

SHALLOW SUBSIDY PILOT PROGRAM

Across the United States, the number of older adults facing financial and housing insecurity is steadily increasing. Factors such as rising housing costs put older adults with fixed or lower incomes at great risk of losing their homes. To promote housing security while evaluating the effectiveness of rental support for low-income older adults, The Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) and The Ohio State University's College of Social Work's Age-Friendly Innovation Center (AFIC) launched the Shallow Subsidy Pilot Program (SSPP) in July 2024.

PARTICIPANTS



40 individuals participated in the Shallow Subsidy Pilot Program. Qualifying participants were enrolled in one of three COAAA Home and Community-Based Services programs, had a fixed or low income, and were spending over 50% of their income on housing.

\$330 FOR 12 MONTHS

\$3,960

The program covered \$330 of the SSPP participants' monthly rent, paid directly to housing providers. This totals \$3,960 per individual for a 12-month period.

EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS



55% reduction in emergency room visits among recipients during 11-month period.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS



38% of participants reported a history of homelessness. On average, participants reported moving last in 2018, indicating they were in their current housing for 7 years.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

All survey respondents said SSPP increased their housing stability for the duration of the program. Financial well-being improved for participants and the subsidy increased their ability to meet their basic needs.

"The subsidy has made a huge difference. I feel like I can actually breathe without having to constantly worry about money."



MENTAL HEALTH

Contributing factors to better mental health included relief from financial anxiety, better sleep, and reduced stress.

"I don't worry as much or as often. My mental health is better which positively affects my physical health too."

FAIR → GOOD



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CHOICE TO REMAIN IN HOME

Survey respondents shared that SSPP improved housing stability by allowing them to remain in their current housing. One participant shared:



"It has extended the amount of time I can live here before my savings runs out."

RENTAL COST BURDEN

Rental Cost Burden (RCB) is the ratio between participants' household income and the amount they pay for rent. The average RCB for SSPP participants was 74.4%.

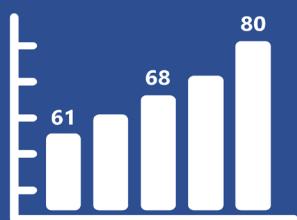


DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE

The age range of SSPP participants was between 61 to 80 years old.

The average age of participants was 68 years old.



GENDER

68% of SSPP participants were female.

32% of SSPP participants were male.



HAS A CAREGIVER

68% of SSPP participants have a caregiver.



MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$1,309 is the average amount of monthly household income of SSPP participants.



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.



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 ensure inclusion and build resiliency to make our communities age-friendly.

