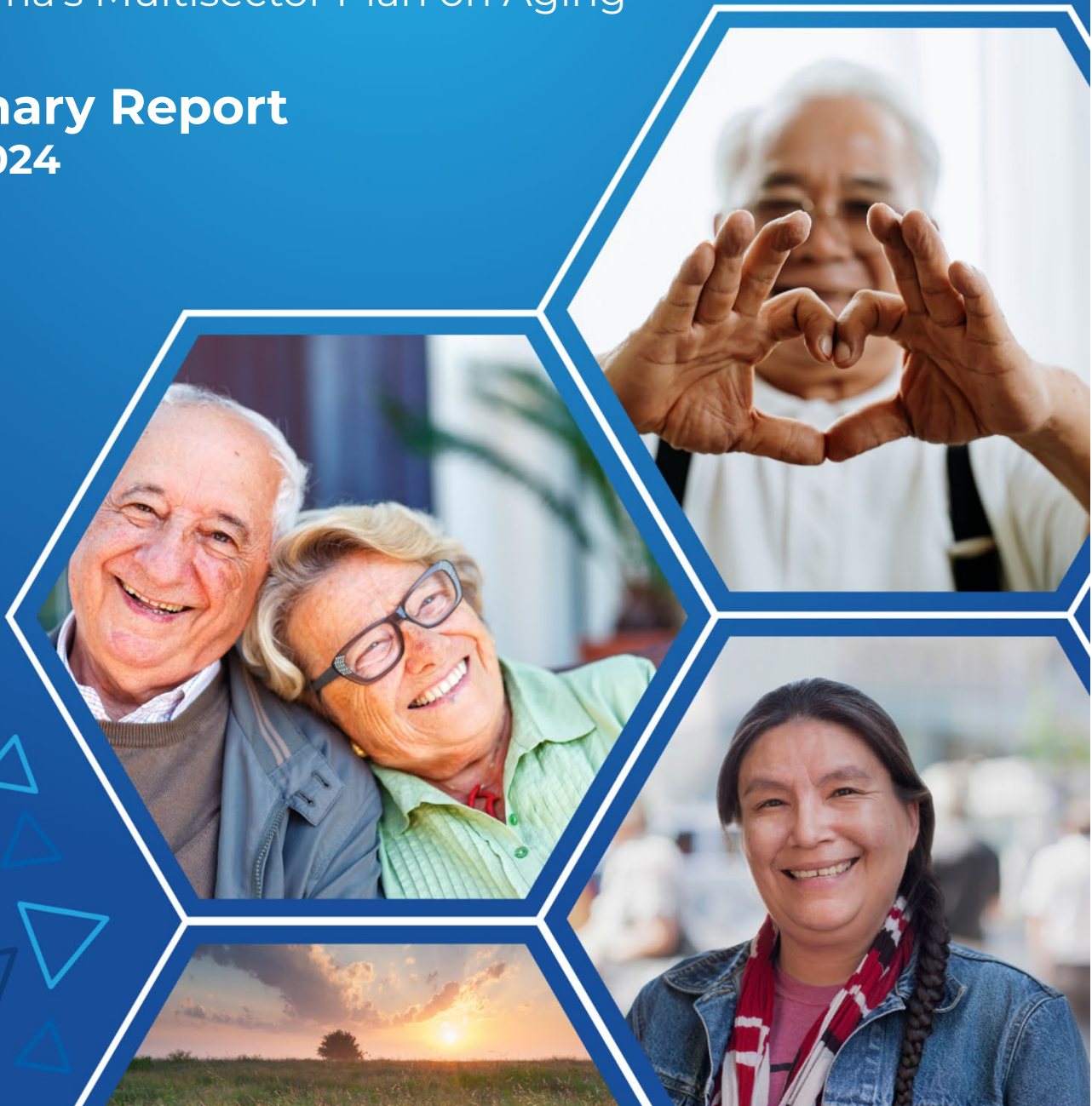




Aging Our Way

Oklahoma's Multisector Plan on Aging

Summary Report
June 2024



Aging Our Way: Oklahoma's Multisector Plan on Aging

Overview

The *Aging Our Way* plan provides a framework to guide Oklahoma's response to the state's demographic shift towards an older population and to address the needs of aging Oklahomans. Our Plan's aspirations guided the development of focus areas, goals, and pathways. The *Aging Our Way* leadership committees prioritized ten focus areas and developed goals to address challenges in each area. Subject matter experts then identified pathways to achieve the goals.

Our Plan's pathways promote cross-sector collaboration that will position our state to support older adults and embrace future opportunities. Over the next decade, our Plan will be updated based on the unique needs identified by older individuals, family caregivers and service providers.

The *Aging Our Way* Executive Steering and Advisory Committees identified five aspirations that guide all our Plan's focus areas, goals and pathways.



Awareness of Aging: Oklahomans know that help is available when we have questions about how to grow old and live a happy, fulfilled life.



Community: Oklahomans recognize we are all part of a great state and are invested in our whole community.



Innovation: Oklahomans explore new ideas to keep improving the system and services to support aging.



Empowerment: Oklahomans have power over our lives and can easily find and use the services we need.



Results: Oklahomans see outcomes that are based on individual wants and needs, which are clear, can be tracked and can be acted upon.

The Executive Steering Committee, Advisory Committee and Subcommittee members developed the focus areas, goals and pathways based on research and Oklahomans' perspectives. The State Council on Aging and Adult Protective Services provided further subject matter expertise, reviewing the Plan as it was developed.



Figure 1. *Aging Our Way* Governance Structure

Engaging Oklahomans

Aging Our Way leaders received input from nearly 5,000 individuals in 2023 and 2024 through listening sessions, workgroups and survey responses. A total of 59 public and 66 private organizations contributed to the development of *Aging Our Way*. Committee members considered this feedback while developing the Plan’s pathways.

Listening Sessions

In 2023 and 2024, Oklahoma Human Services gathered input from communities in Durant, Lawton, McAlester, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Norman, Tulsa and Woodward via in-person listening sessions. Virtual listening sessions were also conducted to gather input from communities throughout the state.

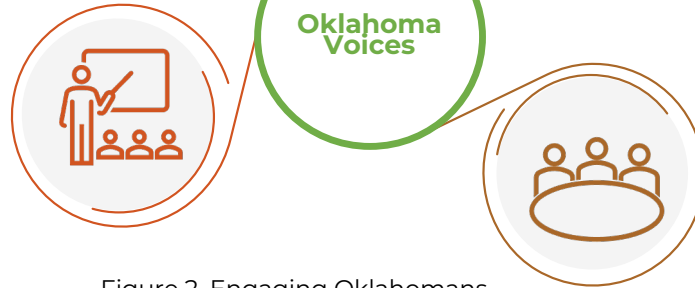
296 participants



Statewide Survey

Oklahoma Human Services used web-based and printed surveys to gather information from individuals and community partners across the state for our Plan’s development. Surveys were distributed through the *Aging Our Way* website, social media, aging network partners and community events.

4,337 respondents



Committee Workgroups

Over 50 organizations were represented on the Steering Committee, Advisory Committee and Subcommittees.

50+ organizations

Figure 2. Engaging Oklahomans

The prevailing themes across all community engagements included the need for:

- Workforce transition solutions
- Support for direct care workers and family caregivers
- Efforts to reduce social isolation for older adults
- Improvement in service availability, awareness, quality and ease of access

Key Themes

<p><i>Aging Our Way should support older adults in maintaining connection to family and friends through social activities with peers and people across generations.</i></p> 	<p><i>Aging Our Way should support easy access to services for older Oklahomans.</i></p> 	<p><i>Aging Our Way should support direct care workforce solutions to improve the quality and delivery of aging services.</i></p> 	<p><i>Aging Our Way should support reskilling opportunities and age-friendly work environments so that older adults can stay in the workforce if they choose to do so.</i></p> 
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Figure 3. *Aging Our Way* Oklahoma Voices Key Themes

A Tailored Plan Development Approach

Through collaborative work sessions, *Aging Our Way* committee members identified 10 focus areas and 13 goals to support the healthy aging of all Oklahomans. The *Aging Our Way* committees developed 38 pathways to support the goals during implementation over the next 10 years.



Figure 4. *Aging Our Way* Focus Areas and Goals