



Shared Priorities for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

*Prepared by the Hamilton County Human Services Chamber –
Older Adults & Disability Committee*

Adopted by HSCHC Board in August 2026

A Regional Policy Agenda for Municipal, County, State, and Federal Leaders

1. Combatting Ageism and Ableism

Problem Statement

Ageism and ableism remain pervasive barriers to full participation in community life. The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies ageism as one of the most widespread and socially accepted forms of discrimination, often intersecting with disability, race, and gender. This contributes to poorer health, reduced civic engagement, and increased economic vulnerability for older adults and people with disabilities.

Policy Recommendations

- Require local, county, and state policy processes to proactively assess impacts on older adults and people with disabilities.
 - Prioritize the appointment of older adults and individuals with disabilities to boards, commissions, and advisory groups.
 - Promote anti-ageism and anti-ableism standards across public-facing agencies and service providers.
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2. Employment and Economic Participation

Problem Statement

Many older adults and people with disabilities want to work but face structural barriers. When this population is excluded from the workforce, local economies lose talent, consumer spending, and tax revenue.

Policy Recommendations

- Invest in workforce development programs that specialize in training and placing older workers and people with disabilities.

- Incentivize businesses that actively employ these populations through grants, tax incentives, or contracting preferences.
 - Expand opportunities within public sector employment pipelines at all levels of government.
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3. Housing Stability and Accessibility

A. Preserve Homeownership

Problem Statement

Rising property taxes, aging housing stock, and unaffordable home repairs put many long-time homeowners—particularly older adults and individuals with disabilities—at risk of losing their homes.

Policy Recommendations

- Expand property tax relief programs for low- and moderate-income homeowners.
- Increase funding for critical home repairs and accessibility modifications.
- Incentivize services that help individuals safely age in place.
- Support the development of accessible, affordable homes throughout the region.

B. Support Renters

Policy Recommendations

- Increase rental assistance, utility assistance, and eviction prevention resources.
 - Expand legal aid for unsafe housing conditions and eviction defense.
 - Require accessible design standards in subsidized and new multifamily housing.
 - Strengthen fair housing enforcement and ensure reasonable accommodations are upheld.
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4. Resource Navigation & Income Maintenance

Problem Statement

Benefits systems (Medicare, Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, SNAP, VA benefits) are complex and difficult to navigate. Without support, many eligible individuals lose access to income, healthcare, food, and services.

Policy Recommendations

- Fund navigation and legal assistance to help residents access and maintain benefits.
 - Strengthen partnerships with state agencies and Veterans services to reduce administrative barriers.
 - Promote cross-agency data sharing and simplified application processes.
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5. Strengthening Quality Long-Term Care

Problem Statement

Residents in long-term care facilities often experience unresolved concerns because they lack information about their rights or fear retaliation. Advocacy and oversight improve both quality of life and care outcomes.

Policy Recommendations

- Increase support for long-term care ombudsman and advocacy programs.
 - Encourage regional governments to consult with existing expert agencies before reforming long-term care systems.
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6. Transportation Access

Problem Statement

Transportation is essential to independence, employment, healthcare access, and community participation. Without adequate options, older adults and individuals with disabilities experience isolation, health decline, and higher public care costs.

Policy Recommendations

- Fund door-to-door and same-day transportation options for people with mobility barriers.
 - Strengthen paratransit services through partnerships with regional transit authorities.
 - Coordinate transportation services across counties to improve consistency and coverage.
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7. Technology Access and Inclusion

Problem Statement

Digital systems—for transportation, voting, healthcare, and commerce—are rarely designed with older adults or people with disabilities in mind. This creates structural exclusion from essential aspects of modern life.

Policy Recommendations

- Create public/private partnerships to develop accessible technology solutions.
- Collaborate with local startups, universities, and disability/aging experts to pilot inclusive design.
- Incentivize digital literacy programs tailored to older adults and people with disabilities.