



## Advocacy Day Recap: Supporting Aging in Community

Dear Advocates and Partners,

On February 25, we were proud to join aging network leaders from across the state in Springfield for our Advocacy Day, "Support Aging in Community: Invest in Caregivers & Home Delivered Meals."



The day began with coffee and donuts in the Capitol's South Hall, where we connected with legislators on their way into the office. Together with partners from the statewide aging network, we shared our legislative priorities and highlighted the essential role of Illinois' Area Agencies on Aging in supporting older adults and family caregivers.



Immediately following the morning outreach, we hosted a press conference in the Capitol's Blue Room. Agency directors from across the state spoke about the urgent need for sustainable investment in services that help older adults remain in their homes and communities. We were honored to be joined by Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, who shared a powerful personal story about caring for her mother and the importance of supporting family caregivers.



In our meetings we emphasized that while proposed state funding levels remain flat, rising costs for food, labor, and transportation mean fewer meals delivered, increased caregiver strain, and potential waitlists for vital services. At the same time, anticipated reductions to SNAP benefits threaten to further strain household budgets for older adults and family caregivers who are already stretched thin. As federal nutrition supports decline, demand for home-delivered meals and other community-based services is likely to increase, placing additional pressure on an already underfunded system. As Illinois continues implementing the Multisector Plan for Aging, sustained investment is critical to ensuring older adults can live safely and with dignity in their communities. One highlight was a meeting with Majority House Leader Robin Gabel.



We are grateful to all advocates, partners, and allies who helped elevate the voices of older adults across Illinois.

#### **Take Action**

Visit our website to learn more and [send a letter to your legislator urging support for caregiver legislation](#). Your voice helps ensure older adults and caregivers receive the support they deserve.

Thank you for standing with us to support aging in community.  
Sincerely,

The AgeOptions Advocacy Team

