

The Aging Agenda: Serving Older Adults through Coordinated Care Systems in the New Millennium

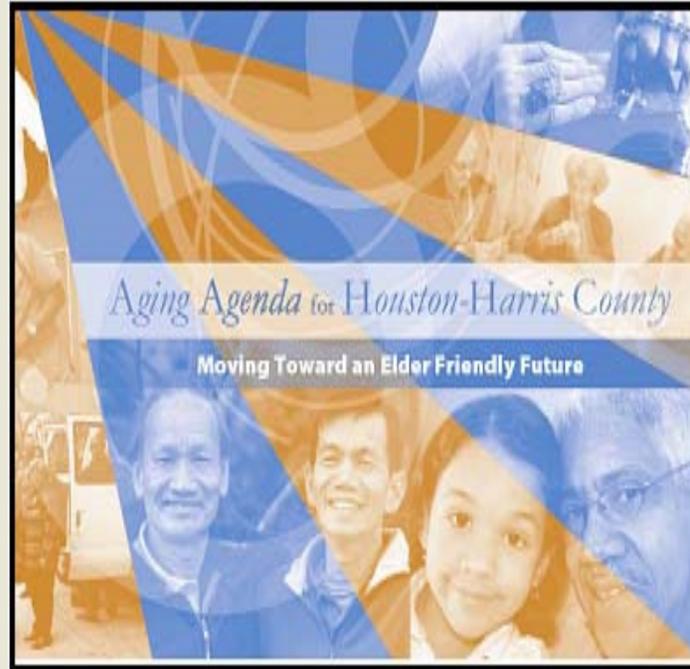
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Introduction or Overview

In 2008, the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS)/ Harris County Area Agency on Aging (HCAAA) spearheaded a dialogue to discuss and document the issues our city's older adults face in navigating their central domains of life. This collaborative discussion produced a comprehensive view of the aging community across eight domains: Health and Well-Being, Access to Quality Care, Basic Needs: (Food, Clothing and Utilities), Housing, Transportation and Mobility, Safety and Security, Civic Engagement/Volunteerism, Employment, Spirituality, Culture, Recreation and Lifelong Learning. The exploration led to the publication of the City's first document which identified resources and needs in Aging Service Delivery: **The Aging Agenda (Agenda)**.

Methods or Program Description

HDHHS/HCAAA partnered with local leaders of national organizations, regional representatives of state agencies, chief executive staff and other non profit senior services organizational staff, Texas Medical Center representatives, Universities and, most importantly-our subject matter experts- older adults. Designated leaders guided workgroups to research, review and assess existing data that identified available services, "promising practices," resources and gaps for the community's older adults across the eight domains with recommendations made for each to allow older adults to age in place successfully.



Results

The Aging Agenda serves as a source document to inform and instruct the aging community network, influencing additional ideas and actions beyond the initial recommendations. It has been used to direct advocacy and actions as well as guide the leverage of new funding. The Agenda established a framework to address the needs as seen by the aging community and the agencies who are a part of this strategic initiative to maintain a coalition to maximize utilization of the limited resources to ensure Houston's seniors are able to age in place successfully.

For more information contact **Harris County Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-213-8471** or visit our web-site: <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Aging/>

Conclusions or Lessons Learned

The Aging Agenda documentation serves more as a beginning than an end. In the process of our research and reporting we found that there was much to be learned and much to be done. The state of the Aging Agenda is currently under review. Workgroup leaders will determine if the community has collaboratively implemented strategies and recommendations which empower older adults to age in place successfully and effect overall policy change that will improve outcomes for the aging population.

Population Projections for Adults Age 60+ for Harris County, Texas: 2014-2025							
AAA	County Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harris	Harris	598,993	625,905	652,956	680,101	708,977	736,463

AAA	County Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Harris	Harris	765,083	792,342	817,155	842,165	866,052	889,567

Population Projections for Adults Age 85+ for Harris County, Texas: 2014-2025							
AAA	County Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Harris	Harris	40,247	41,332	42,164	42,819	43,412	44,040

AAA	County Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Harris	Harris	45,094	46,080	46,907	48,261	49,416	50,940

Future Directions

The Agenda will continue to serve as a dynamic source document to guide service delivery and the coordination of resources among partnering organizations tasked with meeting the needs of Seniors in the Greater Houston area. With baby boomers aging into their senior years at the rate of 10,000 a day, available resources will continue to fall far short of demand. Systematic collaboration and coordination is essential to avoid duplication, facilitate leveraging, and ensure equitable appropriation of available funds and resources; as well as serve as a model for future age-friendly initiatives such as the AARP network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities initiative.