



Aging Well and with Dignity for All in Washington, DC

A Comprehensive Platform for Older Adults, Caregivers, and Families

1. Economic Security

Commitment: Ensure every older adult in DC can meet basic needs and retire with dignity.

Policy Actions

- Create a DC Retirement Savings Program for workers without employer plans, with automatic enrollment and portable accounts.
- Expand the Senior Property Tax Credit and Rent Supplement Program to reach more low- and moderate-income seniors.
- Establish a Guaranteed Income Pilot for Seniors (65+) in high-poverty wards to stabilize those with the least retirement income.
- Protect and backfill Medicaid and safety-net cuts to prevent coverage loss among vulnerable seniors.
- Launch a Benefits Access Initiative to increase enrollment in SSI, SNAP, and other supports—prioritizing language access and outreach in immigrant communities.

2. Housing & Cost Burden

Commitment: Make housing affordable, accessible, and safe for older adults at every income level.

Policy Actions

- Expand deeply affordable senior housing production through the Housing Production Trust Fund with set-asides for seniors (including 30% AMI units).
- Create a “Right to Age in Place” program that funds home modifications, accessibility upgrades, and small repairs.
- Expand rental assistance targeted to seniors, including shallow subsidies for those just above eligibility thresholds.
- Incentivize multigenerational and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to support family-based housing options.
- Stabilize and regulate assisted living costs, including transparency requirements and subsidy expansion for low-income residents.

3. Nutrition & Food Security

Commitment: End senior hunger in Washington, DC.

Policy Actions

- Increase SNAP enrollment among seniors to at least 75% of eligible residents through automatic enrollment pilots; simplified application and recertification.
- Expand home-delivered meals, dining sites, and culturally appropriate food programs, especially for homebound and immigrant seniors.
- Fund neighborhood-based food access hubs in Wards 7 and 8 and immigrant communities.
- Integrate food access with healthcare by supporting “food as medicine” programs through Medicaid and local funding.
- Launch a multilingual outreach campaign to reduce stigma and improve program navigation.

4. Health Care Access & Outcomes

Commitment: Close DC’s racial and geographic health gaps for older adults.

Policy Actions

- Protect and expand Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services (HCBS) to allow seniors to age at home.
- Invest in community health hubs east of the Anacostia River, including mobile clinics and preventive care access.
- Require language access and cultural competency standards across all DC-funded healthcare providers.
- Expand community health worker programs to support navigation, chronic disease management, and trust-building.
- Target chronic disease reduction initiatives in high-disparity neighborhoods with measurable outcomes.

5. Transportation & Mobility

Commitment: Ensure every older adult can get where they need to go safely and affordably.

Policy Actions

- Expand and simplify access to Connector Card and Transport DC, including automatic enrollment for eligible seniors.
- Increase same-day and on-demand transportation options for medical and essential trips.
- Invest in pedestrian safety infrastructure, prioritizing sidewalks, lighting, and crossings in Wards 7 and 8.
- Restore and redesign neighborhood circulator-style transit options focused on seniors and essential routes.
- Launch targeted outreach in multiple languages to increase program awareness and use.

6. Civic Participation & Social Inclusion

Commitment: Build an age-friendly city where every older adult is connected, engaged, and valued.

Policy Actions

- Expand senior wellness centers and programming, with targeted investment in underserved wards.
- Fund social connection initiatives to reduce isolation, including peer networks and intergenerational programs.
- Close the digital divide by providing free or low-cost devices, broadband, and digital literacy training.
- Increase language access across all DC services and civic engagement efforts.
- Support community-based organizations that engage Black, Latino, LGBTQ+, and immigrant seniors.

7. Dementia & Memory Care

Commitment: Build a dementia-capable city with early diagnosis, strong support, and equitable care.

Policy Actions

- Expand early screening and diagnosis programs, especially in primary care settings and through community-based organizations in high-risk communities.
- Consistent funding for current services and new funding for culturally competent dementia care navigation services for families and caregivers.
- Train healthcare providers in equitable dementia diagnosis and care, addressing bias in screening tools.

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- Increase access to adult day health and memory care services, particularly in underserved areas.
 - Launch a public awareness campaign to reduce stigma and promote early intervention.
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8. Family Caregivers

Commitment: Support caregivers as essential partners in the care system—not invisible labor.

Policy Actions

- Create a DC Caregiver Tax Credit or Direct Stipend Program to offset out-of-pocket costs.
- Expand paid family leave and job protections for caregivers.
- Increase access to respite care and mental health services for caregivers.
- Provide training and navigation support through a centralized caregiver resource hub.
- Ensure language-accessible caregiver supports for immigrant families.

9. Community Senior Villages & Senior Service Organizations = Aging in Place

Commitment: Scale community-based solutions that help seniors age safely at home.

Policy Actions

- Provide stable public funding for senior villages and senior service organizations.
- Create a “Village Start-Up Fund” to seed new villages in underserved and immigrant communities.
- Subsidize membership fees for low-income seniors to ensure equitable access.
- Integrate villages and senior service organizations into the broader care system, including referrals from healthcare providers and social services.
- Support multilingual and culturally specific village models to better serve diverse communities.

10. Mental Health & Behavioral Health

Commitment: Treat mental health as a core component of healthy aging, not an afterthought.

Policy Actions

- Fund community-based mental health outreach and treatment for older adults, prioritizing wards with the highest rates of depression, isolation, and suicide.
 - Integrate mental health screening into primary care and senior wellness programs to identify depression and anxiety early.
 - Expand peer support and social connection programs that reduce isolation among homebound and low-income older adults.
 - Train senior services staff and volunteers in mental health first aid to identify and respond to behavioral health crises.
 - Ensure language access and cultural competency in all mental health services for Black, Latino, LGBTQ+, and immigrant older adults.
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11. Elder Justice & Adult Protective Services

Commitment: Protect older adults from abuse, exploitation, and neglect—and ensure accountability when harm occurs.

Policy Actions

- Increase funding and staffing for DACL’s Adult Protective Services unit to meet growing caseload demand and reduce response times.
- Launch a DC Elder Fraud Prevention Initiative in partnership with financial institutions, law enforcement, and community organizations.
- Expand mandatory reporter training for healthcare providers, home care workers, and community-based organizations.
- Create a legal services fund for elder abuse survivors to pursue civil remedies and recover financial losses.
- Fund a public awareness campaign on elder abuse and exploitation to reduce stigma, increase reporting, and empower community members to intervene.