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AgeOptions Awarded Funds to build a new Statewide Coalition to Prevent Falls among Older Adults

(Oak Park, Illinois, 6/5/2025) —Today, AgeOptions was one of 12 organizations awarded funds from the [National Council on Aging](#) (NCOA) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to develop a state falls prevention coalition in Illinois. This coalition will build bridges between different stakeholders across the state to develop solutions to reduce falls and their risks among older adults.

“We are so proud to accept this grant that will help strengthen our falls prevention network and establish best practices for reducing falls among older adults in Illinois,” said Diane Slezak, President and CEO of AgeOptions. “Falls can have a huge impact on a person’s quality of life. Preventing them takes all of us, not just one or two organizations. We’re excited to embark on this cross-sector work and support both older adults and their caregivers.”

In Illinois, 20% of older adults aged 65+ fall each year. Nationally, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries for older Americans. But through practical lifestyle adjustments, evidence-based falls prevention programs, and clinical-community partnerships, the number of falls among older adults can be substantially reduced.

Over the 18-month grant period, AgeOptions will work to recruit new coalition members, take stock of existing challenges toward preventing falls in Illinois, prioritize goals, and conduct activities aimed at advancing falls prevention.

AgeOptions is one of six organizations selected to develop a new falls prevention coalition, while the other six were awarded in states with existing coalitions to expand their reach.

All grantees will work with older adults and area agencies on aging to assess their community’s falls prevention needs and develop a capstone project by the end of the grant period.

The Coalition will partner with members across Illinois to build a strong, recognizable brand that raises awareness about fall prevention among older adults. It will also identify and address current challenges, and work with its leadership team to develop a strategic plan that supports education and falls prevention efforts for older adult communities across Illinois.

About AgeOptions

AgeOptions advocates, plans, develops and funds programs and coordinates a network of community-based senior service agencies to ensure an effective and efficient system of service delivery. Support is provided through the Older Americans Act, Illinois General Revenue Funds, local funds, and individual contributions. In 2024, AgeOptions and its partners served nearly 200,000 individuals in 130 communities within 30 townships that have diverse populations of more than 600,000 older adults. AgeOptions has served older adults of suburban Cook County and their caregivers as an Area Agency on Aging since 1974. AgeOptions also operates the statewide Community Care Hub offering evidence-based health promotion and falls-prevention programs, social care need assessments and assistance, hospital care transitions, caregiver support and more. For more information, please visit www.ageoptions.org, [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) pages.