are activities that are open to the community for the purpose of entertainment or socializing. Social isolation and loneliness are major factors that affect health and well-being.
- **Civic Participation and Employment:** This topic focuses on opportunities to engage in meaningful service in the community as a paid or non-paid member of an organization or the community.
  - What kind of volunteering or work opportunities would you like to see or are missing in your community?
  - What do you think communities can do to make volunteering or work opportunities more accessible to older people and people with disabilities?
  - What are the main barriers older people and people with disabilities face in working or volunteering?

# Eight Domains for Age-Friendly Communities

- **Communication and Information:** This topic focuses on the accessibility and availability of timely, clear information for many tasks, such as accessing community services or obtaining health care.
  - What sources do you go to for getting the information you need? What about during emergencies?
  - Is this information easy to access and easy to understand?
- **Housing:** This topic refers to living spaces that are safe and affordable and provide essential services when properly maintained. As peoples' health changes, their needs for housing may also change. Some people may need to consider moving to a new home or a different community.
  - How difficult is it to find housing in your community that meets your needs?
  - What special challenges, if any, do older people or people with disabilities face in finding appropriate housing?
  - How difficult is it for someone to modify their housing to improve accessibility or safety?

# Eight Domains for Age-Friendly Communities

- **Transportation:** The topic considers the full range of ways people get around, from walking to personal vehicles to purchased private or public services.
  - How easy is it for you to get around your community? Can someone without a car get to places they need to go?
  - Do you feel safe walking, crossing at corners, or cycling on streets?
- **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings:** This topic focuses on outdoor spaces including sidewalks, streets, state and local parks, and green spaces as well as buildings you may need to access for services or shopping.
  - Are you comfortable in public spaces, like a park or shopping area?
  - Is it enjoyable to walk in your neighborhood?

# Eight Domains for Age-Friendly Communities

- **Health Services and Community Supports:** This topic considers how medical, long-term care, and behavioral support needs can be met with a wide variety of services. These include services from health care professionals as well as long-term care services that allow a person with chronic conditions to live well at home.
  - Are health and long-term care services available in your community?
  - Are caregiver support programs available for people with long term care needs?
- **Respect and Social Inclusion:** This topic considers community belonging or access to an environment that encourages respect in treatment and interactions, intergenerational activities, and involvement by residents of all ages, abilities and incomes.
  - Does your community encourage respect for all persons, regardless of age, ability, or income?
  - Are there opportunities to interact with people who are different from you?

# Approach – Gathering Input

The stakeholder engagement process lead by the Department of Aging and arbitrated by the Pennsylvania Long-term Care Council and the Governor. This process will involve outreach and requests for input from anyone or any group with an interest or with some interaction toward older adult and disability-related services, programs, and infrastructure.

- A team comprised of Department of Aging staff (PDA), other Commonwealth agency staff, and consultants are supporting the effort. This team has developed a communication strategy and timeline events related to stakeholder and media engagement and outreach, plan development, and ongoing monitoring.
- PDA, through academic and community partners including the University of Pittsburgh, is issuing a needs assessment to fully document the baseline for older adult and disability services, infrastructure, and programming and to identify clear gaps or barriers that may need to be addressed by the plan. The needs assessment will include a randomized, representative sample of older adults and older adults with disabilities to present a more objective understanding of perspectives and barriers related to older adult quality of life. The survey will also be distributed to community partners and their networks to broaden the understanding of perceived barriers to older adults in accessing services and infrastructure.

# Approach – Gathering Input

- The direct stakeholder engagement for the development of this plan involves outreach and requests for input from an individual or group engaged with or affected by older adult and disability-related services, programs, and infrastructure. The eight AARP domains will help stakeholders specify their input and comments into the process; however, these categories are not intended to limit any information of ideas provided by stakeholder groups.

# Approach – Gathering Input

- Outreach will include but not be limited to:
  1. The scheduling and presentation of the in-person and virtual “listening sessions” representing every county in the Commonwealth and facilitated by the 52 Area Agencies on Aging and the regional Centers for Independent Living to gather information locally and as representatively as possible.
  2. The aggregation of data collected through the needs assessment and stakeholder engagement process to identify priorities to be included in the plan.
  3. The use of this aggregated data by the Long-term Care Council serving as the Master Plan steering committee supported by subject matter experts from government agencies, community-based organizations, associations, or other sources to articulate what will be included in the final plan.

# Stakeholder & Public Engagement

**Stakeholder and public engagement will be used to gather input and comments to support the development of master plan. Stakeholders involved in this effort may include:**

- Older Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvania Adults with Disabilities
- Care partners and Caregivers
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Centers for Independent Living
- Veterans
- Direct care workers and their advocates
- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based Organizations
- Advocates working with older adults and adults with disabilities
- Health care, Behavioral Health, and LTSS service providers.
- Media
- Law Enforcement Representatives
- Navigators
- Technology-sector organizations
- Housing and transportation entities
- Educational institutions
- Livable community experts including those focused on aging in place
- Civil rights and racial justice groups
- Large and small employers and businesses
- Food and nutrition providers
- Exercise and engagement groups
- Groups connected to the Arts
- Bar Associations
- Financial Institutions
- Retirement and Long-term Planning Entities
- Casinos and other gaming institutions



# State Agency Engagement

State Agencies Engaged in this Process will include:

- Administration and Technology
- Agriculture
- Banking
- Community and Economic Development
- Conservation and Natural Resources
- Court System
- Corrections
- Drug and Alcohol Programs
- Education
- Emergency Services
- Environmental Protection
- Governor's Commissions
- Health
- Housing Finance
- Human Services
- Insurance
- Labor and Industry
- Higher Education Financing
- Revenue
- State
- State Police
- Transportation
- Treasury
- Military and Veterans Affairs
- SERS and PSERS
- Public Utility Commission

# After Publication Monitoring

- The master plan will be published on or before February 1, 2024.
- The published master plan will identify “quick wins,” aspirational goals, accountability and measurement, and resources for implementation.
- The master plan will include a public-facing, accessible, and transparent reporting platform to demonstrate how well the Commonwealth is performing against Master Plan goals and objectives, to continue stakeholder engagement, and to identify changes to goals, objectives, and initiatives over time.

3-13-2023

5-25-2023

11-1-2023

12-31-2023

2-1-2024

# Timeline

- Identify MPO Project Manager

- Secure Formal Authority
- Start to identify relevant data sources & involve all levels of government
- MPO multidisciplinary team
- Existing Plan and infrastructure review
- Stakeholder Recommendation Report Development through
- Gather Input through

- Publish MPO before the Governor’s Budget Address, 2024
- Measure results and publish “quick wins” and ongoing performance

# Comment Submission

- You are invited to contribute what you think should be the plan's priority goals, objectives, and initiatives to support the highest quality of life for older adults.
- Please use this link for information on ways to submit public comments for the Master Plan: [Master Plan for Older Adults \(pa.gov\)](#)
- You can submit your input by:
  - Mail:  
Pennsylvania Department of Aging  
c/o Master Plan  
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101
  - Email: [AgingPlan@pa.gov](mailto:AgingPlan@pa.gov)
  - Digital Form: [Click here to access the digital form.](#)

# Needs Assessment Survey

- [Pennsylvania Aging and Disability Needs Assessment \(qualtrics.com\)](https://www.qualtrics.com)

# Questions?



Contact us by email: [AgingPlan@pa.gov](mailto:AgingPlan@pa.gov)  
Website: [aging.pa.gov](http://aging.pa.gov) | Find us on Facebook [@PennsylvaniaAging](https://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaAging)