



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

CARLA WEST • Interim Division Director, Division of Aging

January 30, 2026

Dear Governor Stein:

As authorized by N.C. Statute 143B-180, I am submitting the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging (GAC) 2025 report and recommendations for your consideration.

The GAC maintains a symbiotic relationship with the Governor's Office, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Division of Aging. We stand ready to continue and enhance our collaborative efforts to promote the quality of life of older North Carolinians.

2025 was a momentous year for North Carolina's older adults. Currently, [1 in 5 North Carolinians is now aged 65 and over](#). With our older population continuing to grow in numbers, particularly those aged 85 and over, foreseeable challenges to North Carolina's system of services and supports will be felt. Since these challenges are foreseeable, it is better to address them proactively rather than reactively.

Therefore, building upon Governor Cooper's [Executive Order No. 280](#) (North Carolina's Commitment to Building An Age-Friendly State, signed May 2, 2023), the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Aging, collaborating with a broad array of governmental and non-governmental entities, formulated a 10-year Multisector Plan for Aging, known as "[All Ages, All Stages NC: A Roadmap for Aging and Living Well](#)" (AAAS). This plan was officially launched on September 27, 2024. Per Executive Order 280, AAAS will "serve as a blueprint for the development, enhancement, and coordination of critical services for North Carolina's rapidly aging population."

As well, EO 280 mandated that "The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will periodically review the Multisector Plan for Aging in North Carolina and make annual recommendations that support its goals." In 2025, our GAC standing committees were reconfigured to better fit the mandate of EO 280. The planning phase of AAAS activities experienced delays due to the destructive impact hurricane Helene caused at the time when work on implementation was just beginning in 2025.

I would like to recognize all GAC members for their commitment and work during 2025. I especially want to thank AAAS committee chairs for their dedication and achievements. This report is in no small part their doing. Their hard work, support, insight and encouragement have been invaluable.

Following this cover letter, please find an executive summary with key recommendations. The Council's recommendations align with the Governor's priority policy areas for 2026, including Medicaid sustainability, resilience following hurricane Helene, affordable and accessible housing, public safety, and community stability. North Carolina's demographic future presents both challenges and opportunities.

Proactive action is essential to avoid growing economic, social, and human costs. With executive leadership and cross-agency coordination, North Carolina can become a model for inclusive aging policies that support individuals, families, communities, and the broader economy. Aging is not

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just a policy priority—it is a statewide investment in the future well-being and resilience of all North Carolinians.

On behalf of the entire GAC, thank you in advance, Governor Stein, for your consideration of this report. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the report's contents with you and your administration, and we reiterate the GAC's desire and commitment to work with you to achieve our mutual agenda of enhancing the lived experience of aging for all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William 'Bill' E. Lamb
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