

The North Carolina Coalition on Aging Comments submitted comments on Friday, August 21, 2026, to the draft Olmstead Plan for 2026-2031. More information about the plan can be found online: [NC Olmstead | NCDHHS](#)

Priority 1: Access to Housing and Related Supports

- Housing is an ongoing concern for older and aging adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers and is crucial to positive health outcomes and stability as we age. We support All Ages, All Stages' work in this area to recognize housing stability.
- Transitions to Community Living funding will be important to this strategy and tracking outcomes.
- To prevent instability, crisis, and institutional reliance, we must ensure programs help enable older adults and people with disabilities in our state, regardless of where they live, to have access to a continuum of home and community based services and long-term services and supports. Many counties have gaps in services, cannot provide persons with the level of services needed, or/and have waiting lists for many programs.
- We encourage the plan to support older adults and people with disabilities in their efforts to age in place in their homes and communities by ensuring access to housing repairs and modifications, increasing income eligibility and exemption/deferral amounts for property tax relief programs, and boosting affordable housing development through tax credits and low-interest loans to stimulate investments in building and renovating properties.
- Lastly, fostering a culture of healthy living across the lifespan through support for programs that enhance adult's health and well-being will help prevent crisis and institutional reliance.

Priority 2 Crisis Services and Community Stabilization

- We support the All Ages, All Stages Plan to emphasize prevention and safety through bolstering Adult Protective Services (APS).
- Current funding restraints and an outdated APS statute are a barrier. Updating the statute will help improve protections for vulnerable adults and people with disabilities.
- Supporting the long-term care ombudsman program which serves individuals in Adult Care Homes is important in this priority.
- Ensure education in communities is happening to support families and caregivers so they know what services are available to them and ensure they have support before a crisis or long-term care is needed at a high level.

Priority 4: Promote Workforce Development, Quality, and Stability

- Help stabilize the health care work force crisis by building on existing initiatives already ongoing in the state like the comprehensive rate and wage analysis and by expanding financial incentives such as loan repayment programs, tuition reimbursements, and stipends to attract and retain health care workers.
- With the pullback of support due to changes to Medicaid and other programs, many older adults and people with disabilities may have to rely more on a network of informal support. Some family members who have left employment to be caregivers may face hurdles in qualifying for or retaining eligibility for programs such as Medicaid due to the changes resulting from HR 1. Additionally, having to prove someone they're caring for meets the new federal requirements should not be a burden to the family caregiver.

Priority 5: Communication and Engagement

- Ensure communication is available for caregivers as well.
- Ensure program outcomes incorporate new reports or task force recommendations such as the Institute of Medicine's Caregiving Task Force that will convene this fall.
- Ensure All Ages, All Stages is included in this priority as they work to: support family caregivers with family-friendly workplaces, streamline caregiver referrals like NCCARE360 and 211, and utilize the NC Caregiver Portal.