

Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission 2025 Report

Executive Summary

The Orange County Older Adult Advisory Commission (OAAC) made considerable progress in 2025. An energetic and dedicated group of Commissioners continued to advance the [2024-2025 Goals and Objectives](#) (see attachment), which recommend that the County of Orange view older adults through an age-inclusive lens across all services.

Our primary initiatives this year emphasized strategic alignment between community partners and the Office on Aging, strengthened outreach, facilitated engagement, and built partnerships. This approach delivered tangible results and collaboration in promoting the well-being of older adults countywide and facilitating the relationships between county partners and the Office on Aging.

We continue to advocate for the County to plan and fund a comprehensive outreach campaign so that all residents, whether seeking support for themselves or as caregivers, know exactly where to turn for help and continue with the momentum established this year.

Commission Overview

OAAC advises the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the OC Office on Aging on matters affecting older adults in Orange County. The Commission consists of up to forty volunteer citizens, including local elected officials, representatives of health care and supportive service provider organizations, people with leadership experience, and the public. The Commission also has an Executive Committee.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

This year, the Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission (OAAC) advanced its 2024–2025 goals by strengthening outreach and building partnerships within and amongst County agencies and special districts.

- Commissioners advocated for a countywide outreach campaign to ensure residents know how to access Office on Aging services and with assistance from CEO's office, had a first ever digital ad that ran at John Wayne Airport in Baggage Claim Digital Network monitors from October 20–27th 2025 with potential future John Wayne Airport campaign considerations pending.
- OAAC now receives and disseminates monthly newsletters, from the Office on Aging, highlighting resources, programs, and services.
- Advocated for info blasts to recap presentations from aging organizations, ensuring consistent communication with senior centers and community stakeholders.
- Commissioners conduct monthly senior center outreach, sharing successes and identifying needs.

Executive Board

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Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission

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- Advocated for updated marketing materials to improve visibility of services through an updated OoA brochure. ([OC Office on Aging-Brochure](#))
- Positioning Orange County to pivot toward becoming an officially recognized Age-Friendly County, aligning with California's Master Plan for Aging with eight (8) OAAC commissioners contributing to the County's MPA priority initiatives through MPA Action Teams' participation.
- The OAAC Executive Committee adopted a consultative model that brings public-sector subject matter experts into executive meetings to share how their agencies inform older adults about available programs. This approach strengthens interdisciplinary communication and creates mutual benefit by enabling both the Office on Aging and public entities to collaborate more effectively and align their outreach effort.
- Developed standardized questions for County Agency experts and public-sector- partners to determine Areas of Concern and/or to better serve OC Older Adults within their respective jurisdictions (see attachment).
- A major milestone in progress, with support from the CEO's office and the Office on Aging, promoting its brochure and call center through County department webpages and related platforms.
- Contributed to the OoA FY2025-2026 Area Plan Update specifically to Goal 2: Coordinate Services & Strengthen Partnerships.
- Continued Information Access: Promote and identify older adult and caregiver services within the community with an emphasis on the No Wrong Door System.
- Increased commission membership with proactive approaches to filling vacant seats.

OAAC was pleased to meet and collaborate with both the office of the CEO and OCCR Director and staff, to facilitate many of these activities and accomplishments.

Stakeholder Engagement

OAAC convened ten (10) general meetings, nine (9) executive committee meetings and one (1) Master Plan for Aging workshop in 2025. Meetings were aligned with our 2024-2025 goals and objectives, including guest speakers from community agencies on Information Access, Aging in Place and Transportation Access. Commissioner and stakeholder feedback is essential to ensuring the OC Master Plan reflects the real needs of our community and helps shape a better future for older adults in Orange County.

Engagement also occurred at the executive level with in-service training to the OoA's Information Assistance and Call Center to better position the Office on Aging to maximize its ability to be a strategic leader and convener while positioning itself to connect older adults with essential public utility and special district support collaboration.

Commissioners act as liaisons to Orange County senior centers, sharing updates and gathering feedback on resources and needs from staff and participants. We actively disseminate information through

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various channels, including in-person and electronic means. Thanks to our advocacy efforts, the Office on Aging now provides us with monthly newsletters that highlight valuable resources, programs, and services. Additionally, an info blast is shared to recap presentations from various aging organizations and partners conducted during our general meeting.

Challenges and Opportunities

The OAAC Chair, Vice Chair and another executive committee member attended the 2025 California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) conference which reinforced the need for coordinated statewide action to sustain aging services, strengthen the workforce, and protect vulnerable populations. We learned that stronger advocacy to protect older adults' ability to age with dignity and enhanced funding for programs to age in place is needed to improve outcomes for all Orange County older adults.

Orange County CEO Office released the OC Cares: Master Plan for Aging Report with contributions by OC OAAC ([Master Plan for Aging | OC Office on Aging](#)) which focused on three (3) priority initiatives and can set the tone for Orange County becoming an Age Friendly County by taking the next step and applying to the AARP Age-Friendly Communities Program ([AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities](#)). This would also strengthen alignment with the California's Master Plan for Aging and perhaps support grant eligibility.

Transportation remains a persistent challenge with OAAC prioritizing awareness and access to transportation programs in 2026. Transportation issues include limited senior-friendly transit options, geographic gaps in service, and difficulty navigating paratransit systems.

OAAC also faces the challenge of promoting and elevating services that will ensure older adults can remain safe in their homes or preferred place of residence. With rising housing costs for utilities, property taxes, maintenance and daily expenses, staying independent can be challenging. Adopting some version of the Home Sharing programs in other Counties could be a practical solution.

OAAC is eager to continue to push for continued public service campaigns to substantially increase our citizens' awareness of the Office on Aging Information and Assistance Call Center, and online resources such as the OC Navigator and the OC Senior Resources mobile app.

Recommendation for 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we ask the Board of Supervisors to examine the organizational placement of the Office on Aging to support a more streamlined and fully aligned structure for all County aging services. Strengthening this framework will ensure the Office on Aging has the authority and capacity to convene partners and lead Orange County toward becoming an Age-Friendly County for current and future generations.

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Conclusion

OAAC is looking forward to continuing to be a trusted advisory commission to the Board of Supervisors and Office on Aging in 2026.

The commission's significant value and impact are demonstrated by the 4,203 volunteer hours contributed by our commissioners.

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