



PO Box 34
Sykesville, MD 21784

TO: House Health Committee
FROM: LeadingAge Maryland
SUBJECT: House Bill 811, Aging-in-Place Programs - Grants - Multigenerational Third Places (Village Multigenerational Third Places Act)
DATE: February 26, 2026
POSITION: Favorable

LeadingAge Maryland supports House Bill 811, Aging-in-Place Programs - Grants - Multigenerational Third Places (Village Multigenerational Third Places Act).

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of more than 150 not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. Members of LeadingAge Maryland provide health care, housing, and services to more than 20,000 older persons each year.

House Bill 811 authorizes the Department of Aging to make grants to nonprofit organizations and Area Agencies on Aging to support social connection for individuals in aging-in-place programs through events or gatherings at multigenerational third places.

As a statewide association of not-for-profit aging services providers, LeadingAge Maryland is deeply committed to promoting the health, well-being, and independence of older adults. We believe that grants to support social connection, as proposed in House Bill 811, are a cost-effective, evidence-based strategy to strengthen aging in place.

Social isolation among older adults is a serious public health risk linked to higher rates of depression, cognitive decline, hospitalizations, and premature mortality, all of which drive up health care and long-term care costs. By supporting social engagement through community-based organizations, we can prevent isolation before it escalates into medical or institutional needs, complementing housing and health services while reducing strain on Medicaid, Medicare, and family caregivers.

Multigenerational third places, such as libraries, community centers, faith institutions, parks, and arts venues, offer welcoming, non-stigmatizing environments that encourage participation and foster intergenerational connection. These spaces leverage existing

infrastructure, keeping costs low while strengthening community cohesion and combating ageism.

Grants, as proposed in House Bill 811, allow trusted local organizations to tailor programs to cultural, geographic, and accessibility needs, particularly in underserved areas, while remaining easy to track and evaluate. Modest investments in social connection deliver outsized returns by improving well-being, advancing equity, and helping older adults remain healthy and engaged in their communities.

House Bill 811 will help to:

- Strengthen aging in place by promoting social connection and community engagement
- Prevent social isolation and its associated health risks
- Leverage existing infrastructure to keep costs low
- Foster intergenerational connection and community cohesion
- Advance equity by targeting underserved areas and populations

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 811.