

9 Best Practices for Developing a Multisector Plan for Aging



A multisector plan for aging (MPA) is a roadmap that states can use to transform the coordination of services for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

Once buy-in and authorization for an MPA is received, a state-led, cross-sector team should develop a shared set of goals and initiatives to address the needs of their aging residents, while prioritizing transparency, equity, and person-centeredness.

Following are nine best practices for a state that is developing an MPA:

1. Empower a Leader Who can Work Across Silos



Select a government “insider” to guide development — one with the skills and relationships to lead cross-department planning and a commitment to transparency and consumer engagement.

2. Assemble a Team with the Necessary Skills



Include expertise in communications, policy, data, and consumer engagement. Promote equity by including members who reflect a state’s racial, gender, age, geographic, and linguistic diversity.

3. Build on Existing State Planning Efforts



Existing state efforts can serve as the foundation for an MPA. Map, elevate, and engage with existing aging initiatives and invite their leaders to the table.

4. Gather Input from People Across the State



Involve older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers, and direct care workers. Gain diverse perspectives, including from people of color, veterans, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and others.

5. Engage Deeply with a Broad Coalition



Engage all aging individuals, not just those who are currently “older.” Include other sectors, like transportation, education, climate advocates, private industry, and racial justice groups.

6. Involve Executive and Legislative Branches



Include executive and legislative entities, such as those representing health, aging, Medicaid, labor, transportation, housing, insurance, emergency, and corrections.

7. Create Committees and Subcommittees



Establish stakeholder advisory committees to create a link with community priorities and to ensure that draft MPA recommendations represent a diverse range of stakeholders.

8. Use Data to Inform Goals and Initiatives



Use research, data, and evidence to inform the MPA’s focus and initiatives, as well as its ongoing evaluation and updates.

9. Design for the Short-, Mid-, and Long-Term



Organize the plan by themes deemed important to consumers and stakeholders. Build in “quick wins” and longer-term aspirations that outline accountability, implementation resources, and sustainability.

Learn more about how these best practices can guide states in the MPA development process. Visit www.chcs.org/developing-an-mpa.