

**Identifying and Addressing Challenges for Aging and Disabled Homeless Populations**

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**Profile of Homeless Older Adults and People who have Disabilities**

- No history of homelessness
- Priced out of safe, affordable housing
- Rent burdened / financial hardship
- Age range of 50-90+
- Low income, many \$771/month SSI, Social Security, or SSDI only
- COAAA receiving on average 10-15 inquiries per week that fit this profile.

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**Reasons for Housing Loss**

Various scenarios:

- Loss of other income in the household
- Property sold, lease not renewed
- Significant rent increases
- Financial exploitation
- Cognitive impairment
- Foreclosure
- Vacated by code enforcement
- Temporary or extended nursing home admission

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**Low Income Housing Shortage**

- 2-4 year waiting lists for senior subsidized housing (rent 30% of income)
- New senior properties = Tax Credit, **not subsidized** (rents slightly less than market)
- Severe shortage of subsidized units for individuals under age 62 who have a disability
- Waiting lists for Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)
- Declining inventory of properties that accept vouchers
- Limited time to use the voucher, search tools not current
- Loss of public housing

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**Unique Vulnerabilities**

- No "survival skills" for living homeless
- Cognitive impairment not always identified on assessment
  - Inability to follow through on steps to secure housing
  - Need a supported living arrangement i.e. assisted living or nursing facility
- Need access to medical monitoring /treatment of chronic conditions
- Assistance needed with ADLs and or IADLs, services not provided in a shelter setting or other temporary living arrangements
- Loss of case management / care coordination and services upon becoming homeless
- Kinship caregivers with custody of minor children not eligible for senior housing

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**COAAA Interventions:  
Homelessness Prevention**

Referral to the following organizations/services:

- Tenant advocacy – Legal Aid, COHHIO
- Rent assistance
- Community Mediation Services for landlord/tenant mediation
- Adult Protective Services (prior to homeless status)
- Daily money management/payee services
- Supportive Services (programs that provide case management)
- Home repair programs
- Foreclosure Prevention Counseling
- Diversion to care facilities

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**COAAA Interventions:  
Homeless Individuals**

- Establish connections with property management
- Assist with nursing home / Assisted Living Waiver placement process
- Ohio Area Agencies on Aging facilitate Level of Care assessments required by the State for Assisted Living Waiver and Nursing Home Placements

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**COAAA Interventions:  
Education and Outreach**

- AAA staff conducted workshops in a local shelter covering housing-related terminology, and how to navigate housing programs
- Presentations to local shelter staff and housing navigators covering aging services and long-term care options
- Development of a comprehensive **Housing and Home Repair Guide** – distributed at community events, mailed upon request, on website, [www.coaaa.org](http://www.coaaa.org)

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**COAAA Interventions:  
Advocacy / Collaboration**

Housing Specialist and Information & Referral Staff work with:

- Landlords / property management
- Community agencies
- Local governments
- Legislative advocacy

Outreach to print and broadcast media.

**The general public has no idea of the magnitude of the housing crisis and who is impacted. This limits everyone's ability to make informed, strategic choices critical to maintaining housing.**

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