

Foreword

Annually, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides housing assistance to 4.5 million of the nation's most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Approximately 40 percent of these households are older adults, a subpopulation that has grown 7 percent since 1996. Most HUD-assisted older adult households are one person, and close to one-half also have one or more heads of household with a disability. Many HUD-assisted older adults are aging at home—43 percent of HUD older adult households have been in assisted housing for more than 10 years. HUD recognizes the importance of supporting assisted households as they age and has incorporated an aging-in-place strategy under Strategic Goal 4C: Integrate Health and Housing in HUD's *Fiscal Year 2022–2026 Strategic Plan*.

Supporting HUD-assisted older adults to age in place presents a complex challenge because doing so often requires both renovations to existing homes and integration with health services and the healthcare sector. HUD has worked to address these challenges by funding programs such as the Integrated Wellness in Supportive Housing Demonstration and the Older Adult Home Modification Grant Program. HUD also funded and conducted several research projects aimed at better understanding the health and healthcare needs of older adults. However, HUD cannot accomplish this work alone and recognizes the need to leverage the expertise of other federal agencies charged with advancing health-related priorities.

In the spring of 2021, HUD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an agreement to work on shared priorities related to aging in place. The CDC is the nation's leading science-based, data-driven service organization that protects public health. The first shared priority of the agreement was to provide evidence-based approaches for affordable senior housing programs that coordinate health, wellness, and supportive services to help older adults remain healthy and age in their communities. This report is the product of that first shared priority.

In this report, the CDC, with support from the National Network of Public Health Institutes and Georgia State University's Georgia Health Policy Center of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, identifies 24 broad categories of evidence-based actions that HUD and partners could implement to better assist older adults remain healthy and age in their communities. The interventions are sorted by the highest-level of evidence and one of four avenues for potential action that CDC subject matter experts have identified. Of these four avenues for potential action, the CDC concludes that HUD should consider "programs and services HUD could offer or partner with" and "healthcare system interventions and partnership opportunities" for potential action to help improve the health of the older adults they serve. The CDC also identifies important considerations for selecting and implementing interventions, including the potential for "multisolving" interventions that could address multiple health issues simultaneously.

This report provides examples for HUD to consider as it attempts to meet the needs of the growing number of households aging in place in assisted housing. It also lays the groundwork for identifying ways HUD, the CDC, and other U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agencies can work together to address the needs of the aging population.



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