

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and Ohio State College of Social Work's Age-Friendly Innovation Center Named Recipients of Prestigious Aging Innovations Award from USAging

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(Columbus, Ohio)— The Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) and The Ohio State University's College of Social Work's Age-Friendly Innovation Center (AFIC) are thrilled to announce that its Shallow Subsidy Pilot Program received a 2026 Aging Innovations Award from [USAging](#), one of the highest honors presented by USAging to its members.

The Shallow Subsidy Pilot Program, which was launched in July 2024 to promote housing security for low-income older adult renters by examining the impact of shallow rental subsidies on older adults, received third place among 49 awardees honored during USAging's 51st Annual Conference and Tradeshow, July 18–21, in San Diego, CA.

The 2026 USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards, supported by [Caregiving.com](#) and [Cumulus.care](#), recognizes USAging's Area Agency on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Program members that have found new and innovative ways to support older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers as they live in their homes and communities.

"These award-winning programs reflect the ingenuity, dedication and local leadership of Area Agencies on Aging across the country," said Sandy Markwood, CEO of USAging. "They show what is possible when communities invest in the innovative approaches that Area Agencies on Aging develop to respond to the real needs of older adults and caregivers, and we are proud to celebrate the organizations leading this important work."

The Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging partnered with The Ohio State University's Age-Friendly Innovation Center to pilot the Shallow Subsidy Pilot Program, providing monthly rental assistance to low-income older adults at risk of housing insecurity. The program pairs financial support with case management and a rigorous evaluation to assess its impact on housing stability and overall wellbeing.

"Housing security is top of mind for those we serve," said Katie White, COAAA Executive Director. "Piloting innovative housing programs, even on a small scale, is essential, and this evaluation is crucial for COAAA as we design future housing assistance for Central Ohio older adults."

The 2026 USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards honored traditional and new strategies in a range of categories, including agency operations, caregiving, community planning and livable communities, elder abuse prevention, health–social care integration, healthy aging, home and community-based services, housing and homelessness, nutrition, social engagement, technology, transportation and mobility, and workforce development and volunteerism.

All winners are highlighted in the [USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards Showcase](#), with the Shallow Subsidy highlight on page 19.

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About COAAA

COAAA arranges and coordinates in-home services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, including homemaking, home-delivered meals, personal care, and transportation. COAAA provides advice, education, and support to family caregivers, and advocates for programs and policies that benefit older adults and individuals with disabilities. www.coaaa.org

About AFIC

The mission of the Age-Friendly Innovation Center, a research center of the Ohio State University, College of Social Work is to innovate with older adults through research, education, and engagement to make our communities age-friendly. agefriendly.osu.edu/

About USAging

USAging is the national association representing and supporting the network of Area Agencies on Aging and advocating for the Title VI Native American Aging Programs. Our members help older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers throughout the United States live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities. For more information, visit usaging.org and follow @theUSAging on Facebook, X and Instagram.