



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Volunteer Drivers

m4a advocates for transportation options that enable older adults to access services and reduce social isolation through continued support for volunteer drivers. m4a is an active member of the Minnesota Volunteer Driver Coalition.

m4a supports:

- Clearly define a volunteer driver in law as not “for-hire”.
- Ensuring that volunteer drivers are not required to carry commercial insurance coverage and are not subject to for-hire or ride share regulations.
- Create a state income tax subtraction for volunteer drivers to reduce their tax liability in Minnesota.
- Cap the liability of nonprofit organizations that offer volunteer driver services at \$1.5 million.

Age-Friendly Minnesota

m4a supports making the Governor’s Council on Age-Friendly a permanent council.

m4a supports:

- Implementing the Councils recommendations.
- Enrolling the State of Minnesota into the World Health Organization (WHO)/American Association of Retired Person (AARP) Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.
- Funding Area Agencies on Aging to provide technical assistance to communities.
- Developing an analytical tool that state agencies can utilize to assess their policies and programs while reviewing through an age-friendly vision.



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Broadband

m4a advocates for the expansion, implementation, and affordability of equal access for all older adults and caregivers throughout Minnesota. m4a is an active member of Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition.

m4a supports:

- Fully funding the Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Program through the support of Minnesota House File 14 and Senate File 22
- Expanding affordable broadband services throughout the State of Minnesota.
- Developing a public-private statewide telepresence strategy to maximize telehealth resources while advancing health equity

Social Isolation

m4a advocates for solutions that will support older adults, their families and/or their caregivers in combating social isolation.

m4a supports:

- Expansion of the AC/EW programs to include evidence-based services, friendly visiting, telephone reassurance, technology supports and wellness checks.
- Funding a study to understand the impact of social isolation on older adults relative to State funded programs and identify best practices.