

Board of Commissioners PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:November 16, 2023County Contact:Jason W. Boyd
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Lake County Releases Healthy Aging Grant Application

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, November 16, 2023– Recently, Lake County was awarded \$447,954 in Healthy Aging Grant funds from the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA).

Established through House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly, Healthy Aging Grant funds will be used by ODA to provide grants to all Ohio counties to address social determinants of health and to foster improved quality of life for older Ohioans so they may remain in their homes and connected to their communities, preserve their personal assets, and promote a healthy, independent, active lifestyle. Healthy Aging Grants resolve to address the longstanding health and economic disparities, which amplified the impact of the pandemic in many of Ohio's counties.

"We are ecstatic about this opportunity to award funds to the community that will enable older adults to remain in their homes and support those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

Qualified agencies interested in applying for Healthy Aging Grant funds can access the Request for Application at <u>https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/senior-services/</u>. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8, 2023. Applications will be reviewed and funds awarded Friday, January 4, 2024. The project period runs through September 30, 2024. According to ODA, counties are required to allocate a portion of the funding received to the following services:

- At least twenty percent (20%) of total allocation to support food assistance services;
- At least twenty percent (20%) of total allocation to support housing assistance; and,
- At least ten percent (10%) of total allocation to support internet access and digital literacy services.

The remaining funds may be used to provide evidence-based/evidence-informed services in alignment with the <u>Ohio's 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging</u>.

"We encourage agencies that are serving older adults to apply for these one-time funds," said Commissioner John Plecnik. "This is a great opportunity to improve and expand services to our seniors."

"We want older adults in Lake County to live longer, healthier lives with dignity and autonomy," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich. "We are appreciative to the State for making these funds available to do just that."

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number awarded to EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF STATE OF OHIO by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The Governor and General Assembly further approved the use of these funds for Healthy Aging Grants through H.B. 33.

Questions related to Lake County's Healthy Aging Grant can be directed to Alyea Barajas, Senior Services Manager, at <u>alyea.barajas@lakecountyohio.gov</u> or (440) 350-2748.