



E-Newsletter Spring 2024



Linda Gillespie Retires from COAAA After 35 Years

Linda Gillespie, Aging and Disability Resource Network Director at COAAA, recently retired from the agency after an illustrious 35-year career, leaving a lasting legacy at the agency and an indelible impact on many at COAAA.

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50th Anniversary
— 1974 • 2024 —

50th Anniversary Spotlight: Historical COAAA Moments

Several moments have led COAAA to become an integral agency that serves thousands of central Ohioans. Much has happened in COAAA's 50-year existence, and this article recounts some of those events.

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USAging Policy Briefing

Representatives from COAAA were on Capitol Hill in mid-March to advocate for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and additional initiatives that benefit older adults and individuals with disabilities.

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Solar Eclipse Preparation

April 8 will be a momentous day for Ohio as the state will experience the total solar eclipse and its path of totality. Many visitors are expected and it's important for the community to be prepared.

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On the Air with Daytime Columbus

Katie White, COAAA Administrator, and Tammy Smith, COAAA Caregiver Support Program Manager, joined NBC4's Daytime Columbus to discuss COAAA's anniversary and the agency's caregiver services.

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GERI-FIT, a Strength Training Program for Older Adults

COAAA has introduced GERI-FIT, a strength training program for older adults, in selected counties. GERI-FIT implements progressive resistance strength training in 45-minute sessions.

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Friendly Caller Program Seeks Volunteers

COAAA is seeking volunteers for its Friendly Caller Program. Sometimes an individual who receives services through COAAA wants additional social interaction.

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April is National Minority Health Month

National Minority Health Month raises awareness about persistent health disparities among minority populations and the need to end these inequities.

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Additional Updates

One-time assistance is available to income-eligible Ohioans through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). COAAA can help with information and application assistance. Learn more by visiting [COAAA's HEAP Assistance webpage](#).

COAAA's 'Medicare for Beginners' workshops provide unbiased information that helps Medicare beneficiaries make informed decisions. These no-cost workshops are available throughout 2024. COAAA does not represent or sell insurance products. To learn more, visit COAAA's [Medicare Education & Outreach](#) webpage.

COAAA provides approved and affordable continuing education credits (CEUs) to aging professionals through its Continuing Education workshops. These workshops are open to social workers, counselors, BELTSS, and nurses. In honor of COAAA's 50th anniversary, the agency will offer free continuing education workshops in 2024. Visit COAAA's [Continuing Education](#) webpage for more information.

COAAA is a growing organization with full-time and part-time opportunities for licensed social workers and registered nurses in programs serving and supporting individuals with disabilities and adults age 60 and over. Learn more by visiting COAAA's [Career Opportunities](#) page.

The Franklin County Property Tax Assistance Program (PTAP) is accepting applications for assistance with June 2024 tax bills through **Friday, April 19**. The program is intended to provide one-time assistance to older and/or permanently disabled homeowners who have had an unforeseen hardship impact their ability to pay their property taxes. For more information, visit the [County Auditor's website](#).